



George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee

Minutes

George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee

City of Alexandria, Virginia

7:00 p.m.

Monday, July 15, 2019

George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive

In Attendance: Bates, Bennett, Bisette, Dorton, Garbacz, Graham, Kahn, Reardon, Shumard (co-chair), Tabb, Vanice (co-chair)

Excused: Eastlick, Johnson, Macleod, Uehlein

Unexcused:

City Staff: Gretchen Bulova, Office of Historic Alexandria

Guests: Marshall Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Vanice called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Claire Bennett presented the co-chairs a gavel and block with the inscription "George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee". Vanice will keep the gavel with the other supplies for future use.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 17th meeting. Garbacz **moved to accept the minutes as amended. Bennett seconded, and the motion passed.**

Shumard briefly mentioned about a lunch with Brian Hilton over the last few weeks and mentioned that there is a large potential to hold a fundraiser at Gadsby's Tavern by holding a "Dinner with General Washington" and starting the event small with appreciably 25 people. The purpose is to promote Washington and to raise funds for future GWBCC events with costs and other elements to be determined at a later date.

Bates mentioned that Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 holds events at Gadsby's annually on June 24th for St. Johns Day and stated that the prices are reasonable. Bulova recommended that the committee should review its bylaws as this event is outside the scope of the mission of the committee. It was addressed that this event is a fundraiser for future events like the parade, therefore fitting into the goal to achieve the mission.

Bates was appointed subcommittee Chair for this event with members Shumard, Graham and Bulova to assist.

Shumard passed images of the George Washington Parade from 2000 that were photographed by Kathryn A. Brown to show how the event was compared to recent parades.

Bisette mentioned the desire to get youth more involved in activities. It was mentioned that the Little Theater of Alexandria could hold a program on George Washington. Graham mentioned that the theater has an impromptu group, called Retro Sessionists, and that they could be interested in doing a skit at Market Square on the day of the parade before the Covenant Ceremony. Graham mentioned she is a volunteer at the theater and will communicate to them on our behalf about this idea.

Themes were discussed again. Majority of people liked the idea of Washington's service, both militarily and civically. Names for theme were discussed like "First Patriot" and "First in War". "Selfless Service to Country" was unanimously accepted for the theme for the upcoming year.

Grand Marshal candidates were briefly discussed, then unanimous agreement about Robert H. Shumaker to be the next Grand Marshal if he accepts. A short bio includes that he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Class of 1956. He was interned as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam after he was shot down on February 11, 1965 and was held until his release exactly eight years later on 12 February 1973. He retired as a U.S. Navy Rear Admiral on January 29, 1988.

There being no other immediate business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tyler Vanice".

Tyler Vanice, GWBCC Co-Chair