



George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee (GWBC)

Monday, May 18, 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 (online), Patrick Wilson, Will Hannifan

Excused: Tyler Vanice, Casey Clark, Jeanne Jacob, Hunter Ihrman, Lauren Augustine, Sandra Welch, Steve Konya

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.
- 2) Motion to approve April 20, 2026 minutes made by Edgar Bates, second by Colin Eilts. Michele Longo proposed to modify the sentence concerning Bob Garbacz to “Presentation of Service Award to recently retired Mr. Bob Garbacz.” The committee approved the motion as amended.
- 3) Chair’s Report—No new announcements; however, Sue shared a story from the *Alexandra Gazette* from 1881 about the George Washington Birthday Parade that was attended by then President Rutherford B. Hayes.
- 4) Marketing and Public Relations Report—Sue is working with former GWBC member/Social Media coordinator Kristen Eastlick on Social Media Guidelines.
- 5) VA250, Alexandria250 (ALEX250) and other community reports:
 - a) Alexandria Sails on the Potomac—Michele Longo reported that the event is three weeks away and is still scheduled June 12-14.
 - b) GWBC booth at Alexandria Sails event Sunday June 14th—GWBC has reserved a shared 1/2 booth with tent space from 12—6 pm at Waterfront Park. Volunteers for this event will be Peter Duggan, Patrick Wilson, Jake Sweely, and Colin Eilts. The Committee discussed the booth setup, which will include a raffle for a private George Washington’s Alexandria group tour.

The Committee separately discussed Patrick Wilson’s suggestion of raffling two tickets to the Freedom 250 Grand Prix Race on the National Mall in August 2026. Wilson will follow up.

- c) Other Alexandria 250 events—No reports.
- 6) Unfinished Business
 - a) 2026 parade/events wrap-up:
 - (i) Final revenues and expenses—Sue reported on final 2026 parade expenses and revenues. There was a small surplus that can be used for performance groups in the 2027 parade, needed capital expenditures, and/or for a reserve to cover future unexpected expenses and/or emergencies. Sue will be requesting a meeting with City officials to discuss future parade funding.

- (ii) Hunt for Washington Winners—three winners from the prize drawing will receive \$50 gift certificates from Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant and three additional winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate at another Alexandria restaurant. Clue sheets will remain on the website all year.
- (iii) Business on the 2026 Parade was officially closed.

7. New Business

- a) Potential 2027 Parade themes—The committee discussed potential parade themes based on the 250th anniversary of events in 1777. The parade theme will not be announced until after Sails on the Potomac event and traditionally has been announced shortly after Labor Day.
- b) 2027 sponsorships and fundraising—Sue distributed the 2027 Sponsorship Package to committee members for review. The package is similar to the 2026 package, with an added Washington Commanders Band sponsorship and a Hunt for Washington sponsorship. The Committee discussed ways to encourage larger sponsorships.

8. For the Good of the Cause—Next GWBCC meeting is June 22nd at 7 pm at Lloyd House.

9. Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 8:22. Motion made by Patrick Wilson, second by Edgar Bates.