



George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee (GWBCC)

Monday, Sept 15, 2025

7:00 PM

Lloyd House

220 N. Washington Street

Minutes

Attendance: Sue Johnson, Michele Longo, Peter Duggan, Tyler Vanice, Jake Sweely, Hunter Ihrman, Jeanne Jacob, Bob Garbacz, Lauren Augustine, Kristin Eastlick, Casey Clark (via Zoom), Edgar Bates. Colin Eilts, Carol Myers

Excused: Patrick Wilson, Sandra Welch, Steve Konya, Jacque Martin

Unexcused: None

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. August 18, 2025, minutes were approved by the committee.
3. Chair's Report: Sue Johnson shared updates regarding the 2026 Parade.
 - i. Parade is scheduled for Saturday 14 February 2026 2- 4 pm.
 - ii. Grand Marshals for the Parade will be the Presidents of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).
 - iii. New GWBCC Logo is approved.
 - iv. Parade theme will be "Virginia's Son – America's Founding Father".
 - v. Alexandria City donation to the Parade will be \$35K plus and additional \$5K to support performance groups determined by the Committee.
 - vi. Parade sponsorship package is ready.
 - vii. GWBCC Website and Newsletter have been updated with all new information.

Sue also announced the retirement of Bob Garbacz from Alexandria City Government as well as his future departure from the GWBCC. Bob provided excellent support in previous Parades in managing the parade dignitary division, vehicles, and drivers.

4. Edgar Bates made motion for Bob to receive a certificate of appreciation for his work on the GWBCC. Motion was approved by the committee.
5. Marketing and Public Relations Report: Preparations are being made for the public announcement of the 2026 parade by means of a press release, GWBCC newsletter, and social media.
6. VA250, Alexandria250, and other community reports: Next Alexandria 250 meeting has been rescheduled to October. Working on Swag orders for merchandise to sell and or give away. All tall ships (4) are confirmed for AlexSail 12-14 June at the Alexandria Waterfront. It was reported the VA 250 Mobile Museum (Truck) may not fit in Old Town streets due to pop up sides on the Truck not fitting the limited width of Alexandria Old Town streets. Also, the GWB Parade is the start of Alex 250th Events.
7. Unfinished Business

- a) 2025-2026 officer nominees and election: Chair: Sue Johnson, Vice chair- Carol Myers, - Secretary – Peter Duggan. Motion was made to approved nominees; motion was passed by the committee.
- b) GWBCC Annual Report deadline and submission. Report due Oct 3 to Alexandria City Counsel. Still waiting on a few GWBCC member submissions.
- c) Marching band/performance group fund distribution criteria. To better evaluate the process of allocating the additional \$5K to support marching bands, Sue Johnson passed out to the committee “Marching Band/Performance Group Incentive Options” for discussion. After discussion on how to implement these incentives, a motion was made that “Financial incentives of \$1,000 will be offered to five College, Military School, and High School marching bands (consisting of at least 25 band participants) which are first to register and are approved by the Committee.” Bands will be strongly encouraged to incorporate patriotic themes and music. Bands may be compensated with additional funding (cash prizes) if any funding is available. Motion was approved by the committee.
- d) 2026 fundraising
 - i. Mayor’s Reception for Sponsors: Mayor Gaskins agreed to host reception for sponsors. Reception will be for less than 50 people and will be either Saturday Tea or late afternoon weekday. Venue would be at Lyord House. In addition to the Sponsors and the Mayor, other city council members would be invited to attend. Sue will provide date options to the Mayor’s office.
 - ii. Sponsorship package and outreach: Sue is still awaiting completion of the final payment page, after which the Final Sponsorship Package will be publicly available.
 - iii. Duvall House event – Saturday November 15 Tickers \$150 ea.
 - iv. Port City Brewery Trivia Night – Thursday, November 20. This event will be advertised on our website and newsletter. After a discussion concerning GWBCC logo etched pint glasses, it was determined not to be cost effective to have these glasses available for this event.
 - v. Jeanne Jacob stated that the Friendship Firehouse will be a Bronze parade sponsor at \$1000.

8. New Business

- a) Preparations for adverse weather: Per the Alexandria Police Department, if the parade is rescheduled due to inclement weather, we would have to wait 3 weeks to reschedule due to Police Security rescheduling. More discussion is needed to determine whether there will be a rain date and whether weather parameters will be changed.
- b) 2026 Parade route map was passed out to the Committee. There have been suggestions to shorten the Parade route, which could allow more room at the parade start staging areas for additional parking or parade participant assembly and would allow for parade participants to more quickly get back to King Street after the parade. Michele announced that Market Square construction will NOT interfere with this year’s Parade.

9. Meeting Adjourned at 9 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday October 20 at 7 p.m.