



George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee

Minutes

George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee

City of Alexandria, Virginia

7:00 p.m.

Monday, August 19, 2019

George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive

In Attendance: Bates, Bennett, Bissette, Eastlick, Dorton, Garbacz, Graham, Johnson, Khan, MacLeod, Reardon, Shumard (co-chair), Uehlein, Vanice (co-chair)

Excused:

Unexcused: Tabb

City Staff: Nicole Quinn, Office of Historic Alexandria

Guests: Danny Smith, Marshall Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Vanice called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the July 15th meeting. Garbacz **moved to accept the minutes as amended. Bissette seconded, and the motion passed.**

Shumard shared with the committee a statement of assets and liabilities. Bates asked if the liabilities to the City of Alexandria were broken down, and Shumard referenced an invoice with the breakdown for police and other services provided by the city. Uehlein asked if lack of payment could put at risk future parade events, and Shumard stated that the city could withdraw their support, but that event would be unlikely.

Johnson asked about the status of the Legacy Alliance. Shumard stated that there are still some final details to be worked out for the organization, but that the Legacy Alliance is “beginning to be active.” Shumard stated that the critical fundraising period is between now and the beginning of December. Shumard walked through the budget items and updated the committee on requirements for 2019 and 2020.

Shumard stated the need for a location for a committee-sponsored 5k to drive fundraising. The committee members shared potential donors for the 2020 Celebration. Bennett raised the idea of a silent auction at the post-parade reception, and the committee discussed the idea and other potential fundraisers.

The committee received an update on the “Dinner with General Washington,” and Shumard stated that locations have submitted bids and a final date and location is to be selected soon.

Shumard and Bates discussed recognition of POW/MIA and will provide further update on those efforts in future meetings.

The committee reviewed the 2019 celebration schedule to discuss planning and promotion of potential 2020 events. The following event details were discussed:

- Colonial Christmas Traditions – Tentative date of Sunday, December 1, 2:30pm at the Masonic Memorial
- Chocolate with General Washington – Tentative date of Sunday, February 9, Time TBD at the Masonic Memorial
- Uniforms of Yorktown – Eastlick will provide Gadsby’s winter calendar to the committee
- Cherry Challenge
 - o Tentative dates January 26-February 9, Committee to count ballots February 10
 - o Reardon to assist Danny Smith and Eastlick
 - o Committee to participate in social dinner at 2019 winner’s restaurant
 - o Committee to collaborate with Visit Alexandria on promotion
- Birthnight Ball & Banquet – Date February 15
- Hunt for Washington – Prizes needed for hunt winners, committee discussed gift certificates to local businesses
- Storytelling – Johnson to connect with Alexandria Library regarding hosting and partnership
- Wreath Laying at Old Presbyterian Meeting House – Bennett to move this event forward, committee discussed whether Brian Hilton should attend as General Washington
- Symposium at Masonic Memorial – Topic will be D.C. architecture and city planning, speaker is Brent Morris, Vanice continuing to confirm details and other speakers
- Annual George Washington Birthday Gala – Ticket price increasing to \$200

Johnson shared that, after recommendations were provided by the committee, Christ Church now has on display three books about Washington.

Shumard noted that the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for the Masonic Memorial will take place in 2023.

Shumard shared with the committee information about City Council consideration of renaming Columbus Day to be Indigenous People’s Day, and encouraged committee members to think of additional partners and groups who should be represented in the parade.

Bennett shared with the committee the National Archives and Founders Online as a resource of Washington letters and papers. Eastlick mentioned that these will provide a resource for social media content.

There being no other immediate business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Uehlein', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct dot above the 'i'.

Michael Uehlein, GWBCC Secretary