

George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee

Alexandria, Virginia

Monday, September 20, 2021

7:00 PM

at the

George Washington Masonic National Memorial
101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA

Attendance:

- In attendance: Claire Bennett, Margaret (Mitzi) Moore, Carol Myers, Jeanne Jacob, Sue Johnson, Lovie Patish, Jason Reardon, Marshall Smith
- City Staff: Michele Longo
- Excused Absence: Sean Marvin, Tyler Vanice, Jennifer Warren, Kristen Eastlick, Chris Jones, Edgar Bates
- Unexcused Absence: Casey Clark, Daniel Beard,
- Guests: Donna Franklin

1. Call to Order

Sue called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Review of August 2021 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved with amendments.

3. Fundraising Dinner and Walking Tour, presented by Sue

The September 18 fundraising dinner that was to take place on Sept. 18 has been postponed. The committee discussed postponing the event to November versus the spring.

Brian Hilton, who portrays George Washington, still came to Alexandria for the walking tour on Saturday. Sue capped registration for the walking tour at 45 people, with approximately 35 actually attending. Claire took pictures of the event. The next walking tour is currently planned for October 17.

The committee will investigate how to raise funds for the parade through this event, either through charging a fee or collecting donations. Michele noted anything given to the GWBCC is tax deductible.

4. Revolutionary War Reenactment at Fort Ward, presented by Marshall

Marshall met with Susan Cumbey, Director of Fort Ward Museum, to gain a better idea of what action items are needed to make this event happen and approximate costs. Marshall will provide an estimate to the fundraising committee within the week so the sponsorship package can be adjusted to reflect the actual cost of the event. GWBCC would need a sponsor for this event identified by the end of October or the first week of November at the latest for this event to move forward. If the event had to be cancelled due to weather, which has happened in the past, the re-enactor costs could be refunded, but other costs would still need to be covered.

5. **Fundraising Committee**, presented by Sue

Sue noted the sponsorship packet is now on the website. She will be in touch with committee members in the coming week with assignments.

6. **2022 Parade**

7. Tyler, Jeanne, and Sue are working on finding ways to reach out to the Alexandrian Olympians. Additional help trying to contact the Olympians would be appreciated.

Claire will reach out to Affordable Signs and Banners to get a list of past signage created for the parade and cost estimate.

Claire noted that in the past parade units were contacted anytime between the end of September and early December inviting them to participate in the parade. She suggested the committee consider including an invitation to donate as part of the registration. Over the coming week, the committee will gather information about other local parades and past GWBCC parade participants to better inform a decision to either charge a registration fee or request a donation. GWBCC will host a special meeting on September 27 at 7 p.m. via Zoom to vote on this so parade invitation can proceed.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.