

Minutes for Friends of Civil War Alcatraz (FOCWA) 01/23/2021 conducted via Zoom with Thanks to Robert for lending his account.

Present were Evelyn Mar, Steve Johnson, Gary Hormel, Jeffrey Vaillant, Michael Bennet , Frank Avila, Robert Mayer, John Fitzpatrick, Constance Smith, Ken Felton, and guest Barbara McCoy.

Minutes from the Oct 14, 2020 minutes were reviewed from the website and approved.

New project proposal: In the past, there has been discussion of making and donation a diorama of the officer's kitchens to be placed in the Citadel. Constance has done some research and now proposes instead a three level set piece using the shell of a chest of drawers with the lower level as either a full kitchen or split into a kitchen and an officer's work space such as a procurement office with desk and supplies being inventoried. The second level would be split into a parlor and dining room, with the top level as a married officer's bedroom, with a child's or servant's room. Constance has done some research into securing the dollhouse furniture and display case.

The completed diorama would then need to be placed in a display case. Steve suggested a grant could be secured to pay for the cost which could be as high as \$3,000.00. It was suggested this be used to resume discussions with GGNRA about creating a "Civil War Room" in the empty cannon room in the sally port. There may be difficulties as the mission for Alcatraz is being directed away from any military history. Volunteers will be allowed to conduct programs, but Rangers will not emphasize anything beyond the penitentiary and the Indian Occupation as of 2024.

There was discussion as to whether the completed display could be loaned not donated in order to control the display and disposition of the project. Constance has been told categorically that donations are permanent, and loans were never accepted. Due to recent treatment of volunteer projects, Steve will contact the archivist Amanda to see what the current rules are.

Later discussion expanded the project to include requesting a wayside to explain the "what are you seeing?"

NOTE: previous discussion re: sally part room would include the already existent diorama of the fortress, pictures from 1864 previously displayed in that room, possibly the display currently in building 64.

Steve discussed the proposed educational video. He will be selling the old cameral and use the funds to purchase a digital camera. It will be used to create at least one video to be offered to teachers, possibly be posted on the FOCWA website and Face Book page. If successful, it can be expanded for each category. Steve is writing a script for the video with Gary discussing Captain Stewart, Frank to discuss medicine, Constance to discuss women nurses as a start. Other vignettes can be added.

Ranger Wendy has reached out to Ranger Benny to offer FOCWA's assistance with educational outreach while all the schools are online during the COVID lockdown.

Steve stated he has researched Civil War era medical history in San Francisco and will share with Frank and Constance.

Evelyn presented the Treasurer's report - see attached.

Recruitment report: There were no dues charged for 2020 and will not be charged for 2021 unless events can take place. There is some discussion of a fall Living History Day, but that depends on if vaccination has been achieved by then. Automatic renewals will be issued to the current 23 members.

Solicitation letters will be sent to previous members and associated round tables "within a month".

GGNRA is emphasizing "relevancy" and wants all volunteer programs to include questions such as "How would you feel if you lived back then?" or "what would you do in this situation?"

As of this date all sites are closed, no Living History Days are planned for either Ft. Point or Alcatraz. Once they are planned, FOCWA will reach out to as many groups as possible to increase participation. As there are no scheduled re-enactments for 2021, the hope is that if a fall LHD occurs, there will be a large participation.

General discussion of the Congressional discussion to remove all Confederate monuments from Gettysburg followed. It was suggested all member contact their Congressional Representative to protest this action - suggestion the monuments be used to teach history.

Another general discussion followed re: State militias in CA during the Civil War. These units did exist and were used within CA and several were discharged in San Francisco.

Guest George Foxworth from the Sacramento Round Table explained his group has had no meetings due to COVID, but they are continuing with the newsletter "Battle Cry" and it can be emailed or read at

[SacramentoCivilWarRoundtable.org](http://SacramentoCivilWarRoundtable.org)

Next meeting was set for 02/20/2021 at 10am on ZOOM.

Constance Smith, Secretary