

G.A.R. Memorial Hall Board of Trustees

Meeting September 22, 2015

Minutes

National Guard Armory Room A, 50 Skyline Drive, Worcester, Massachusetts

Meeting Began at 5:31 p.m.

Present: Daniel McAuliffe, Reynaldo Rodriguez, Michael Baker, Timothy Boucher & Guest Linda Hixon

Minutes of the April 21st meeting were approved.

Old Business:

1. Daniel McAuliffe opened the meeting to allow Tim Boucher to explain about the progress of the refurbishing of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument to include any start and end dates. Tim Boucher handed out booklets containing the bidding documents between the City, signed off by Christopher Gagliastro, city representative and Aegis Restauro (low bidder), the vendor accepting the job. According to Mr. Boucher, the project will cost about \$193,000 (one hundred ninety-three thousand dollars) and will be a slow process. The reason for the slow process is the close proximity to winter months as the weather will be a factor. Another issue is going to be the use of a crane to remove the top parts of the monument. Once the top piece is removed it can be cleaned at an inside location. New stones will also be created as part of the project. According to Mr. Boucher there is no start date yet and that a lot of time was spent on getting the right vendor and a contract. The bidding documents were prepared for bidding on July 30, 2015 and signed off on August 19, 2015. Once Aegis Restauro receives their official copy then the work can begin once it is accepted. Mr. Boucher said that the company is tentatively looking for May of 2016 for completion, in time for Memorial Day. The city according to Mr. Boucher will try to speed up the process wherever possible. A copy of the bidding documents was filed with the rest of the GAR materials in Room C of the National Guard Armory.
2. Chairman McAuliffe opened discussion with the Board on extending the lease of the Three Confederate Flags. The current loan agreement expires on November 1, 2015. Chairman McAuliffe is working with Wanda Styles of the Museum who wishes for at least a two year extension if not longer. Trustee Baker suggested the idea of bringing the flags back at least for the rededication of the monument ceremony. The topic was discussed briefly. It was agreed that there might be too costly and that would be discussed later as more details are created. The Board did agree to extend the current loan. Chairman McAuliffe presented the Board with a copy of the current loan agreement. After it was looked over, Mr. Boucher suggested that the new agreement specifically use the word "extension. Mr. Boucher also suggested "Extension #1" on it. According to Mr. Boucher this will clarify that it is not the

original loan. The new contract would extend to 2017. The Board agreed to this and Chairman McAuliffe accepted the task of preparing the new loan agreement.

3. Trustee Baker had proposed in a previous meeting of having the 15th Massachusetts Infantry reenactment group serve as the City's ceremonial guard. Trustee Baker presented a written proposal to the Board to vote on support of the idea. The Board unanimously agreed to the proposal. The next step is to present it to the City Council. The proposal will first be posted and then voted upon at a City Council meeting.

New Business:

1. Trustee Baker suggested using college students from Worcester State to assist in repairing the books at the Worcester Auditorium that belong to the G.A.R. Board. Instead of the books wasting away there, they can be loaned out to organizations like the Antiquarian Society for use. Chairman McAuliffe pointed out that he cataloged the books that are there. The Board agreed that it would be in the best interest of all to have the books examined and/or repaired by the students and loaned out.

Being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6:06 pm

The next meeting will be December 8, 2015 and will be held at the National Guard Armory on Skyline Drive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reynaldo Rodriguez

Secretary, GAR Memorial Hall Board of Trustees