



# George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee

George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee

City of Alexandria, Virginia

Minutes of Meeting

June 17, 2019

Attendees (alphabetical): Edgar Bates, David Bisette, Gretchen Bulova (staff), Henry Dorton, Kristen Eastlick, Bud Jackson (non-member), Noah Kahn, Steve MacLeod, Joseph Shumard (co-chair), Ellen Tabb, Michael Uehlein, and Tyler Vanice (co-chair).

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Shumard called the meeting to order at 7:04.

Shumard introduced Gretchen Bulova, Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), and welcomed her to the committee. Shumard also congratulated Henry Dorton for his promotion to Commander of American Legion Post 24.

Bulova provided the committee an update for the committee's structure under OHA, and stated that either her or an OHA staff member will attend future meetings and help coordinate support for the committee.

Shumard invited committee members to attend Alexandria's Birthday celebration on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Shumard also encouraged committee members to volunteer for the event that evening, and stated that he would follow up via email with details.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Tabb moved to accept the minutes with minor changes for spelling. Bates seconded and the motion passed.**

Vanice provided an update regarding the committee's finances, including debts and balances. Vanice suggested the formation of a Finance Committee with two co-chairs. **Vanice asked Dorton to participate in the committee, and Dorton accepted.**

Tabb asked what role the George Washington Legacy Alliance will play in fundraising, and Vanice noted that both the committee and Legacy Alliance will have separate balance streams. Shumard clarified that both entities will need separate accountability functions with multiple people. Tabb asked if the Legacy Alliance will send all of its funds to the committee, and Shumard noted that the charter for the Legacy Alliance does not speak specifically to which entities will receive money. Tabb asked why the committee would establish a "competitor" if the committee will also be fundraising, and Jackson clarified the ease of fundraising with the 501c3 status. Shumard stated that the committee will not make decisions for the Legacy Alliance.

Bisette asked if there has been a shift in strategy for the Legacy Alliance since its inception, and Shumard replied that this was the goal of the 501c3 from the outset. Uehlein asked about the structure of the Legacy Alliance and its Board of Directors, and Shumard stated that multiple current and/or former members of the committee will participate in the establishment of the 501c3. Shumard stated that the committee's Finance Committee will identify needs and request funds from the Legacy Alliance. Eastlick stated that this structure is similar to the Gadsby's Tavern and the associated 501c3 organization which supports Gadsby's Tavern. Bulova said that the Gadsby's Tavern's 501c3 organization recently gave a contribution to the Little Theater of Alexandria. Tabb asked why both the GWBCC and Legacy Alliance would both fundraise, and Shumard stated that the GWBCC does not raise money.

Vanice restated the need for a Finance Committee to keep records of finances and upcoming expenses. Shumard stated that the Finance Committee will take a similar role as a Treasurer. Tabb asked if there was a list of expenses, and Shumard replied that the Finance Committee will have access to review those expenses.

Shumard shared a draft of rules for the establishment of a Finance Committee with attendees. Shumard stated that he, Bisette, and Vanice will each be members, in addition to Dorton. **Eastlick moved to adopt a Finance Committee with that makeup. Bates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** Tabb asked for language to be modified to specify a quarterly finance report to the full committee, however language remained that the Finance Committee will present "regular" reports to the full committee.

Vanice raised the theme of the 2023 celebration, the year in which the Masonic Memorial will be celebrating the centennial of the laying of its cornerstone. Vanice shared that Masons from around the country will be attending, in coordination with the scheduling of the George Washington Birthday Parade. Shumard stated that running the parade down King Street (from/toward the Masonic Memorial) will be a significant increase in costs compared to the existing route.

Vanice shared the name of Robert H. Shumaker as a potential Grand Marshal for the 2020 parade. Bates shared about Shumaker's military service and how his selection will honor prisoners of war. Before the next meeting, Shumard will make contact with Shumaker to confirm interest and discuss potential themes for the 2020 celebration. Bisette raised character, insight, and wisdom as potential angles for an annual theme. Shumard asked about materials in the Washington papers that may provide resources for a theme. Uehlein shared a suggestion related for service and volunteerism.

Vanice encouraged committee members to share additional ideas for 2020 themes and Grand Marshal candidates.

Vanice raised the final order of business, a statement that the committee will stop promoting the Walking with Washington tours. Shumard stated that time and efforts related to the tours are taking away from the mission of the committee. Uehlein stated that he saw no need for the committee to remove itself from the tours. The committee discussed the pros and cons of the committee being associated with the tours. Dorton asked if support might resume in the future, and Shumard stated that support may resume and that the tours are not the property of the committee.

**Vanice appointed Jackson as Parliamentarian for the GWBCC.**

**Vanice made a motion to approve the statement that the committee will stop promoting the Walking with Washington tours. Bates seconded the motion. The committee approved the motion by a vote of 7-1, with 2 abstentions.** The vote broke down along the following lines:

- 7 ayes – Bates, Bisette, Eastlick, Kahn, MacLeod, Shumard, and Vanice
- 1 no – Tabb
- 2 abstain – Dorton and Uehlein

There being no other immediate business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03.

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 prominent initial 'M' and a trailing flourish.

Michael Uehlein, GWBCC Secretary