

G.A.R. Memorial Hall Board of Trustees

Meeting May 17, 2016

Minutes

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

Meeting Began at 5:34 p.m.

Present: Daniel McAuliffe, George Maple, Timothy Boucher, Linda Hixon, Michael Baker and Reynaldo Rodriguez

Minutes of the April 19th meeting were approved.

Old Business:

1. Trustee Linda Hixon updated the Board on the progress of the Civil War Bio Books of the 398 soldiers on the Soldiers & Sailors Monument. According to Ms. Hixon there are about 7 left in order to complete the book.
 - a. As for permission to use photographs, Ms. Hixon informed everyone that Don Eaton has given permission to use color photographs and reuse pictures.
 - b. The Telegram & Gazette had also Ok'd using their photographs. The images themselves are being rescanned to a high quality.
 - c. Ms. Hixon told the Board that the sword of Edwin I Coe is going to be photographed at a high quality.
 - d. Other places which have Ok'd using photos include the Antiquarian Society.
 - e. Ms. Hixon has had some difficulties in catching up to Bill Wallace from the Worcester Historical Society so far as for using photos for the book. Some images were given but the quality was poor. Ms. Hixon will try to get in touch with Robyn who also works at the Museum.
 - f. Another organization with a photo collection, MOLLUS (Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States) is being checked for permission to use photographs.
 - g. Ms. Hixon has a deadline of June 1st for publication in order to have them in time for the ceremony.
 - h. Ms. Hixon's son is assisting in the project and advises that TFF files or PDF are better quality for pictures than JPEG. That means the photos will be the best they can possibly be within the book.
2. Chairman McAuliffe confirmed that 250 books were going to be produced. Chairman McAuliffe stated that a list of those who should receive a copy of them should be made. Board members and dignitaries as well as the families of the descendants as well as any schools. Obviously the students who worked to create them as well. Any remaining should be given out to those who attend until they are gone.

3. Chairman McAuliffe then opened up discussion on how to locate descendants. So far, Chairman McAuliffe has created a website which he has recently completed. According to Chairman McAuliffe he has one confirmed descendant who will attend, Ann McKenzie from Jeffrey, New Hampshire. She is the descendant of Otis Potter of the 21st Massachusetts Infantry who died of disease during the war. Others descendants would include David Ward, Gary Grout, and the three Aheasey brothers, Tag, Matt and Jim.
 - a. Also, Chairman McAuliffe will be interviewed in West Boylston for a possible program and or promo on the monument and its descendants. It will help get the word out.
 - b. Tim Boucher gave Chairman McAuliffe a contact at the Telegram & Gazette to help get the word out on the descendant search.
 - c. Trustee Michael Baker suggested podcasting as another method.
 - d. Trustee George Maple informed the Board that on Memorial Day, Channel 3 tends to have a news reporter at the ceremony in Hope Cemetery. Willie Grout Camp 25 does the city ceremony at the GAR Lot, then two Medal of Honor grave sites. Channel 3 news can be informed about the search for descendants and the monument rededication ceremony.
4. Chairman McAuliffe attended the City's Civil War Monument Rededication Ceremony meeting chaired by Che Anderson. According to Chairman McAuliffe it was a small turnout and not much was done. Trustee Baker explained that he did attend the first few meetings but has been unable to attend that one. Secretary Reynaldo Rodriguez was able to attend the first two meeting but has not attended any other.
 - a. The next meeting is planned for Thursday June 2nd at noon. Chairman McAuliffe's wanted to make sure there would be seating for the descendants so that they can be near the monument. He didn't have an exact number yet and hoped to have it no latter than July 6th.
 - b. Another concern is our role at the ceremony seemed questionable. He wanted to nail down exactly who is doing what.
 - i. Chairman McAuliffe will be on the stage and will be saying a few words about the monument's funding and the GAR Board's role.
 - ii. Trustee Maple and Secretary Rodriguez who are also members of the SUVCW (Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War) plan on participating in the G.A.R. Monument Rededication Ceremony. It is a scripted ceremony.
 - iii. The Chaplain for the ceremony will be Father Riley.
 - iv. The Commander will be Department of Massachusetts SUVCW, Dexter Bishop.
 - v. Secretary Rodriguez believes that the color guard should be the 15th Massachusetts since it was the first Worcester regiment and a majority of the names on the monument were from the 15th. The SUVCW may also want to provide the color guard. Secretary Rodriguez had been unable to get confirmation for that but has spoken with a member of the 15th Massachusetts member, Maurice Healy who is also the camps commander for Willie Grout Camp25. Trustee Maple and Secretary Rodriguez will work out how it ends up

by reaching out to the Department Commander to see if there is Department Color Guard that might be willing to do it.

- vi. Trustee Maple proposed using replicated flags that were used during a ceremony at the Massachusetts State House. The ceremony began with a parade of flags as part of a reenactment of returning the flags to the State House. Trustee Maple will reach out to see if any of those flags represent units on the Monuments. If so, the flags could be part of a 1st division to lead the parade from Mechanics Hall to the Monument.
 - vii. Chairman McAuliffe confirmed that Father Riley will do both the invocation and benediction. Chairman McAuliffe will most likely follow General Burnside and then after him, the G.A.R. Ceremony can begin.
 - viii. Trustee Maple explained that as part of the ceremony, a city official, probably Chairman McAuliffe or other city official, hands the monument over to the SUVCW who will perform the G.A.R ceremony and hand the monument back to the city.
 - ix. Trustee Maple and Secretary Rodriguez explained that as part of the ceremony a vacant chair is decorated with gear.
5. Chairman McAuliffe read the letter that he would be sending to descendants as a personal invitation. The letter itself is attached to the minutes.
 6. Trustee Baker reported that he has been and is continuing to be in contact to invite fraternal orders. The SUVCW is going to participate, others have been called and that more calls will be made to orders like the Masons.
 7. Trustee Baker reported on the progress of getting a band. Because of the date and conflicts with other events, the initial band contacted was not available. Trustee Baker was able to contact a Polaski Polish Band which can do civil war stuff. Chairman McAuliffe asked about using a drum & fife band like the one used at the St. Patrick's Parade. A contact number will be obtained and calls will be made. Trustee Baker did say that a German band can play period music. Trustee Baker informed the Board that he may need help to nail down a band.
 8. Trustee Baker reported on tin types. He said a leading person in the field is in Jersey, Moonbeam Photography. Trustee Baker hopes to have the tin type questions worked out by June 2nd.
 9. Trustee Baker has tried to get a sutler for the common and was unable to get Big Bear but will try to get another sutler.
 10. Trustee Baker reported that one of the problems that has arose as far as an encampment on the common is the "no stake policy." Alternatives to stakes involve bags of sand which is not very popular. Because of this, an encampment might be tough.
 11. Trustee Baker reminded that a canon from Sutton will most likely be available.
 12. Chairman McAuliffe wants to get an update by Memorial Day of where we are.
 13. The Board briefly discussed the progress of the monument cleaning. Both Chairman McAuliffe and Mr. Boucher have seen the refurbishing. It appears as if the cleaners are ahead of schedule which is great news.

14. Trustee Maple will check with the Department of Massachusetts or the Camp about obtaining a wreath to be placed at the monument. The Board agreed that it should be placed by the descendants as a group. They can place it and leave it.
15. Trustee Maple brought up the progress with digitizing the books at the Auditorium. The books were originally in the GAR Hall, then the National Guard Armory and Worcester Historical Society. They are now at the Auditorium. The Board agreed that the project will be shelved until after the rededication ceremony.

New Business: No New Business

Being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6:40 pm

The next meeting will be on Tuesday June 7, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the National Guard Armory on Skyline Drive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reynaldo Rodriguez

Secretary, GAR Memorial Hall Board of Trustees



City of Worcester, Massachusetts
G.A.R. Memorial Board of Trustees
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Date:

Dear (name of descendant),

You are cordially invited to attend the re-dedication ceremony of the Civil War Soldier's Memorial located on the Worcester Common to be held on Saturday, July 16, 2016 at 12:00PM. You are receiving this special invitation because you are a descendant of one of the three hundred and ninety-eight soldiers listed on the Memorial's tablets. These men gave their life for our country's unity and freedom for all mankind.

We request your presence at 11:00AM at Mechanics Hall, 321 Main Street, Worcester, MA where you will participate in a short parade to the Memorial site, a distance of .3 miles.

Kindly respond by calling or emailing that you will be attending and the number of guests that will be accompanying you. Please do so before July 6, 2016. We look forward to meeting you and giving your ancestor a fitting tribute that he has so deserved.

Respectfully yours.