

# HISTORIC AMSTERDAM LEAGUE

## TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2019

Audrey Egelston, acting for Rob von Hasseln, called the meeting to order.

### REPORTS

#### Minutes

The minutes of the February 20, 2019 were accepted.

#### Treasurer's Report

In Jean So's absence, Jerry Snyder reported the current balance as \$29,118.10, with \$409.00 from sales and membership that would be deposited later in the week. He also noted that the 2018 fourth-quarter sales tax of \$84.36 had been filed.

#### Membership Report

Marie Villa's reported the present membership at 124, including 23 life-time and 15 family memberships, with all paid in full.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Historical Markers

- Audrey Egelston reported that, per Rob von Hasseln, plans were proceeding for the marker panel at the Riverlink Park 9/11 Memorial.
- The possibility of a new marker honoring Rocco Petrone was discussed. Jerry Snyder explained that an Italian journalist is planning a book and film about Mr. Petrone, may be visiting Amsterdam, and has indicated an interest in meeting with HAL members.

#### Historic Preservation

- Jackie Murphy reported that the Board's previous recommendation to pursue a city-wide reconnaissance survey for a Preserve New York Grant would cost approximately \$100,000. She indicated that the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation recommended we limit the reconnaissance survey to the west end of the city. Jackie presented a \$21,149 budget and scope of work proposal for a west end survey, prepared by Project Consultant Jessie A. Savage, who had been recommended by the Mohawk Valley Collective. Jackie and Audrey Egelston, who are working together to finalize the grant proposal, indicated the need for budget information in order to complete the grant application and said they would get the necessary information from Jean So.
- Barbara Persico moved that the previous Board recommendation be amended and limited to the West End of the city; the proposal was seconded by Ray Fyfe and unanimously approved.

### **Kirk Douglas Marker**

- Bob Greco inquired about the status of the Kirk Douglas historic marker. Jerry Snyder indicated that it was reportedly being stored in the City Hall “kitchen” and scheduled for DPW installation when the ground was sufficiently thawed. He and Bob agreed to go to City Hall after the meeting and were able to confirm it was there.

### **Amsterdam Poem**

- Ray Fyfe showed board members the copy of Horace Sprague’s 1860 *Amsterdam A Poem* he had obtained on-line. Jerry Snyder indicated that Rob von Hasseln was still interested in a HAL printing that included commentary.

### **Recorder Archives**

- Jerry Snyder reported that Rob von Hasseln had contacted The Recorder about moving forward and was waiting for a reply from the editor.

### **Tours – 2019 and Beyond**

- Jerry Snyder indicated the need for volunteers to write articles for the 2019 Architecture Tour and suggested we consider enhancing the more factual information by including personal histories -- perhaps from people who had lived or grew up in some of the historic residences.

### **Mohawk Theater Sign**

- Jerry Snyder reported that the Teepee property had been sold to the Buddhist organization in mid-January for \$135,000. He indicated that he and Dave Brownell would continue to pursue the possible donation of the sign and that Ann Peconie had offered to store it at the Walter Elwood Museum property if it is obtained.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Presentation at The Sentinel**

- Audrey Egelston reported that The Sentinel has inquired about the possibility of a HAL presentation at the facility. Jerry Snyder indicated he would respond and has scheduled the presentation for April 8, 2019.

### **April Elections**

- Jerry Snyder reminded board members of the upcoming elections but has subsequently clarified that elections are actually scheduled for April 1020 rather than this year.
- Jerry also proposed we reconsider the bylaw requirement prohibiting an officer from serving more than four years in the same office without having been out of that office for at least one year.

### **Chuctanunda Trail**

- Jerry Snyder reported that Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2019 and that he will send an email notification to HAL members.

- Jerry also reported that the Grand Opening of the trail is scheduled for Saturday, June 1, 2019 and will include a guided walk, led by John Naples, beginning at the greenway portion of the trail near the Elks Club.