

*Minutes of the Semi-Annual Meeting
Board of Regents of Gunston Hall Incorporated (BRGHI)
OPENING SESSION
Saturday, April 6, 2019*

Helen Bragg Cleary, First Regent, called the Meeting to order at 8:42 a.m.

Kit Davis and Jean Grainger led us singing God Bless America.

Ann Schaeffer led us in The Lord's Prayer.

Virginia Snider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Secretary Carol Rush called the roll. The following Regents were present unless noted:

Duff, Anna (Mrs. Steven Wayne Duff), NSCDA President
Carey, Molly (Mrs. Christopher Carey), President Virginia Society
Cleary, Helen Bragg (Mrs. Richard S. Cleary), First Regent
McAteer, Nancy (Mrs. Thomas Knight McAteer), Vice Regent
Jenkins, Avery (Miss Winafrid Avery Jenkins), Treasurer
Perry, Lou (Mrs. Robert H. Perry), Assistant Treasurer
Rush, Carol (Mrs. John B. Rush), Recording Secretary
McLeod, Dotsie (Mrs. Alexander C. McLeod), Corresponding Secretary

Barganier, Jane (Mrs. James Irby Barganier)
Bujosa, Homoiselle (Ms. Homoiselle Fay Sadler Bujosa)
Caylor, Margo (Mrs. Robert C. Caylor, II)
Cooke, Torrey (Mrs. John P. Cooke)
Cox, Hannah (Mrs. H. Bartholomew Cox)
Crockett, Peg (Mrs. Margaret Crockett) **EXCUSED**
Davis, Kit (Ms. Katherine McCracken Davis)
Finley, Ginger (Mrs. Edward Smoot Finley) **EXCUSED**
Giddens, Harrison (Mrs. Thomas L. Giddens)
Grainger, Jean (Miss Jean Cameron Grainger)
Hill, Sara (Mrs. Harry R. Hill, Jr.)
Hockensmith, Stephanie (Mrs. David Hockensmith)
Kingston, Libby (Mrs. John Heddens Kingston)
Linville, Barbara (Mrs. David Linville) **EXCUSED**
Loughlin, Cissy (Mrs. David Castello Loughlin) **EXCUSED**
Love, Christy (Ms. Mary Christine Love)
Millard, Mary (Mrs. Charles E. Millard, Jr.)
Nicholson, Virginia (Mrs. Justin Marshall Nicholson)
Osborn, Kandi (Harriet Van Kennen Osborn) **EXCUSED**
Parker, Karen (Mrs. James Landrum Parker)
Payne, Nell (Miss Penelope Payne)
Peters, Betsy (Mrs. William Anthony Peters, III)
Postma, Sara Lynn (Mrs. Jan Hendrick Postma) **EXCUSED**

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Rea, Ann (Mrs. Edgar Matthew Rea, III) **EXCUSED**
 Rimmer, Martha (Mrs. Thomas W. Rimmer)
 Robertson, Susan (Mrs. Henry B. Robertson)
 Schaeffer, Ann (Mrs. Ronald Lester Schaeffer)
 Seymour, Emmy (Mrs. Geoffrey Seymour)
 Shutkin, Kathie (Mrs. John A. Shutkin)
 Snider, Virginia S. (Mrs. Ronald Albert Snider)
 Solomon, Carol (Mrs. Stephen G. Solomon)
 Trace, Paige (Mrs. Jonathan Trace)
 Van Dyke, Rowena (Mrs. Jacob Van Dyke, Jr.)
 Walter, Dale (Mrs. Henry Walter III)
 Walton, Sis (Mrs. Jonathan T. Walton) **EXCUSED**
 White, Nancy (Mrs. R. Douglas)
 White, Gina (Mrs. Stephen Hopkins White)
 Williams, Caro, (Mrs. Graham Berkeley Williams)

The required Quorum was established.

Jean Grainger *Moved to accept the minutes of the September 28, 2018 Annual Meeting as distributed by e-mail.* Jane Barganier seconded the Motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Harrison Giddens *Moved to accept the Summary of the Executive Committee's Actions since the September 2018 Annual Meeting.* Jane Barganier seconded. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer's Report--Avery Jenkins reported the following:

- the IRS Form 990 was filed in November 2018.
- the current budget year-to-date is tracking well except for the annual Dames Appeal, which has generated far less than anticipated. Avery urged all Regents to work to raise the \$62,000 shortfall by June 30th.
- BRGHI has hired The Curtis Group to help develop both a development department and a development plan for Gunston Hall.
- Avery reviewed the proposed budget for FY 2020.
 - The budget relies on a 5 percent draw from the Foundation. This is a decrease from 7 percent in each of the past two fiscal years and is a major accomplishment.
 - The budget anticipates a \$22,000 surplus, not including an additional gift of \$14,000 from the Foundation.
 - The budget includes the salary for a newly created position of Deputy Director of Operations.
 - The cost of moving and storage for the collection in the Mansion associated with the installation of the fire suppression system **is not included** in the budget and is anticipated to be in the range of \$20-25,000.

Investment Committee Report—Virginia Snider reported on the Committee's meeting with Davenport Asset Management.

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- The investment portfolio is well-diversified, and Davenport is adhering to our Investment Policy.
- Our weighted average return over the past year was 5.8 percent.
- The current market value is \$3,320,000 versus \$2,923,000 at inception.

Vice Regent’s Report—Nancy McAteer provided a review of the Strategic Planning Process to date, reminding Regents that that on September 30, 2018 we adopted the Mission Statement, Values and Goals of this plan:

Mission: To stimulate the exploration and understanding of principles expressed by George Mason in the 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights.

Values: Authenticity, Inclusiveness, Stewardship, and Civic Engagement

Goals:

- 1-Establish Gunston Hall as the *Home of American Rights*
- 2-Become a center of learning and engagement for all audiences
- 3-Secure Financial Sustainability
- 4-Maximize the effectiveness of the BRGHI

The Strategic Planning Committee and the staff have developed objectives and strategies to accomplish these goals. This plan is intended to cover a three-year period, during which the BRGHI and the staff will work together to strengthen the structure and governance of the BRGHI and develop the Staff Department in order to achieve our goals for the future.

Report on George Mason Memorial Rehabilitation—Nell Payne is serving as liaison to the Trust for the National Mall and the National Park Service (NPS) as we work together to repair and refresh our beloved George Mason Memorial, on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The Memorial was authorized by Congress in 1990, ground was broken in 2000, and the Memorial was dedicated in 2002. It has fallen into disrepair. In May of 2016, the Trust made a matching gift of \$430,000 to the NPS for restoration of the Memorial, and later gave NPS \$40,000 to design the restoration of the historic fountain. The contemplated work includes:

- Repairing/replacing of stonework at the entrance
- Refreshing perennial hedges and beds with new plants as suggested by Gunston Hall (former) Horticulturist Kristin Prommel
- Repairing/replacing sprinkler heads
- Developing a plan to replace all boxwoods
- Re-opening the fountain. This is now possible because work on the shared sewer line with the Jefferson Memorial is now complete. Contractors can tie into this sewer line and re-open the fountain, after it is repaired and cleaned.

Once the Memorial has been restored, the Trust and NPS will collaborate with the Board of Regents to develop a Management and Maintenance Plan, to ensure that the Memorial and gardens are maintained at a high level of excellence, establishing a holistic and proactive approach based on established guidelines, including horticultural oversight. It has been suggested that ongoing maintenance of the garden could be facilitated by volunteers, perhaps recruited from local garden clubs.

Report on Review of Archived Minutes—Betsy Peters has been reviewing the records of Gunston Hall. Eleanor Hertle was a Dame. When she died in 1925 the decision to have the Dames

administer the property had been made. The Deed of Gift was made in 1932 and provided Louis Hertle a life estate in the property. He remained in the property until his death in 1949. The Dames were ready! They had created the Regent governing structure and hit the ground running. Betsy's research is a work in progress. It has re-engaged a previously established method of annually reviewing, editing and consolidating the actions taken by the BRGHI in a given year. Betsy will bring the records up to date to the year 1996. Going forward, this project will be assigned to a Regent(s) to maintain the consolidation and editing of these important records.

Nominating Committee for Regents—Paige Trace introduced the Regents, newly appointed by the Governor:

Regents

Mrs. John Frederick Postma (Sara Lynn), South Carolina
 Mrs. R. Douglas White (Nancy), Tennessee
 Mrs. Ronald Lester Schaeffer (Ann), Virginia
 Mrs. Henry Walter (Dale), West Virginia
 Mrs. Justin Marshall Nicholson (Virginia), At-Large, Georgia
 Mrs. Edward Smoot Finley (Ginger), At-Large, North Carolina

Regents Appointed to a Second Five-Year Term

Mrs. Thomas L. Giddens (Harrison), Florida
 Mrs. David Linville (Barbara), Illinois
 Mrs. Stephen Hopkins White (Gina), Massachusetts
 Mrs. Jacob Van Dyke, Jr. (Rowena), Missouri

First Regent--Helen Bragg began her remarks by acknowledging the difficult working conditions over the past several months of construction and thanking the entire staff for their incredible patience, enthusiasm and co-operation in continuing the work and programming that makes Gunston Hall special.

- All three construction projects are moving forward. The Visitor Center passed its final inspection and only punch list items remain. The water line from Gunston Road through the property to its terminus near the mansion is complete. Once the County constructs the connection vault, we will be able to open the valves and access County water. The initial phases of the Mansion HVAC project are complete: the condensers were moved to a location that is out of the way of the Garden Restoration project and are camouflaged in the kitchen yard.
- The new web site launched on April 5th! www.gunstonhall.org.
- The Riverside Garden Restoration project is about to get underway. We are looking forward to working with Athena Construction Group.
- The next major projects are the installation of the new IT system and the Mansion fire suppression and security systems. There are visible signs throughout the property that the prep work is in place for these projects.
- June 13th is the date for the Grand Opening of the Visitors Center. June 15th is Declaration Day and the day that the Visitor Center with its new exhibit opens to the public.

- September 8th is the date for a Garden fundraiser. Chip Callaway, a renowned landscape architect will be the speaker.
- On October 5th, the Saturday of the Annual Meeting, author Stephen Solomon will be our guest and will speak to us on his upcoming book examining the relationship between, and positions of, George Mason and James Madison and the effect on the Bill of Rights. Mr. Solomon was a member of the panel discussion at the Dissent in America symposium held in Philadelphia in 2016 in celebration of the 240th anniversary of the Virginia Declaration of Rights. He has spent many hours in the Research Library at Gunston Hall and we look forward to welcoming him again.

Executive Director—Scott Stroh began his remarks with an exuberant “It’s a Beautiful Day at Gunston Hall!” and welcomed guest Steve Blashfield of Glavé & Holmes.

- Scott recently returned from the meeting of the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) held in Lynchburg. Scott spoke of three field trips to VAM sites, what each site celebrates and the take-aways.
 - Red Hill in Brookneal, VA: This 70-acre site is the last home of Patrick Henry. The Board recently purchased an adjacent slave cemetery with 147 burials and has preserved it. Take away—the sense of place.
 - Academy Theater in Lynchburg, VA: This theater operated from 1905-1958 and sat vacant until it was renovated and reopened in 2018. The 834-seat theater is one of three venues in a thriving performance and visual arts complex. Take-away—the importance of “re-birth.”
 - Roberta Russa Moton Museum in Farmville, VA: The museum is housed in the former Moton High School and is the site of the 1951 student walkout to protest the separate but unequal conditions of the public schools, which eventually led to the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision. The museum is a center for civil rights education and honors the efforts of local students and citizens who paved the way for integrated public education. Take away—the importance of change.

Scott concluded this discussion with a description of the power of place, rebirth, and the importance of change and how it relates to Gunston Hall and how important it is that Gunston Hall imparts to its guests these same experiences.

- The physical changes being made to Gunston Hall, both seen and unseen by guests, including the Garden, IT, HVAC, the water line, and the Visitor Center and its exhibits, total over \$3 million of investment. These projects have been, and will be, disruptive but will result in dramatic improvements for the visitor experience.
- The intellectual changes we are making, as we transition from the historic house museum model to *The Home of American Rights* is more aligned with the true authenticity of place. The interpretation of George Mason’s ideas, the choices he made and the actions he took have relevance today.
- Scott talked about the staff’s contributions to the Strategic Plan. He expressed his satisfaction with the values and goals and the strategies and tactics proposed to achieve them.
- Scott introduced the staff.

Announcements: Helen Bragg reviewed the schedule for the remainder of the Semi-Annual Meeting. She asked that we remember Sis Walton, whose husband recently died. We will be hosting the Board of Visitors this evening for dinner, and special guests, Judge Paul Michel and

Brooke England, and Her Excellency Maguy Maccario Doyle, Monaco's Ambassador to the United States and Canada.

At 9:47 a.m., Jean Grainger *moved to recess the BRGHI Meeting until Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 3 p.m.* Kit Davis seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Following the opening session, Glavé and Holmes representative Steven Blashfield presented on the garden reconstruction and updated us on the progress of the installation of the water line, IT infrastructure, HVAC installation, fire suppression system, and the Visitor Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Rush, Recording Secretary

*Minutes of the Semi-Annual Meeting
Board of Regents of Gunston Hall Incorporated (BRGHI)
CLOSING SESSION
Sunday April 7, 2019*

Helen Bragg Cleary, First Regent, called the Meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. She thanked the staff for their hard work and long hours to make the Semi-Annual Meeting run so smoothly.

Caro Williams led us in The Lord's Prayer.

Secretary Carol Rush called the roll. The following Regents were present unless noted:

Duff, Anna (Mrs. Steven Wayne Duff), NSCDA President
Carey, Molly (Mrs. Christopher Carey), President Virginia Society
Cleary, Helen Bragg (Mrs. Richard S. Cleary), First Regent
McAteer, Nancy (Mrs. Thomas Knight McAteer), Vice Regent
Jenkins, Avery (Miss Winafrid Avery Jenkins), Treasurer
Perry, Lou (Mrs. Robert H. Perry), Assistant Treasurer
Rush, Carol (Mrs. John B. Rush), Recording Secretary
McLeod, Dotsie (Mrs. Alexander C. McLeod), Corresponding Secretary

Barganier, Jane (Mrs. James Irby Barganier)
Bujosa, Homoiselle (Ms. Homoiselle Fay Sadler Bujosa)
Caylor, Margo (Mrs. Robert C. Caylor, II)
Cooke, Torrey (Mrs. John P. Cooke)
Cox, Hannah (Mrs. H. Bartholomew Cox)
Crockett, Peg (Mrs. Margaret Crockett) **EXCUSED**
Davis, Kit (Ms. Katherine McCracken Davis)
Finley, Ginger (Mrs. Edward Smoot Finley) **EXCUSED**
Giddens, Harrison (Mrs. Thomas L. Giddens)
Grainger, Jean (Miss Jean Cameron Grainger)
Hill, Sara (Mrs. Harry R. Hill, Jr.) **EXCUSED**
Hockensmith, Stephanie (Mrs. David Hockensmith)
Kingston, Libby (Mrs. John Heddens Kingston)
Linville, Barbara (Mrs. David Linville) **EXCUSED**
Loughlin, Cissy (Mrs. David Castello Loughlin) **EXCUSED**
Love, Christy (Ms. Mary Christine Love)
Millard, Mary (Mrs. Charles E. Millard, Jr.)
Nicholson, Virginia (Mrs. Justin Marshall Nicholson)
Osborn, Kandi (Harriet Van Kennen Osborn) **EXCUSED**
Parker, Karen (Mrs. James Landrum Parker)
Payne, Nell (Miss Penelope Payne)
Peters, Betsy (Mrs. William Anthony Peters, III)
Postma, Sara Lynn (Mrs. Jan Hendrick Postma) **EXCUSED**
Rea, Ann (Mrs. Edgar Matthew Rea, III) **EXCUSED**
Rimmer, Martha (Mrs. Thomas W. Rimmer) **EXCUSED**

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Robertson, Susan (Mrs. Henry B. Robertson)
 Schaeffer, Ann (Mrs. Ronald Lester Schaeffer)
 Seymour, Emmy (Mrs. Geoffrey Seymour)
 Shutkin, Kathie (Mrs. John A. Shutkin)
 Snider, Virginia S. (Mrs. Ronald Albert Snider)
 Solomon, Carol (Mrs. Stephen G. Solomon)
 Trace, Paige (Mrs. Jonathan Trace)
 Van Dyke, Rowena (Mrs. Jacob Van Dyke, Jr.)
 Walter, Dale (Mrs. Henry Walter III)
 Walton, Sis (Mrs. Jonathan T. Walton) **EXCUSED**
 White, Nancy (Mrs. R. Douglas)
 White, Gina (Mrs. Stephen Hopkins White)
 Williams, Caro, (Mrs. Graham Berkeley Williams)

The required Quorum was established.

Avery Jenkins presented the Finance Committee recommendation that *the BRGHI accept the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget as presented*. **A vote was taken, and the MOTION CARRIED.**

Nell Payne presented the results of yesterday's group work on the Vision Statement which now reads "Present the life and work of George Mason IV to promote and enrich the understanding of American democracy."

Nancy McAteer moved **that the BRGHI approve the Strategic Plan as presented**. Caro Williams seconded. **A vote was taken, and the MOTION CARRIED.**

Harrison Giddens presented the Public Relations & Marketing Committee's recommendation that **the BRGHI enthusiastically encourage the Executive Director and the staff of George Mason's Gunston Hall to pursue a leadership role with Revolutionary VA250**. **A vote was taken, and the MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Paige Trace presented the Collections Committee report that the following four items had been acquired since the Annual Meeting in September. **Dotsie moved that the BRGHI accession these items:**

1. **By Purchase--Manuscript tax book for Truro Parish, Virginia, [noting Mason family slaves.]**
2. **By Purchase--Sum Remarks on the Federal Constitution, [contemporary manuscript notes from the Massachusetts convention to ratify the Federal Constitution, emphasizing the need for a Bill of Rights and for the sovereignty of the states].**
3. **By Purchase-- A Liverpool Jug**
4. **Gift of Judy Herdeg—12 Creamware dinner plates.**

A vote was taken, and the MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

New Business—Jane Barganier reviewed details for Monday's field trip.

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Old Business—Helen Bragg encouraged everyone to boost donations to the Annual Appeal within their state societies. Scott provided brochures and appeal envelopes to all.

Upcoming events for Regents at Gunston Hall:

June 13th—Grand Opening Event

June 15th—Declaration Day and Opening of Visitor Center

September 8th—Garden Lecture by Chip Callaway

October 4-7th—Annual Meeting of BRGHI

At 3:38 p.m., Jean Grainger *moved to adjourn the Semi-Annual Meeting of the BRGHI*. Carol Solomon seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Rush, Recording Secretary

Approved October 5, 2019