

GAR Commission—City of Aurora Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2023

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m.

- I. **Approval of March 15, 2023** – Commissioner Lindley stated that the attendance was corrected. No other changes were noted. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. None opposed. Motion carried.

- II. **Public Comments - A representative of from Region office of the Boy Scouts pitched the following:**
 - 1st Pitch: GAR becoming Charter Sponsor for Boy Scout Troop 253 which currently has 6-7 GAR would need to sign a charter agreement. The cost is approximately \$100 but with donations possible no cost. In return be a service opportunity to pay forward from Troop 253 giving visibility to both the Scouts and G.A.R. If City doesn't want could sign a agreement for facility use. A copy of the Charter Agreement and Facility Use Agreement were given to the Commissions Secretary.
 - 2nd Pitch; Community Flag Contest similar to the one being done in Batavia. The idea would be to have the GAR help run/facilitate, ow sure how would work just an idea at this time but with the possibly the GAR Commission spearheading. Commission Michael Sawey stated that we (commission)would need to discuss.
 - End of public comments.

- III. **Updates from Curator Eric Pry**
 - The chandelier is back and currently at the warehouse. Scheduled to be installed by June 30
 - Cannon is back. Needs to be better secured.
 - AASLH – no movement
 - Museum assistant last day is next Friday (May 26). Looking for a new Museum Assistant. Possible replacement not yet confirmed.
 - Educational Specialist started last week.
 - Next year's budget: Curator Pry stated he is requesting a third PT position.
 - Illinois Association of Museums – Received four (4) awards.
 - Midwest Museum – expecting three (3) more awards.
 - Donations received:
 - 146 Original Civil War letters belonging to Captain William H. Gale, of the 44 Infantry Regiment.
 - WWII Uniforms, Navy Uniform, and combat infantry trunk

- IV. **Discussion items:**
 - Second Read of "Mission, Vision, Values": After discussion and recommended wording change in the Inclusivity fourth line from ,the white male majority to "white male culture. A motion was then made by Commissioner Lindley to approve with the change mentioned, seconded by Commissioner Signorelli. None opposed. Motion carried.
 - Collection Policy – 2nd. After discussion no other changes were recommended, and a motion was made by Commissioner Pogue and seconded by Commissioner Ploger to accept. None opposed. Motin carried.
 - Sentry lighting – a solar panel was added on the back and the Sentry now has lights.
 - SharePoint – Not needed at this time. Will revisit at a later date if found needed.
 - STEPS workbook – nothing else at this time is needed.
 - Memorial Day Parade Commissioner Sawdey stated that he submitted the paperwork again. Not sure of the time believes lineup 9:00 – 9:15 am, parade start at 10:00. Commissioner Sawdey will send information. Commissioner Pogue will reach out to East Aurora ROTC again to see if they are available to carry flags. Also asked if the canon could be in the parade. Curator Pry said he would have to check but we would need a trailer.
 - Fourth of July – Curator Pry stated that he would like to for all commissioners to be here, grant ends on June 30th and would like to rededicate but not finished yet.

V. **Membership Reports** - there were none.

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

- Commissioner Lindley asked the status of donations for the portrait, Curator Pry stated almost there, less \$150.00 short.
- A brief discussion regarding public comments. Commissioners do have concerns about any legal issue under a charter. Curator Pry will look into it. Commission Secretary Lindley will scan the charter document and facility use agreement presented during public comments.
- Flag Contest Commissioners agree this is a City project and not for the commission.
- Hall Renter policy – Curator Pry will distribute via email, and it will be put on July’s agenda.

VII. Adjournment –

There being no further business before the Commission, motion made and seconded to adjourn. None opposed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2023

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