



# George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee

## Minutes

George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee

City of Alexandria, Virginia

7:00 p.m.

Monday, September 21, 2020

This meeting was conducted online via ZOOM due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

In Attendance: Clarke, Beard, Bisette, Eastlick, Jones, Johnson, Marvin, Moore, Myers, Reardon, Vanice (chair), Warren

Excused:

Unexcused:

City Staff: Gretchen Bulova, Michele Longo, and Nicole Quinn (Office of Historic Alexandria)

Guests: Edgar Bates, Arlene Jones

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vanice called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

The virtual meeting notice was read by Nicole Quinn.

Roll-call of current member roster was made by Gretchen Bulova.

Motion to approve the February 3, 2020 minutes as amended was made by Vanice, seconded by Eastlick. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vanice asked for introduction of all members and the three new members (Myers, Jones, Warren) were introduced as well.

Discussion about the Washington Parade for February 2021 was initiated by Vanice and the recommendation to cancel the parade due to the ongoing pandemic and restrictions, namely difficulties to keep participation at the recommended levels and to maintain social distancing as well as problems to keep up with expenses and sponsorship were the main determining factors to be considered. The question arose why this decision needs to be made at this point in time and Vanice explained the lengthy process and deadlines for submitting the paperwork to get all permits for the parade including the planning for the necessary COVID-19 restrictions, which need to be made in advance.

Vanice made the motion to cancel the February 2021 Washington Birthday Parade which was seconded by Myers and passed.

Warren asked about ways to commemorate GW birthday in other ways and Vanice suggested a series of lectures and other social-distancing events.

Johnson brought up the focus on alternate events and on how to go about this. Vanice pointed out that there would be a good amount of time to figure this out and asked for input and brainstorming of all members in the upcoming meetings and to focus on the fundraising side with special events like "Dinner with Washington" and "Walking with Washington", which have been successful and well attended in previous years. Also, collaborations with other small businesses and institutions are a possibility.

Bissette suggested involving teachers and students/parents in future events.

Vanice asked for input and nominations to elect new officers for the 2020-2021 year:

Chair: Tyler Vanice

Vice-chair: Susan Johnson

Treasurer: Carol Myers

Secretary: Jennifer Warren

Vanice made motion to approve these nominations, seconded by Eastlick. The motion was approved unanimously

Vanice asked for comments and input about the 'End of Year' report. Kirsten Eastlick suggested to add Johnson's amendment of visitation numbers (250 visitors during Feb. events). Eastlick, who is managing social media and photo footage mentioned that she was holding off on these items during the ongoing COVID crisis and would like to expand these platforms again in the near future for better visibility.

There were no public comments and therefore Vanice made motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm, which was seconded by Johnson.

The next meeting will be held Monday, Oct. 21, 2020 at 7pm through this virtual platform again.

Respectfully submitted by

Nicole Quinn, OHA, staff-liaison to the Committee