

## **G.A.R. Memorial Hall Board of Trustees**

**Meeting April 19, 2016**

Minutes

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

Meeting Began at 5:31 p.m.

**Present:** Daniel McAuliffe, George Maple, Linda Hixon and Timothy Boucher

Minutes of the March 8, 2016 meeting were approved, with the noted addition of the amount of the balance in the GAR treasury of \$86,419.37.

Chairman Daniel McAuliffe noted that the board did have a quorum to continue the meeting.

Trustee Linda Hixon reported on the visit by board trustees Michael Baker and Linda Hixon to Memorial Auditorium on March 18, 2016, to assess primary source documents housed in the building.

- Trustee Hixon made a list of the documents and noted any damage sustained to the materials. Most of the primary source materials, which included handwritten records, were boxed and put safely in a room in the Auditorium.
- She noted that another trip to the Auditorium would be necessary to box up the remaining documents.
- Trustee George Maple stated that the list appears to have documents that would come under the purview of the Sons of Union Veterans, but that group would probably donate those documents to a museum.
- Trustee Hixon noted that Robyn Conroy, librarian of the Worcester Historical Museum has expressed interest in housing the GAR primary materials, and said she would contact Ms. Conroy about that possibility.

Trustee Hixon also gave an update on the biographies of the soldiers listed on the Worcester Soldiers' Monument, which is being refurbished using GAR funds.

- Trustee Hixon said the class of 11 undergraduates from Worcester State University, along with 2 Master's degree students and several volunteers, are writing short biographies of all 398 soldiers listed on the monument.
- The re-dedication ceremony is scheduled for July 16, 2016, which is a change of date from the original July 15 date.
- A question about the time of the ceremony was posed by Trustee Maple, but Chairman McAuliffe said he had been unable to get a time from Che Anderson of the City Manager's Office. Chairman McAuliffe also noted that the priest scheduled to attend the ceremony may not be able to come because of the date change.
- Worcester State University will be printing the booklet to be given away at the ceremony.

- Trustee Hixon noted that a print run of 250 copies is planned, and Chairman McAuliffe wondered if that would be enough to give to dignitaries at the ceremony. Chairman McAuliffe said he would like to see copies donated to local schools, and Trustee Hixon noted that Worcester Historical Museum, the American Antiquarian Society, and Worcester Public Library have all requested copies of the book. She said she would ask WSU if 300 of the booklets could be printed.
- Trustee Maple wondered if Boy Scouts should distribute copies of the booklet at the ceremony, and suggested a link be put on the GAR Facebook page for people to view.
- Chairman McAuliffe said he could also link the book as a PDF on his website, [www.civilwarmonumentworcma.org](http://www.civilwarmonumentworcma.org). He created it to promote the Soldiers' Monument, and as a reference for people looking for relatives listed on the Monument.
- Chairman McAuliffe would like to contact the media in an effort to publicize the need to find relatives of these Civil War soldiers. He suggested any relations would be required to give some kind of verification of their relation to the soldier. Trustee Maple said the Sons of Union Veterans requires the filling out of a family tree as verification of any descendent. He noted that some descendants may be found through that organization.
- Chairman McAuliffe noted that a descendent of General Ward may be able to attend the ceremony. Trustee Maple suggested inviting a descendent of Willie Grout. That relative currently lives in Michigan.
- The possibility of other descendants being found to attend the ceremony and parade was discussed. Trustee Hixon said she would contact the press office at Worcester State to see if they could initiate publicity. Chairman McAuliffe said he would contact West Boylston public access cable, and Trustee Maple said he would contact Worcester public access.
- Tim Boucher said he would get names of contacts at Worcester Magazine.
- Chairman McAuliffe said he would like to get the ROTC at the parade on July 16. Trustee Maple suggested contacting the Junior ROTC, but Chairman McAuliffe said the board needed to go through the city committee to get approval of that.

The next meeting of the GAR Board of Trustees was set for May 17 at 5:30 p.m.