

# MUSEUM BOARD MINUTES

Meeting held at St. Clements Island

Museum and Historic Park

July 8, 2013

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order 8:35 a.m. The following members were present: Dale Springer, Stephanie Waikart, Helen Dorsey, James Banagan, Ellie Slater, Steve Dunlap Lynn Fitrell and Susan Gough; staff members: Debra Pence and Brian Loewe. Members excused: Patricia Friend, Bryan Barthleme.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence. Minutes of the May 13, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dale Springer at the last meeting was nominated for president of the Museum Board and he accepted the nomination today with no objection.

Regarding Piney Point museum, Debra Pence reported the completion of projects. They include the new flag pole, landscaping and signage, refurbished entryway and gift shop.

With regard to St. Clements Island museum, the entryway, museum store and front gallery were all refurbished, with the entry and store getting new paint and furnishings.

Debra reminded the board of the two temporary exhibits at the museums. The exhibit about the Tolson Hotel consists of artifacts on loan from Frank Waikart at Piney Point, and the "Views of the Potomac" art show at St. Clement's features the work of various local artists. Helen Dorsey asked if Mr. McWilliams' art is for sale and the answer was no.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### JUNE

Debra reported that on 6/26 the Maryland Historic Trust easement committee voted to accept the packet presented to them which included painting the exterior of

Keeper's Quarters and tower at Piney Point, after lead and asbestos were removed in the late '90s. This project is to be completed by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Insurance will most likely not cover any damage due to an earthquake in 2011.

FY13 budget was closed out and on 7/22 money was released for this fiscal year. A tight budget for FY14 has reduced staff hours. Volunteers at Colton's Point are dwindling. However, museum needs to be staffed seven days a week. Water Taxi service may need to be shut off in September due to lack of funds.

Steve Dunlap remarked the lack of volunteers may be due to the bad overall economy, necessitating folks to find employment. Debra worked several "museum assistant" shifts in June and benefitted from the experience noting a renewed awareness of what is involved.

She also reported an incident regarding the Water Taxi to the island, stranding visitors on the island after a mechanical malfunction. After calling the fire department, boats were sent to ferry them back to land.

Jazz Festival tickets were available to museum members on 5/15, 100 have sold so far. On June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 600 tickets were sold to the general public. The event can handle

800 participants. Hotel in California, Md. will provide a bus to the event.

## **THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM**

Dale Springer reported Judy Sterling and Todd Morgan were accepted to the board.

“Friends” employee, Erin Brown, was hired to take over the financial and administrative management for the organization, while Carol Cribbs reduces her hours to only managing the museum stores at the two museums.

Mary Hyatt is taking the lead on Jazz Festival.

Kim Cullins reported to “Friends Board” there is a growing number of sponsors to the Jazz Festival. However, it is a challenge to increase the number of sponsors due to limitations in the sponsor’s tent.

## **ST. CLEMENT’S HUNDRED**

Helen Dorsey reported there is a shortage of volunteers manning the lighthouse. However, four people are assigned per day as of now.

The pier on the island is in disrepair, with nails rusting , et cetera. Work to replace them with stainless steel screws

has not yet begun. Volunteers in June cleaned the lighthouse.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> a Meet & Greet roundtable discussion was held. Attending was the new State Department of Natural Resources Secretary, Joe Gill, and representatives from the State Department of Natural Resources, and many Southern Maryland county, state and private partners interested in the future of the Maryland State Park system. The meeting was held at Greenwell State Park. The state's "Project Open Space" funds will return thanks to the real estate transfer tax. This money is earmarked for land acquisition.

The new secretary for Natural Resources in the State of Maryland, Joseph Gill, in his speech, reported on the erosion on the island. Some in attendance reported 6 feet of erosion since "Isabel", ten years ago. At the meeting Helen proposed it would cost \$75,000 of rock along the shore to restore the shoreline in front of the old pier.

The next Board meeting will be September 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at the Potomac Building.

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Meeting adjourned, 9:50 a.m. after motion was made and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Waikart, Secretary