

***Harpers Ferry Park Association
Annual Membership Meeting***

Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 3:00 pm
Happy Retreat, Charles Town, WV

Welcome and Toast to HFPA 50th Anniversary
Charles Washington

Boxed Picnic Lunch

The Washington Brothers: George and Charles
Rick Snowden

Call to Order & Introduction of Board Members
Jim Beckman, President

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting
Jim Beckman, President

Report from the Park
Tyrone Brandyburg, Park Superintendent

Executive Director's Report
Cathy Baldau

Election of Board Members
Jim Beckman, President

Incumbents – New Three-Year Term
Mark Elrod

New Members – Three-Year Terms
Michael Lynch
John Madigan
Natasha Dorman

Financial Report
Laura Clark, Treasurer

Membership & Volunteer Recognition
Cathy Baldau, Executive Director
Katlyn Simmons, Membership Coordinator

About Happy Retreat
Walter Washington

Adjournment

Harpers Ferry Park Association Annual Meeting

Sept 18, 2021, 3:00p

Happy Retreat, Charles Town, WV

Attendees

Board members in attendance: Jim Beckman, Mark Elrod, Jim Silvia, Ed Wheelless, Chris Craig, Laura Clark, Susan Journell, Cynthia Gayton and Mike Lynch

Staff members in attendance: Cathy Baldau, Kaitlyn Simmons, Kathryn Vidmar, Lea McDowell

Park staff in attendance: Tyrone Brandyburg

Call to Order & Introduction of Board Members (Jim Beckman)

President Jim Beckman started off the meeting with a welcome, an appreciation of Cathy Baldau for organizing the annual membership weekend and an introduction of board members.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (Jim Beckman)

Minutes of the September 12, 2022 Annual Board Meeting were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Report from the Park (Superintendent Tyrone Brandyburg)

Park Superintendent Tyrone Brandyburg welcomed Association members and friends, and reviewed the Park's current state of operations:

- The NHP is hiring new staff in facilities management (including a new chief of facilities), interpretation, fees and resource management.
- The NHP has launched a deer management program. The deer population has been reduced by 100 throughout the Park. The deer are causing damage to small plants and trees.
- A Climbing Management Plan is under development which includes entrance fee structure and visitor use survey.
- The NHP has two interns from HBCUs to assist in updating the Black Voices exhibit. The Park is looking at partnering with outside groups to help tell the stories of underrepresented populations.
- Superintendent Brandyburg read a letter of appreciation to the HFPA from Kym Hall, Area Director of the National Capital Region.

Executive Director's Report (Cathy Baldau)

HFPA Executive Director Cathy Baldau summed up her annual report concisely: "2020 bad, 2021 good". She provided the following recap of the past year:

- The "Trails Less Traveled" program, introduced for the 50th anniversary year, has been very well attended.
- The "Certified Guide Program" continues to be popular while the Park's interpretive programs were limited during the pandemic. Chris Craig, Mike Vidmar and Jim Silva have been on frequent and regular rotation helping to meet the demand. Kathryn Vidmar joined the HFPA staff to help with scheduling tours.

- New publications include “Burton Drawings at Harpers Ferry” by David Gilbert, “Virginius Island” reprint by David Gilbert, and “Images of America: Harpers Ferry National Historical Park” by Jim Beckman.
- 2021 membership has exceeded both 2019 and 2020. The HFPA has a 72% membership renewal rate exceeding the average renewal rate of 45% for non-profits. There are 38 new members to date this year. Kaitlyn Simmons now handles membership coordination.

Election of Board Members (Jim Beckman)

- Retiring from the Board
Sarah Shafer
Jim Silva (term limit)
- Incumbents nominated for a new three-year term
Mark Elrod
Doug Perks

Unanimously approved with a voice vote.

- New members nominated
Michael Lynch (incumbent Associate Member) for a three-year term
Natasha Dorman to fill Sarah Shafer’s seat (one year remaining in term)
John Madigan (new Associate Member) for a one-year term

Unanimously approved with a voice vote.

Financial Report (Laura Clark)

- The HFPA has survived several challenges including COVID, a fire at the remote inventory storage facility and a train derailment.
- The HFPA successfully obtained two payroll protection loans to help weather the pandemic. Repayment of the first payroll protection loan has been waived and a waiver for the second payroll protection loan is pending.
- The HFPA successfully obtained an SBA low-interest loan to invest in publications and interpretive programs.
- The HFPA has enjoyed strong membership support during the challenges of the past year.
- 2021 earnings are strong and the organization has now recovered from the \$100K shortfall suffered during the pandemic.

Membership and Volunteer Recognition (Cathy Baldau)

- The following Charter Members (first joined in 1971-1979) were recognized:
Mark Elrod
Carol Gallant
Dennis Frye
Susan Journell
Wanda Perry
- The following 5 year members were recognized:
Andy Jackson
Tina Hanigan

Ron & Laura Clark
Mike Lynch
Deb Miles
Andrea Coral
Mike Vidmar
Steve Ramberg & Betsy Bainbridge
James & Tiffany Cox

- The following 10+ year members were recognized:

Bruce Cramer
Cynthia Mason
Chris Craig & Ed Wheelless
Cynthia Gayton
Richard Mancini
Kim, Tom and Becky Shayda
Gale Underwood

- The following 21+ year members were recognized:

Pat Chickering
Hugh Fraser Clayton
Kim & Frank Edwards
Scott Faulkner
Jim & Suzanne Silvia

- Special recognition of:

Paula Degen, former board president
Dennis Frye, former NPS Cooperating Association liaison
Jim Silva, former board president
Jim Koenig, shadowbox display and protective shield at Bookshop register
Hugh Fraser Clayton, volunteer doorman at Bookshop
Jayden Hill, volunteer rolling of vintage posters
Sue Baker, frequent volunteer

- Special recognition and thanks to Walter Washington and Friends of Happy Retreat

About Happy Retreat (Walter Washington)

Walter Washington, president of Friends of Happy Retreat and descendant of Samuel Washington, provided a brief history of Happy Retreat, the home of Charles Washington.

Adjournment (Jim Beckman)

The formal Annual Membership Meeting adjourned at about 4:45 PM.

– 9/21/2021 by Ed Wheelless