

G.A.R. Memorial Hall Board of Trustees

Meeting March 15, 2015

Minutes

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

Meeting Began at 5:32 p.m.

Present: Daniel McAuliffe, Reynaldo Rodriguez, Michael Baker, Timothy Boucher

Minutes of the October 14th meeting were approved.

Old Business:

1. G.A.R. Board welcomed new Trustee Michael Baker.
2. Chairman Daniel McAuliffe requested an update from Timothy Boucher in regards to the bidding process on the proposed refurbishing project of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument located on the Worcester City Common. According to Mr. Boucher there was not much new information to add at this time. Mr. Boucher said that not much is known yet as to the progress of the project. Mr. Boucher added that the Board is expected to be part of the process of choosing vendors and making decisions when it does move forward.
3. Chairman McAuliffe along with other members of the Board did bring up concern as to how much money would be used for the project. The Board hopes that there will be some money left after the completion of the project to allow for continued maintenance of other artifacts. Artifacts such as the Bell of the Albemarle and the 3 Confederate flags, all of which are currently out of state. These particular ones may need funds for safe transportation. Other artifacts which exist may also need maintenance in the future. The Board discussed that until the bidding process begins it is not possible to know how much money will be left.
4. The Board discussed the end of the lease for the 3 Confederate flags coming due in April of this year. The original agreement for the loan had April 2015 as the return date. Mr. Boucher mentioned that since a contract was already prepared and in effect, the Board should not have to rewrite a new agreement but may have to make adjustments. Secretary Reynaldo Rodriguez suggested extending the loan while a permanent place is confirmed. Currently there is no agreement of any permanent place and if the flags were to be moved back to Worcester in April, they would only end up in storage. Chairman McAuliffe is in communication with some southern museums and suggested a rotation of the flags in that region to keep them safe and relevant.
5. Chairman McAuliffe is continuing his work on the G.A.R. Board handbook.
6. Discussed was the condition of the G.A.R. books currently in the Auditorium. There was a sprinkler malfunction and several books received water damage. Some of the books are salvageable. Chairman McAuliffe suggested to the Board that in order to save the books that they should be cataloged and donated to a research library. Donating to a library like the

Antiquarian Society would be more practical than storing them where no one has access to them. Trustee Baker commented that some books are considered to not have value to anyone but a historian. Trustee Baker suggested utilizing college interns who can help salvage and catalog the surviving books. The interns would get credit for the work. Mr. Boucher verified that a change of the current location of the books is not possible. With that, Chairman McAuliffe agreed with the rest of the Board that the books should be inventoried and donated to a library.

New Business:

1. Trustee Baker had some suggestions for the Board to act upon. Mr. Baker proposed naming the 15th Massachusetts reenactment group as the official Civil War honor guard of the City of Worcester. The Board discussed if it had the authority to grant the honor. Part of the discussion was that the Board will be planning the rededication ceremony after the refurbishing of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument. Part of the ceremony will be to have Civil War era marching units and having an organization like the 15th Massachusetts is necessary to make it happen. The 15th Massachusetts will also be an important part in facilitating an educational living history on the common. A living history of the Civil War is part of the activities the Board wants to have available to the public. Trustee Baker volunteered to write an official proposal for whoever can grant it. The Board agreed to assist in moving the proposal of making the 15th Massachusetts the official Civil War honor guard of the City of Worcester to the proper granting authority.
2. Trustee Baker asked if there was a marker for Camp Lincoln/Wool located at Elm Park. Other Board members informed Trustee Baker that the Civil War Roundtable dedicated a marker several years ago. The Board added that a marker was dedicated to Camp Scott a few years earlier by the GAR Board.

Being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6:11 pm

The next meeting will be on Tuesday April 14, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the National Guard Armory on Skyline Drive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reynaldo Rodriguez

Secretary, GAR Memorial Hall Board of Trustees