

G.A.R. Memorial Hall Board of Trustees

Meeting May 14, 2013

Minutes

National Guard Armory Room C, 50 Skyline Drive, Worcester, Massachusetts

Meeting Began at 5:36 p.m.

Present: Daniel McAuliffe, Reynaldo Rodriguez, Robert Grogan, Aaron Richman, Timothy Boucher

Minutes of the March 26th meeting were approved.

Old Business:

1. Chairman McAuliffe received information from Tim Boucher regarding the funds which are related to the Board. A finance report was given to Chairman McAuliffe who read it out to the board. According to the report, the total fund as of December 31, 2012 is two-hundred twenty two thousand five hundred five and two cents (\$222,505.12). Also according to the report the market value of the fund as of December 31, 2012 is two hundred fifty four thousand two hundred sixty two and ninety two cents (254,246.92). Board Treasurer Robert Grogan signed the finance report and it was turned over to Secretary Reynaldo Rodriguez who filed it with the records held at the Armory in Room C.
2. Chairman McAuliffe reminded the Board that memberships for himself, Mr. Rodriguez, and Robert Grogan expire in November of 2013. Mr. Boucher said the city would advertise the vacancies and will allow for the current members to stay on until those vacancies are filled. Mr. Rodriguez questioned the Board if all 5 positions were currently filled. As far as the Board understands it, there is no attendance policy for meetings and it was suggested that the Board look at past minutes to determine if any members have lacked interest. Only one member was absent (James Mirick) at today's meeting, but he was in attendance at the December 2012 meeting and the Board only met one other time. Therefore the Board has 5 currently active members.
3. Chairman McAuliffe handed out rough draft GAR Board member books. He requested that the Board go through it during the summer between the May meeting and the next meeting in September. The goal for the member books are to be small and efficient. The Board went through the book with Chairman McAuliffe. Mr. Boucher suggested a disk with photographs of the artifacts that were listed on one of the pages. The disk would be small and would not require pictures taking up space. Two other necessary supplements to the member books deal with ethics and rules which members get from the city. One of the items which hasn't been written and Chairman McAuliffe believes will be beneficial is a procedures checklist. This

checklist would outline the timeline of putting out notices for the next meeting, putting out an agenda, completing the minutes and putting them out. The central concept of the books and procedures are to provide transparency for new members as old members live the Board.

New Business:

1. Chairman McAuliffe acknowledged the work done on the Board's Facebook which Mr. Grogan started and sought ideas from the Board to explore ways to get people to like the Facebook page. A discussion by the Board took place as to various ways to use Facebook. Some ideas were to feature articles of interest and prominent people along with stories that relate to Worcester and the Civil War. Initially 'any war' was suggested but Mr. Boucher and others pointed out that it should be kept exclusively to the Civil War as much as possible unless there isn't much interest. Worcester stories relating to the Civil War should generate specific interest. It was pointed out further that if too many other topics were allowed then it could get overwhelmed with those topics and the focus of the Civil War would be lost. Mr. Grogan suggested that one of the ways to keep the Facebook local was to post the locations in the city that are civil war related. Mr. Grogan suggested that the Facebook page could be used to inform the public of local events going on in Worcester that are Civil War related. For instance, Mr. Grogan informed the Board that the Worcester Historical Society will be doing something Civil War related. Mr. Grogan told the Board that everyone has administrative privileges and can work on the GAR Facebook page. Mr. Grogan said Facebook could be a way to set up educational programs. Trustee Aaron Richardson mentioned that there must be a number of ways to get Board members into the schools to present Worcester in the Civil War. The Board has had some success with schools. Chairman McAuliffe reminded the Board how Camp Scott was rededicated and how a group of South High School students were chosen to write essays on Willie Grout, George Ward, Camp Scott and the 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. The students read their essays at a ceremony in which a plaque was mounted to a building at the Camp Street park. As part of the overall outreach, the students along with a few others went on a bus tour of civil war sites in the city to include Camp Scott, Willie Grout's home and Rural Cemetery. Trustee Richardson volunteered to do research on various topics if a list of ideas was created in regards to stories. Mr. Grogan said that on Facebook he can place photos and notes for the stories. Mr. Grogan said as administrators that everyone would have that ability. Also discussed was how long will an item stay on Facebook. According to Mr. Grogan there is a column that will move and the older material will stay on it but will be further down. Chairman McAuliffe suggested that the Board provide fresh material each month. Each Board member volunteered for a month in which the Board member can choose a topic: Mr. Rodriguez will do May, Chairman McAuliffe will do June, Mr. Grogan will do July and Mr. Richardson will do August. The final words in regards to Facebook, Mr. Grogan repeated that if any news that are related to Worcester history or other Civil War topic is current for Board members to post it.

2. Chairman McAuliffe informed the Board through a letter that Scott Farr the person who coordinated the Civil War reenactments last October will be hosting meetings to work on a 2nd reenactment this coming fall. Any Board member who wished to attend those meetings are invited.

Being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6:36 pm

The next meeting will be on Tuesday September 10, 2013 at 5:30 pm at the National Guard Armory on Skyline Drive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reynaldo Rodriguez

Secretary, GAR Memorial Hall Board of Trustees