



George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee (GWBCC)

Monday, April 20, 2026

7:00 PM

Lloyd House

220 N. Washington Street

Minutes

Attendance: Sue Johnson, Michele Longo, Peter Duggan, Jake Sweely, Edgar Bates, Colin Eilts, Carol Myers, Sebastian Feitl, Patrick Wilson, Sandra Welch, Steve Konya.

Guest: Thomas Roth, George Washington Chapter, SAR

Excused: Tyler Vanice, Casey Clark, Jeanne Jacob, Hunter Ihrman, Lauren Augustine, Will Hannifan.

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm. Edgar Bates introduced his guest, Tom Roth from the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).
- 2) Motion to approve February 23, 2026, minutes made by Sandra Welch, second by Edgar Bates. The committee approved the motion.
- 3) Presentation of Service Award to Bob Garbacz – Sue Johnson presented a Service Award to recently retired Mr. Garbacz for his 24 years of service on the GWBCC as the Alexandria Division of Transportation's representative member.
- 4) Chair's Report – No announcements
- 5) Marketing and Public Relations Report –
 - a) Updated GWBCC website-Website has been updated by Sue Johnson and Carol Myers to include 2026 parade slide show. Banners were updated to reflect the 2026 parade; 2026 Parade Sponsors have also been updated.
 - b) GWBCC social media – With the departure of Kristin Eastlick, the GWBCC needs a new volunteer for social media management to join Lauren Augustine. Patrick Wilson and Jake Sweely both volunteered to assist.
- 6) VA250, Alexandria250 (ALEX250) and other community reports
 - a) Alexandria Sails on the Potomac – scheduled June 12-14. Visiting ships will be at the waterfront from noon to 6 pm each day.
 - b) GWBCC booth at Alexandria Sails event – GWBCC will have a half booth, which will include a 10'x10' table on Sunday 14 June from noon to 4 pm at Waterfront Park. Volunteers are needed to man our table to promote the GWB Parade. GWBCC members Colin Eilts, Peter Duggan, Patrick Wilson, and Jake Sweely volunteered.
 - c) Other Alexandria 250 events- Michele Longo stated that Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Happy Hours will be held at local Alexandria bars /restaurants from 5 – 7 pm on the second Thursday of each month thru June.
- 7) Unfinished Business
 - a) 2026 parade/events wrap-up
 - (i) Parade units and participants - Sue Johnson stated that 64 parade units marched in the 2026 parade, and that the total number of parade participants is estimated at 1234. This

figure is based on unit applications, plus dignitaries and unregistered participants. Could not estimate total parade spectators.

- (ii) Revenues and expenses – The final bill from the city which includes personal fire, police, Parks and Recreation, and Transportation was below budget, probably due to the shorter parade route due to Market Square construction. Revenue for the parade exceeded expenses. In preparation for next year's parade, Sue will request estimated costs from the Alexandria Police Department (APD). There was a discussion on parade funding parity with other Alexandria parades.
- (iii) Hunt for Washington – Due to the February snowstorm, the Hunt was extended to March 15th. Prize drawing for gift certificate winners will be in next newsletter and website.

7. New Business

- a) Date and route of 2027 Parade – 13 Feb Saturday 2027. Same parade route as 2026 parade.
- b) Potential 2027 Parade themes – The committee discussed possible themes that highlight 250th anniversaries of the major events in 1777 in America.
- c) 2027 fundraising – Sue will have 2027 sponsorship package to review for next meeting. There was a discussion of potential new sponsors for the 2027 parade.
- d) Sue stated that the official address of the GWBCC in the Bylaws is currently the GW Masonic Temple and needs to be updated to the correct address. The committee approved a motion to change the GWBCC address to Lloyd House.
- e) June GWBCC meeting – With the June 15th GWBCC meeting scheduled just after the Alex Sail Weekend, a motion was made to move the June GWBCC meeting to 22 June at Lloyd House. The committee passed the motion.

8. For the Good of the Cause - Next GWBCC meeting is May 18th at 7 pm at the Lloyd House.

9. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:17. Motion made by Sandra Welch, second by Edgar Bates.