Minutes

Stenton Committee

February 5, 2015

Present: Anne Burnett, Kristin Cahn von Seelen, Dennis Pickeral, Carol Rush, Gina Whelan, Kaelyn Taylor, Laura Keim, Peggy Shaver, Sally Congdon, Alice Lea Tasman, Ann Gregg, Hannah Henderson and Jane Foster Willson.

Minutes: Minutes from December were approved with corrections:

1. Under Stenton Chair Report, “the Philadelphia Garden Club to *help”* was changed to read “join the Garden committee”
2. Under the Director’s report, “need to address other repairs” was changed to read “*Mansion* repairs”

President’s Report:

* Bylaws Committee and Governance Taskforce are reviewing the current state of the bylaws. Revisions and restructuring requires outside expertise and consultation. We are moving forward at a reasonable pace and should have some recommendations by spring for the Board to review. We are especially interested in professionalizing the organization, looking at Board policies and succession planning, to maintain our high level of success.
* Patriotic Services are looking to engage the Lancaster Dames and potentially hold a State Ceremony in Millersville.
* The Young Dames are trying to come up with a suitable project or program for Flag Day.
* The Communications Committee is working on an updated Connections for the spring.
* The Programs Committee is putting Stated Meeting speakers into place.
* We are updating the Membership handbook, and would like to make it available online.
* Museum Properties – Anne, Dora and Carol visited Pittsburgh recently. It was suggested that we have structured/planned visits.
* In terms of where we are in the strategic plan, we are doing well and getting a lot done!

Stenton Chair Report: Carol Rush is hereby made a part of these minutes:

* Egg Hunt- Carol will be out of town. Lil’s bench dedication will be that morning. The family wants to help with Egg Hunt, it was suggested that we have lunch. It was also suggested that we try to bring out some old pictures the Egg Hunt.
* Garden Party- We need an image for the invitation. It was suggested that we create a Save the Date to pass out at the Flower Show and to give to the Garden Clubs at their meeting. The Lancaster Dames are interested in organizing a bus to come to the Garden Party. It will be about 15 ladies. Anna Marley will be signing her book at the party, we will need to make a card insert.
* A Sub-committee should be created to explore the Friends of Stenton membership program. It was suggested that we might want to have special member’s events, a newsletter, etc.

Director’s Report: Dennis Pickeral is hereby made a part of these minutes:

* Administration, Collaboration, Outreach: HG Board adopted a new strategic plan, which includes Sustaining our Sites fund. The Germantown YWCA is threatened. Stenton park design project is resuming, including the art project – potential to collaborate with the cemetery. The HG Benefit will be held on May 30th this year at the Turnbulls.
* Buildings and Grounds: Stenton has a new dog, Brody! The lease with FPHPT is signed and finalized. We will have a meeting with Peter DiCarlo to discuss program needs for the Education Center project, as well as to discuss the possibility of moving the fence line of the property. Landscape architect Claudia Levy is working on construction documents for the Colonial Revival Garden.
* Development: We received a $10, 000 grant from the Hamilton Family Foundation for History Hunters. We received an unrestricted $15,000 gift from Martha Lewis. We submitted a grant to the Connelly Foundation for the Stenton Education Center. We are also meeting with Nancy Wingo from the Hamilton Family Foundation to discuss the Education Center, as well as Stacey Holland of the Lenfest Foundation. Comcast Newsmakers is making a History Hunters episode, they are filming on February 20th. The Garden Party date is May 14th.
* Education/Programs: December and January visitation totaled 551, with 2,163 web visits. The Holiday Tea went well with about 100 visitors. We will have our annual Egg Hunt on April 4th. We will also have programming related to the exhibit in the spring.
* We are a GCA Founders Fund finalist. We should discuss Public Relations & Advertising, both with news outlets and + NSCDA members
* There is a Logan Family Reunion Committee meeting on February 26th. We will discuss potential dates for the event, likely to take place in September 2015.

Collections:

* Exhibit
  + The watch, stool, & spice box, all went back to The Philadelphia History Museum
  + The Penn chair went back to Independence Park
* PHMC objects will be coming Feb. 13th
* 2015 Wetherill Project- the Yellow Lodging Room. This will include paint, textiles, and the flying tester bed. We will include the Von Hess Foundation grant as part of the project.

Upcoming Events:

**February 21** – “Where the Ancestors Slumber: African American Burial Grounds” Special Lecture with Doug Mooney (1:00PM)

**March 5** – “At War with her Feelings: Deborah Logan and the Quaker Roots of the Rural Cemetery Movement” Lunch and Learn with Aaron Wunsch (12:30PM)

Respectfully submitted,

Kaelyn Taylor