



George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee (GWBC)

Monday, November 17, 2025

7:00 PM

Lloyd House

220 N. Washington Street

Minutes

Attendance: Sue Johnson, Michele Longo, Peter Duggan, Jake Sweely, Lauren Augustine, Edgar Bates, Colin Eilts, Carol Myers, Steve Konya, Hunter Ihrman, Patrick Wilson, Kristin Eastlick

Excused: Jeanne Jacob, Jacque Martin, Casey Clark, Sandra Welch

Unexcused: Tyler Vanice

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.
- 2) Motion to approve October 20, 2025, minutes made by Edgar Bates, seconded by Hunter Ihrman. The committee approved motion.
- 3) Chair's Report: Sue Johnson informed the Committee that thanks to the efforts by Sandra Welch, the Washington Commander's Marching Band has agreed to be in the parade. Parade registration has opened, with some units already signed up. Sue has sent emails to all prior parade registrants notifying them of parade registration. Notice of open registration is on our social media, including GWBC Newsletter, web site, Facebook page, Instagram, and Twitter (X). Duvall House fundraising event was held on Saturday 15 Nov.
- 4) Marketing and Public Relations Report: Kristin Eastlick reported that there has been an increase in views on our social media including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (X) YTD. She passed out Social Media Report through October 25 to all committee members.
- 5) VA250, Alexandria250, and other community reports: No Reports.
- 6) Unfinished Business
 - a) Marching band/performance group update: C.D. Hylton High School in Woodbridge, VA accepted \$1000 incentive and will participate in this year's parade. Peter Duggan spoke about the request he submitted to Military District Washington requesting additional military service bands to support the parade. Request is currently in processing, and we should get status in a few weeks.
 - b) Opening of parade participant registration- See Chair's report. Too early for registration report. Dignitary invitations are planned for December. Sue Johnson reminded members that given Bob Garbacz' retirement, the dignitary division will be modified to allow for dignitaries to walk in this year's parade behind a banner wearing sashes.
 - c) 2026 fundraising
 - i) Duvall House event recap – November 15. Event had twenty-four paid attendees with twenty-two attendees. Net fund raising was \$2200 compared to \$3500 in the last 2 years. Impact of Government shutdown may have caused lower attendance, and there were other competing events in the area on the same day. Event also was held earlier than in past years, which may have

impacted attendance. Nevertheless, the event ran smoothly. Sue Johnson thanked GWBCC volunteers who helped with setup and cleanup.

- ii) Port City Brewery Trivia Night – Thursday, November 20 – Volunteers will have a GWBCC Table there. Flyers with QR Code will be available for donations; GWBCC attendees for this event will be Lauren Augustine, Peter Duggan, Steve Konya, Jake Sweely, Kristen Eastlick and Jacque Martin. Doors open at 1830. Trivia contest starts and 7 pm.
- iii) Sponsorship/donor update/outreach: Currently \$7500 in paid sponsorships. SAR George Washington Chapter is a Gold Sponsor, AKA Hotel Alexandria and Zebra are in-kind Gold Sponsors. Patrick Wilson (MediaTek, Inc.), and the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association are Bronze sponsors. Sue Johnson continues to send emails to all past sponsors and donors.
- iv) Old Town Business Donation Drive – Sue stated that due to lack of time and amount of work required, we will not be doing an Old Town Business Donation Drive this year.

- d) Preparations for adverse weather –With March 14 or 21 being the alternate adverse weather dates, Sue will be reaching out to former parade participants to see what weather criteria would cause parade unit cancellations. We are also asking key parade participants whether they would be available on alternative rain dates, if it is possible to have one given the planned Market Square construction.

7) New Business

- a) 2026 event overview and updates. Summary of events schedule was passed out to all Committee members. All events were reviewed by the committee.

8) Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Dates to Remember

Port City Brewery Company Trivia Night: Thursday, November 20

Next GWBCC Meeting (Virtual): Monday, December 1

GWBCC Meeting (Lloyd House): Monday, December 15

GWBCC Meeting (Virtual): Monday, January 5, 2026

Mayor's Sponsorship Tea: Saturday, January 17, 2026

GWBCC Meeting (Lloyd House): Monday, January 19, 2026

GWBCC Meeting (Virtual): Monday, February 2, 2026

City Council approval of GW Proclamation: Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Parade Day: Saturday, February 14, 2026