

## **Harpers Ferry Park Association Annual Meeting**

September 9, 2018, 3:00p

Lower Classroom, Mather Training Center

### **Annual Meeting Attendees**

Board members in attendance: James Beckman, Cynthia Gayton, Dave Gilbert, Jim Jenkins, Doug Perks, Jim Silvia, Wayne Welty, Ed Wheelless.

Staff members in attendance: Cathy Baldau, Jennie Barnard, Catherine Oliver, Whitney Richards.

Park staff in attendance: Tyrone Brandyburg and Autumn Cook

### **Welcome and Introduction of Board Members (Jim Silvia)**

President Jim Silvia started off the meeting with a welcome and introduction of board members. He recounted the highlights of our July 1, 2018 Board Meeting, which were approved by voice vote.

### **Report from the Park (Tyrone Brandyburg)**

Park Superintendent Tyrone Brandyburg welcomed Association members and friends, and discussed the Park's primary accomplishments for 2018:

- With the recent and dramatic turnover in park staff, senior staff has been involved in position management planning, including carefully defining the roles and responsibilities of park staff
- Condition assessments are being conducted to develop a baseline for how park buildings are maintained
- The park has been involved in deer management
- Amtrak is bringing their portion of the Harpers Ferry train station into ADA compliance
- A fire protection assessment is being conducted in Lower Town
- The park is working on a climbing management plan
- The park is looking at parking at the train station in Lower Town, focusing on the lot's mixed use by merchants, commuters, and park visitors
- Among the principal issues for 2018 are health and safety, diversity and inclusion, sustainability and conservation, workforce enhancement, and community outreach

### **Report of Finances and Association Activities (Cathy Baldau)**

#### **Sponsored Activities & Aid to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**

2017:

- "Lifting as We Climb" with Coralie Franklin Cook storyteller, Ilene Evans
- Music is the Voice of the Soul with pianist Bertha Hope
- Day in the Park
- Shackles Through Scholars Exhibit reception
- Don Redman Jazz Academy and Heritage Awards & Concert
- Naturalization Ceremony reception
- Thomas Jefferson dramatic presentation with Bill Barker

- Storer College Commemoration, 3-day event
- Living History Weekends & Historic Trades Workshops
- Offsite events with Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation and McCormick Civil War Institute
- Event Brochures
- Volunteer Dinners
- Junior Ranger Badges
- Replaced “Welcome Santa Claus” banner

2018:

- Ebony Doughboys WWI storyteller Algernon Ward
- Day in the Park & Upper Porch Sale
- Don Redman Jazz Academy and Heritage Awards & Concert
- Naturalization Ceremony reception
- Thomas Jefferson dramatic presentation with Bill Barker
- Living History Weekends & Historic Trades Workshops
- Offsite events with Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation & McCormick Civil War Institute
- Event Brochures
- Volunteer Dinners
- Museum Management Intern
- Junior Ranger badges & pencils
- Youth Giveaways
- Repaired historic beehive oven
- New education program guns & kepis
- Display items for Storer exhibit

**Communications** (Katlyn Simmons, Communications Specialist)

- Facebook: 4,506 Followers
- Instagram: 304
- Twitter: 79
- E-Newsletter: 1,094
- “The View” Newsletter: 150 hardcopy + 300 emailed
- Most popular post: June 4 video of floodwaters along Shenandoah Street and the Point
  - 637 “likes”
  - 158 comments
  - 1.7K shares
  - 95K views
  - 834 new page followers!

**Publications** (Catherine Oliver, Publications Specialist)

- 2017 Release: “To Emancipate the Mind and Soul”: Storer College 1867-1955
- Honorable Mention award: 2018 Public Lands Alliance (PLA) Partnership Awards
- 2018 Release: Harpers Ferry National Historical Park 2019 Commemorative Calendar

**Membership** (Jennie Barnard, Membership Coordinator)

- 2017 Members = 234
- 2017 Membership Revenue = \$11,405 (13% increase over 2016)
- YTD 2018 Members = 251
- YTD 2018 Membership Revenue = \$8,645 (16% increase over YTD 2017)

#### **Certified Guide Program** (Whitney Richards, Operations Manager)

- 2017 = 154 total tours with 1,695 visitors
- 2017 total revenue = \$15,760 (29% increase over 2016)
- 2018: 6 total Certified Park Guides
- YTD 2018 = 151 total tours with 1,531 visitors
- YTD 2018 = \$15,175 (54% increase over YTD 2017)
- Next guide exam will be given December 1, 2018

#### **Lockwood House Update**

- Volunteers cleaned & prepped interior May, 2018
- Critical plaster conservation on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to begin fall, 2018
- Full preservation work to begin spring, 2019

#### **Volunteers**

- 2017 total volunteer hours = 1,652
- Cathy recognized Jim Koenig as the HFPA Volunteer of the Year
- Cathy also recognized recently retired Park Ranger Todd Bolton for his many years of service to Harpers Ferry NHP and to the Harpers Ferry Park Association

#### **Finances**

- 2017 Bookshop revenue = \$415,938 (down 17% from 2016)
- Net Assets, End of Year = \$620,599 (includes \$125K Lockwood House Grant)
- YTD 2018 Bookshop revenue = \$248,962 (down 9% from YTD 2017)
- YTD 2018 Net Assets = \$859,086.68 (includes \$250K Lockwood House Grant)
- Top ten bestsellers are all under \$5
- Total Aid to Harpers Ferry NHP since 1978 = \$3,242,323

#### **Looking Ahead**

- Upgrade computers and furniture and expand office space
- 2019: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- 2021: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Harpers Ferry Park Association

#### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar**

Publications Manager Catherine Oliver talked about the Park's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary calendar, which was produced in late spring.

#### **History of Harpers Ferry Book**

Dennis Frye gave a brief overview of a new book on the history of Harpers Ferry he is writing, titled "Confluence". He plans to have the book completed and available for the Park's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in late June 2019. Content will focus on drama, trauma, and

romance, will be published by the HFPA, and will be about 200 pages long with 200 photos. Dennis presented a donation check in the amount of \$1,000 to the HFPA to help with publication of the new book.

**Election of Board Members** (Jim Silvia)

Incumbent board members Mark Elrod, Doug Perks, and Jim Silvia were re-elected to new three-year terms.

**Recognition of Dennis Frye** (Jim Silvia)

Dennis Frye, retired Park Historian and Cooperating Association Coordinator, was recognized with a distinctive plaque for his many years of service to Harpers Ferry NHP and to the Harpers Ferry Park Association.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:10p so that members could enjoy the picnic.

– 9/11/2018 by David T. Gilbert