

# Harpers Ferry Park Association Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, September 17, 2022 | 3:00 pm | IDC Plaza, Harpers Ferry

Potluck Picnic

Presentation & Book Signing  
A Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Dave Gilbert, Author

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

Membership Report & Volunteer Recognition  
Katlyn Simmons, Membership Coordinator

Election of Board Members  
Jim Beckman, President  
Incumbents - New Three-Year Term  
Laura Clark  
Chris Craig  
Ed Wheelless

New Member - Three-Year Term  
Jim Silvia

Financial Report  
Laura Clark, Treasurer

Adjournment

## Harpers Ferry Park Association Annual Membership Meeting

Sept 17, 2022, 3:00 pm

Harpers Ferry, WV

### Attendees

Board members in attendance: Jim Beckman, Laura Clark, Cynthia Gayton, and Mike Lynch.

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

President Jim Beckman started off the meeting with a welcome and introduced current board members. An appreciation and moment of silence for former board member Jim Jenkins.

### Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (Jim Beckman)

Minutes of the September 18, 2021 Annual Membership Meeting were approved by voice vote with one correction to the date of the minutes for the previous year.

### Report from the Park (Leah Taber, Public Affairs Specialist, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park)

- The NHP has been able to reopen buildings in lower town that had been closed due to COVID-19 restrictions as well as resume ranger led programs and special events.
- Interior restoration at the Lockwood House has been completed and the Interpretive staff, in cooperation with the Regional Office, are preparing a virtual tour. Exterior restoration is ongoing.
- Beginning stages of a long-range interpretive plan.
- Interns served in interpretation, education and resource management. Projects included a presentation on Lockwood House, staffing the Family & Youth tent, a study of invasive Tree of Heaven and Spotted Lantern Fly and a lighting inventory.
- Facility Staff have made much needed repair on buildings including John Brown's Fort.

### Executive Director's Report (Cathy Baldau)

- Bookshop
  - YTD sales above 2021 by 12% (Feb '22 sales tripled Feb '21 sales)
  - Launched new credit processor that charges customers 3.5% fee - so far so good
  - Paper bags 10 cents
  - Switched from single use plastic to cans
  - Received quote for new Bookshop fixtures
    - Ballpark of \$31K-\$40K
    - Staff visited Shenandoah National Park's Dickey Ridge Visitor Center and Store in June.
- Staffing
  - Katlyn promoted to program coordinator
    - Schedules tours
    - Processes memberships
    - Plans programs
  - currently 3 full time, 4 part time
  - We had 2 communications interns for 12 weeks this summer
    - Social media content
    - HFPA video
    - Membership marketing campaign
- Membership

- Down a bit from 2021 (likely due to it being non-anniversary year)
- Certified Park Guide Program
  - Tours down 6% from 2021
  - Hoping to certify 3 new guides in 2022
  - Currently 4 to 5 active guides
  - Next exam in November
- Publications
  - Walker's Guide - 9th edition now available
  - Man of Sterling Worth: Professor William A Saunders of Storer College by Lynn Pecheukonis on order
  - Moving forward with book on Lovetts/Hill Top House - MOU to partner with SWaN investors
  - Applied for grant for children's book from Nora Roberts Foundation - book will feature Victoria the cat
  - Towpath Guide reprint 2023
- Aid to park
  - Aid requests totaling \$21,565 approved
    - Provided historic food demonstrations
    - Reprinted Jr. Ranger books
  - Blacksmith and Candy Making Workshops in 2022
  - \$35K donation to the park for a seasonal ranger
- Programs
  - August - partnered with Harpers Ferry Civil War Round Table on an evening program
  - October 8 - Strange Story of Harpers Ferry Lantern Tour with Cathy Baldau
  - October 15, 10 am - The Raid Minute by Minute with Jim Silvia (Allies for Freedom Room)
  - November 5, 6 pm - partnering with Jefferson County Courthouse for evening program on John Brown and treason with Jim Beckman and Judge David Hammer
- The following Charter Members (first joined in 1971-1979) were recognized:
  - Mildred Hammon
  - Paula Degen
  - Dennis Frye
  - David Gilbert
- The following long-term members were recognized:
  - Wayne Welty
  - Adam Oestrich & Kim Bet
  - Peter Dessauer
  - Carole Gallant
  - Bruce Cramer
  - Scott Faulkner

**Membership and Volunteer Recognition (Katlyn Simmons)**

- 91% of membership are 35+ years old. To build our next generation of members, it was proposed a pay-your-age membership tier for young members (ages 18-35)  
Motion to approve was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.
- Volunteers in Trails Less Travelled and Tales Less Told programs were recognized:
  - Jim Silva
  - David Gilbert

Jim Beckman  
Cynthia Gayton

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

- Incumbents nominated for a new three-year term  
Laura Clark  
Chris Craig  
Ed Wheelless

Unanimously approved with a voice vote.

- Retiring from the Board  
Cynthia Gayton
- New members nominated  
Jim Silvia for a three-year term

Unanimously approved with a voice vote.

**Financial Report** (Laura Clark)

- The HFPA is in a good equity/cash position.
- Park visitation is up.
- The HFPA provides a bridge between the residents of Harpers Ferry and the Park.

**Adjournment** (Jim Beckman)

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

– 10/4/2022 by Ed Wheelless