

**FRIENDS OF THE SPRINGFIELD ARMORY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
THIRD QUARTER MEETING – July 7, 2021 3:00pm-4:00pm**

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Neil Daboul, President
Mr. John Diffley, Vice President
Mr. Roger Johnson, Treasurer
Mr. Joshua Clark, Secretary
Ms. Kelly Fellner, Superintendent
Mr. Brian Cosgrove
Dr. Robert Ford

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Reading of the minutes was unanimously waived. *Motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Mr. Cosgrove. Passed unanimously.*

TREASURER'S REPORT

See email from Mr. Johnson, dated July 5th. *Motion to approve treasurer's report made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Ford. Passed unanimously.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Daboul was pleased with the involvement of the board with regards to strategic planning. He presented a Powerpoint that highlighted his process for writing the strategic plan. The Powerpoint will be attached via Google Drive link to the minutes (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t75PTIE1ioij1lVBPLNFppwODivPmOm/view?usp=sharing>).

Dr. Ford proposed establishing a better relationship with STCC for content creation on the website. Tabled to wait for Mr. Diffley so that more information may be gleaned about this possibility.

Mr. Daboul brought up the vanity license plate as an effort to fundraise. If the Friends get 3,000 people to express interest, the \$100,000 bond is not necessary. The expected revenue is \$20,000 per year. *Motion made by Mr. Daboul and seconded by Dr. Ford to permit the President and Treasurer to engage with the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles to create a vanity license plate, spending no funds whatsoever. Passed unanimously.*

Mr. Daboul will electronically re-issue the first draft of the strategic plan, mission statement, and vision statement to all members of the board of directors. Board members are asked to return feedback to Mr. Daboul by August 7, 2021.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Supt. Fellner said that the Armory is reopened. Hours are reduced due to staffing and attempting to maximize cleaning opportunities. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday (the ordinary Winter hours). The fire and security systems have been updated and are in compliance. The project has been 15 years in the making and is now complete. Staff has repainted the museum and have redone the floors. They've gotten through some punch list items, which was completed due to pandemic-related closures.

National Park app is functioning, which can be used by visitors when the museum is closed. The app is connected to all of the other national parks, so it's a worthwhile download.

A new sign and timeline will be constructed near the entry so visitors can grasp why Springfield was chosen as the location for the Armory.

Exhibits and items are being uncovered as the museum begins to open. Alex has been working with researchers, but they should be allowed to enter the museum under normal procedures in August. More educational pieces are wanted but work is being done with that.

Supt. Fellner brought up the World War II Heritage Site process. One city, per state, per year are accepted. Supt. Fellner and Mr. Diffley brought up how STCC can collaborate on that process. The board express support for the nomination.

Dr. Ford asked Supt. Fellner about whether the archives are digitized or still in physical form. Supt. Fellner said that the archives are mostly in physical form. There may be an archivist position open but no promises on that.

Mr. Johnson asked about the gun racks. Supt. Fellner said that some gun racks went to STCC for conference room tables. Focus Springfield has one for the microphone equipment. Mr. Johnson asked whether a member of the Friends group could take possession of a gun rack under the condition that it not be sold. Supt. Fellner said that the preference is for them not to be used to store guns because they are not "lock-able" but the Armory wishes for them to be removed from premises.

Dr. Ford asked Supt. Fellner about other universities that the Armory works with. Supt. Fellner mentioned that they have a good relationship with UMass Public History.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Mr. Daboul and seconded by Mr. Diffley to establish Descendant's' Day as the second Saturday of September (Sept. 17, 2022) from 2pm to 6pm with further details to follow. This date ties in with Constitution Day. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Ford asked Mr. Daboul about the bylaws and whether they will be sent to the board. Mr. Daboul stated that he wants to wait until the board gets the strategic plan approved before disseminating those.

*Motion made to adjourn the meeting made by Mr. Daboul and seconded by Mr. Clark. **Meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.***