

G.A.R. Memorial Board of Trustees

Minutes

October 16, 2012

National Guard Armory, 50 Skyline Drive, Worcester, MA 01605

Meeting begins at 5:37 p.m.

Present: Daniel McAullife, Reynaldo Rodriguez, Robert Grogan, and Tim Boucher.

Note: 3 members were present and constituted a quorum so business was conducted.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved. Some items will be readdressed since the Board had not met for several months.

Old Business:

1. Secretary Rodriguez gave an update on the individual membership books. So far none have been created. Secretary Rodriguez said that he will create a table of contents and then send them to the Board via email to look at and allow for suggestions while the book is being created. At the next meeting Secretary Rodriguez will have 6 books to be reviewed and/or distributed to each member and the city liaison if approved.
2. Secretary Rodriguez completed the GAR Board Master Files books. The books are red binders and are divided into three books containing the minutes, correspondence and miscellaneous items such as invoices, events which the Board participated in or organized etc... The books are labeled (Minutes, Correspondence & Miscellaneous) and will be kept on the shelf at the National Guard Armory at 50 Skyline Drive. The GAR Board Master Files books will be for use of the Board when needed and will contain official copies. This effort was made to create transparency between past, current and future Board members.
3. Per a prior meeting where the Board voted unanimously the Massachusetts Regimental and State flags stored at the Armory (Massachusetts National Guard Museum) were packaged for transport to the Massachusetts State House.
 - a. Daniel McAullife, Reynaldo Rodriguez and Ed Norris (Civil War Flag Preservationist) on Tuesday October 16, 2012 met at the National Guard Museum. There the three utilized items procured by Mr. McAullife to safely remove 14 flags from the display case and into containers. Mr. McAullife obtained special tissue from the Mass. State House, bought plastic sheaves, obtained cardboard tubes and various other items for the safe transport of the flags. Each flag was carefully removed and photo documentation was made during the entire process.

Note: During the process an old list (created in the late 1990s) was used to confirm what flags should have been in the case. The 15th Massachusetts Regiment Flag was not located in the case. Another two possible flags were not in the case. Also of interest is that 1 flag marked as belonging to 34th Massachusetts Regiment was in the case and not on the old list. It is unknown if the flags could have initially been misidentified. Every effort was made to properly identify the flags that were physically moved from the case to the tubes.
 - b. A letter was drafted by Chairman Daniel McAullife that will be presented to the Art Department of the State House accepting the flags. The letter which stipulates that no money was or will be exchanged and no favors given and that the flags were simply being taken to the State House for safe and proper storage. The drafting of the letter

was approved at the February 2012 meeting to be created by Chairman McAullife. The Board examined the letter and approved the use of the letter drafted at the meeting.

4. Chairman McAullife reported that in order to preserve prints at the Worcester Historical Society he needed funds approved. Chairman McAullife presented the Board with an invoice for the amount of \$1,859.04 that will be needed. The Board approved the expense.
5. Chairman McAullife reported having correspondence with the family of John Mann Midyett whose diary is considered one of the Board's most important artifact.
6. Chairman McAullife had reported to the Board how he believed the Bell of the CSS Albemarle ended up in Worcester. According to McAullife, Reverend Horace James of the 25th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry after the war worked with the Freedman's Bureau on Roanoke Island. There he spent time with former slaves as they transitioned to a life of freedom. It is possible that the bell was a reward or token for his hard work.
7. Chairman McAullife reported sending a previously approved letter dated March 14, 2012 to the Newbern Historical Society to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of New Bern.
8. At the February 2012 meeting the Board had tabled the idea of setting term limits for offices and that a proposal would be drafted to prior to the November meeting. The offices would be chairman, vice chairman, treasurer and secretary. As of this meeting, October 2012, the Board discussed possibly tabling the idea again and postponing it due to the lack of members. This came after the Board was informed that one of its members, George Maple had moved out of the city and could no longer sit on the Board. The Board was also aware of the possibility of current members not renewing their term. Board member Bob Grogan made the motion to have no election at the November meeting due to the lack of members. Reynaldo Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by quorum present.

New Business:

1. The National Guard Armory Museum which has stored several items belonging to the City for the last thirteen plus years is closing and moving to Concord, Massachusetts. The curator has requested that the items have to be removed from his control prior to the move in early 2013. Chairman McAullife was given permission from the Board to create a "Receipt of Transfer" for any and all items removed from the Museum.
 - a. The Civil War Battle Flags are already in the process of being transported to the Massachusetts State House. They were properly packaged and at a near future date will be moved. A report will be generated after that takes place as to where exactly they went and who took charge of the items.
 - b. The furniture which is located inside is another issue. Tim Boucher suggested surplus the furniture. The Board agreed with that suggestion. For the current storage of them until they can become city surplus, Chairman McAullife will be talking to the new management of the Armory (which will no longer be a museum) to see if they can remain there longer.
 - c. Pictures in frames that have civil war scenes, General Josiah Pickett, and other prominent generals will need a new location. Chairman McAullife will ask if they can remain at the Armory until a suitable place is found.
 - d. The Confederate Battle Flags that were stored at the Armory are currently on loan to a museum until 2015. A letter to the North Carolina Museum addressed to Ed Merill guarantees the return of the flags in 2015. Chairman McAullife suggested and it was approved that we seek out possible future locations for the flags since they will not be able to return to the Armory.

2. As part of the member's books being created by Secretary Rodriguez, Chairman McAullife wanted a section added on the "Three Most Important Items". The items include the three Confederate flags, the ship's bell to the Rebel Ram CSS Albemarle, and the John Mann Midyett Family Bible. Chairman McAullife handed copies to Secretary Rodriguez after the Board members looked at the information. It was acknowledged that the other artifacts will also go into the books but that the most important ones need never to be forgotten.

Being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6:52 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday December 11,2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the National Guard Armory.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reynaldo Rodriguez
Secretary, G.A.R. Memorial Board of Trustees