

GAR Commission—City of Aurora Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2022

Present: Commissioners Michael Sawdey (Chair), Janice Lindley, Phil Pogue, Al Signorelli, and City of Aurora: Eric Pry, Curator. **Note:** Commissioner Mary Ann Signorelli resigned her commission on May 17, 2022.

Absent: Commissioners: Michael Collins, Jared Ploger (excused) and Gerald Butters (excused)

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:57 p.m.

- II. **Approval of May 18, 2022, minutes.** After brief discussion and review, a motion made by Commissioner Al Signorelli to approve the minutes with changes with a second by Commissioner Phil Pogue. No opposed. Motion Carried

- III. **Updates from Curator Eric Pry**
 - a. **Front lawn** is being cleaned up; a new irrigation system is being installed and front lawn being cleared to pour a new concrete pad to reseat the carriage. This is coming out of City funding.
 - b. **Chandelier** – Due to a design change selected vendor backed out of original pricing. Options of how to proceed forward were discussed. After discussion of both options a motion was made by Janice Lindley to reopen the RFQ and present the new information to the two vendors to allow them to resubmit. Motion seconded by Al Signorelli. None opposed. Motion carried.
 - c. **Angel Room** – painting to start Thursday, July 21, 2022, and is expected to take about a week.
 - d. **Attendance** – attendance is up, and the Summer camps are a success.
 - e. **Statue** – both the reconstructed original and the new bronze copy are done and are scheduled for delivery next week.
 - f. **Frescos** – done
 - g. **Extension of grant** – still waiting for extension on grant that ended July 1, 2022.
 - h. **Budget** – Budget discussion are in a few weeks

- IV. **Mission statement** – Revised mission statement was reviewed and discussed. :
 - a. Commissioners reviewed the draft Mission Statement. Motion was made by Janice Lindley to approve the Mission Statement as amended, seconded by Commissioner Al Signorelli. No Opposed. Motion carried. New mission statement will now read:
“The Grand Army of the Republic Military Museum, located in Aurora, Illinois, collects, preserves, interprets and honors the history of the wartime and subsequent peacetime experience of the community and its veterans throughout the history of the United States.”

- V. **Other Business/future agendas:**
 - a. Curator Pry mentioned he would like to see a full time Museum Educator that can go out to the schools and educate students on G.A.R. and other aspects of history, as provided in the Museum mission.

There being no further business before the Commission, motion made by Al Signorelli to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2022.

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