

G.A.R. Memorial Hall Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes November 21, 2017

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

Meeting Began at 6:31 p.m.

Present: Daniel McAuliffe, George Maple, Reynaldo Rodriguez, Tim Boucher

Minutes from October 10, 2017 were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

1. Chairman Daniel McAuliffe reported that all the books that were stored at the Worcester Auditorium were safely transported to the Worcester Historical Society. The books were donated by the Board to the Museum for both safekeeping and for accessibility. The books ranged in quality from good to very poor. A receipt documenting that 25 boxes were filled with books and received by Wendy Essery the museum's archive manager. The receipt was placed on file and a list created by Treasurer Linda Hixon will be attached in the future. Trustee George Maple hopes to be able to scan the books in the future for use by those using the internet.
2. Chairman McAuliffe reminded the Board that the loan agreements for the captured Confederate flags is about to expire. Chairman McAuliffe reports that paperwork to renew the loan agreements through 2019 are already being signed by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (D.N.R.C.) of North Carolina which will affect all the museums involved. (Please refer to the September meeting minutes for details on the wording of the agreement).
3. The Board reviewed the finances. As of November the G.A.R. Board has ninety-five thousand and twenty eight dollars and thirty seven cents (\$95,028.37) in its treasury. The funds were higher than the Board expected after a large contribution was made for the refurbishing of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument on the Worcester Common. Chairman McAuliffe commented that the G.A.R. Hall was sold for about \$255,000.00 in 2004 and now in 2017 there is still as much as \$95,000.00 in the account. The funds can be used for future projects involving the artifacts.
4. The city manager has not made a decision one way or the other on the future of the Board. The Board realizes with the holidays coming that it will probably be until after January before anything will be settled. Chairman McAuliffe then suggested that since he will be out of town in both January and February that the Board nominate and then appoint a Vice Chairman as it had done a few years ago. The purpose is to fill in for when the chairman was unavailable. Chairman McAuliffe stressed that he did not want to hold up any business simply because there was no chairman.
 - a. Chairman McAuliffe nominated Trustee George Maple (who was vice chairman during a previous term on the Board). Secretary Reynaldo Rodriguez 2nded the

nomination. The Board voted and 3 of the 5 members were present making a quorum. The result was that Trustee George Maple was elected Vice Chairman by all those present.

- b. Chairman McAuliffe said he would send an agenda to Vice Chairman George Maple during the January and February months so that Vice Chairman Maple could run the meeting(s).

New Business:

1. Vice Chairman Maple wasn't sure if his new business item was within the authority of the Board. Vice Chairman Maple asked the Board about refurbishing the General Charles Devens Monument A.K.A. the Worcester County Civil War Monument located at Lincoln Square. Vice Chairman Maple explained that he first found out it was not under the control of the City and then contacted the State level Parks Department. That department responded that the monument was not under their control. They did suggest contacting the Historical Commission.
 - a. Vice Chairman Maple believes if the Board and his camp (The Sons of Union Veteran's of the Civil War, Willie Grout Camp #25), got together along with others that a cleanup could be possible. It was discussed that it wasn't just a money issue but also an awareness issue.
 - b. Secretary Rodriguez mentioned that he recalled Treasurer Hixon mentioning Harvard University or other entity that has ties to General Devens. That entity or entities might be willing to assist in financing a cleanup of this monument. Secretary Rodriguez said that considering that General Devens is a Harvard alumni, the university might be inclined to assist.
2. Chairman McAuliffe then recognized on behalf of the Board that it was Secretary Rodriguez's last meeting. Secretary Rodriguez has served 14 years (2003-2017).

Being not further business, the meeting concluded at 6:49 p.m.

The next meeting is TBA, to be held at the National Guard Armory on Skyline Drive.

Respectfully Submitted & Over and Out,

Reynaldo Rodriguez

Secretary, G.A.R. Board of Trustees