

Lafayette Bicentennial Subcommittee Meeting

Virtual Zoom Meeting 4.18.24

Stephen Hartka called meeting to order. Explained the concept of the planning sheet. Jennie Reading shared the planning worksheet for D-Day as an example and group went through it to plan walking tours.

Lafayette connection to Normandy. He departed from L'Harve. His sword hilts were made in Normandy too.

Elizabeth Reese recommended a 1.5 hour walking tour. Maybe at 10am and 2pm.

Starting point at Lyceum and ending point at Gadsby's Tavern. Maybe can go in the ballroom at Gadsby, but not ADA accessible with stairs and no elevator.

Tour Stops: Lyceum – Lafayette House – Washington Townhouse – Marina (Optional) – City Hall – Gadsby's Tavern

Stephen suggested having the long tour in the morning (with GT ballroom and marina) and short tour in the afternoon that is more accessible.

Jennie suggested having a specialty drink or souvenir for guests. Elizabeth suggested ribbons and buttons, because they were really popular during Lafayette's tour.

Elizabeth suggested 20-25ppl tour. Jennie suggested asking Gretchen since she has done tours before and can tell us if she has sound amplification for walking tours.

Total Attendance: 25x4 tours = 100ppl

Elizabeth may want visual aids for tours.

We can advise people to bring water bottles. May be able to provide them.

Angelique suggested same price as our lectures at \$10pp. Jennie suggested asking Gretchen what OHA charges for their walking tours.

Elizabeth has accepted honorariums for \$100+. Jennie suggested asking Gretchen about honorarium.

Stephen suggested selling books with the tickets. Jennie suggested selling different ticket packages, like walking tour ticket only and book and ticket. Books are already on sale at Lyceum and Gadsby's. Elizabeth can sign books at tours.

Elizabeth suggested a volunteer to check in group and a volunteer to follow behind group to make sure we don't lose anyone. Jennie suggested one committee member per tour.

We can do a walkthrough practice tour September 26th at 6pm with committee members.

Planning Timeline:

April/May – Coordination with OHA

July – Create flyer

August – Launch ticket sales and advertise

September – Lafayette Birthday Scavenger Hunt 9/6, Practice Tour – 9/26

October - Lafayette Bicentennial Walking Tours 10/5-6; Reception & Book Lecture 10/16; Dinner 10/17

Angelique suggested asking OHA about hanging a French flag at Lyceum and Gatsby's. Group wondered if City would hang French flags around town for Bicentennial.

Stephen will ask Gretchen if she is doing a city proclamation for Lafayette Bicentennial.

Gretchen will have to confirm if the Lafayette reenactor. Mark and Town Crier are going to be at the reception.

Tim Timotheos asked if Alexandria is doing anything for Lafayette's birthday on September 6th. Tim suggested a scavenger hunt around Old Town for his birthday. Stephen asked time to handle the research into the scavenger hunt logistics. Stephen suggested using Sydney's French business list as the scavenger locations. Stephen will look how they do the scavenger hunt around Washington's birthday parade. This would help local businesses. Tim can work on planning.