

GAR Commission—City of Aurora Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2023

Present: Commissioners Michael Sawdey (Chair), Jared Ploger Janice Lindley, Phil Pogue, Gerald Butters, Spiros Koliopoulos, Al Signorelli, and City of Aurora: Eric Pry, Curator.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

- II. **Approval of November 16, 2022, minutes.** After brief discussion and review, a motion made by and seconded to approve the minutes with corrections. None opposed. Motion Carried

- III. **Updates from Curator Eric Pry**
 - Chandelier – no update, still in progress
 - Future Affiliations - Curator Pry stated that we are currently a member of every professional museum association in the Midwest excluding the Association of Midwest Museums. List of museum associations
 - AASLH = American Association for State and Local History
 - AAM = American Alliance of Museums
 - IAM = Illinois Association of Museums
 - KDRMA = Kane-DuPage Region Museum Association
 - Blue Star Museums – A National Endowment for the Humanities and Blue Star Families joint program to offer free or reduced admission to all veterans. We are always free but now searchable in their database.
 - Also mentioned that there may be an Aurora museum meet up. Curator Pry will make sure the Commissioners are aware of this in the event it occurs

- IV. **Discussion items:**
 - Curator Pry stated the occupancy has gone up.
 - Ideas for programs and exhibits at the museum.
 - Phil sent a list of ideas to Curator Pry, and they are being looked at
 - Possible: Pearl Harbor Exhibit not in 2023 but possibly in 2024
 - Next exhibit March 3rd – Hidden warriors.
 - Mentioned there will be a Focus Aurora April 10 at the library.

Collection policy – was briefly discussed. Commissioners will review policy, and collection for hall rentals. Will discuss and approve at March meeting.

New collection donations

Curator Eric Pry gave a list of recent donations:

- Bass drum – Part of the Fife and Drum Corps from G.A.R. Post 560 (Chicago) c.1886
- Photograph of the drum, c.1890
- One (1) drumstick
- One (1) snare drum
- Photograph of the snare drum c.1890

- Cloth bag
- Leather pieces of the drum that have fallen off new items one (1) snare drum.

SharePoint- new SharePoint for the Commission – this was explained by Curator Pry that it is like google drive and files can be directly encrypted on City Server. You just go to web address. Will provide more details when available.

Vision Value – Need to put together a committee of two plus Curator Eric Pry. Curator Eric Pry will send couple of samples of mission statements to build strategic plan. Commissioners Michael Sawdey and Phil Pogue along with Curator Eric Pry will be the committee.

Lights Sentry – Curator Eric Pry stated that still working on ideas, nothing done yet and is still in process.

V. **Member reports** – there were none.

VI. **Other business/items for future agendas**

- G.A.R most visited in museum in Aurora in 2022 with 8344 visits.
- Donor Policy 1st reading and briefly discussed. Continue at next meeting.
- Museum Gift Store – still in process and would consist of three (3) cabinets downstairs.
- Step 1 Ideas discussed.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission, motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Lindley,
Secretary, G.A.R. Commission