

## MUSEUM BOARD MINUTES

Meeting Held at Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum

And Historic Park

May 13, 2013

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order 8:37 a.m. The following members were present: Brian Barthleme, Dale Springer, Stephanie Waikart, Helen Dorsey, James Banagan, Ellie Slater; staff members: Debra Pence and Brian Loewe. Members excused: Steve Dunlap, Patricia Friend, Lynn Fitrell and Susan Gough.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence. Minutes of the 3/11/13 meeting were unanimously approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Activities for March included: 26.2 mile marathon at Piney Point and Maryland Day at St. Clements Island.

Good attendance at both sites the last two months.

Piney Point museum entry way and store were painted. Entryway into museum was redefined for better access to exhibits. Kiosks were erected outdoors displaying information to visitors, and new directional signs were painted on pavement directing a better flow of traffic; the county has bid and hired a contractor for the Piney Point Preservation project. The \$190,000.00 project will entail removing many layers of old paint, restoring the brick, mortar and woodwork and repainting the buildings with a mineral based paint.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The County Attorney's office now manages all county boards. July 8 is the target meeting to vote for a new Museum Board of Trustees president. Helen Dorsey and James Banagan nominated Dale Springer to fill the position of president (will replace the late Bobbie McWilliams); and would like to retain Susan Gough, vice-president, and Stephanie Waikart, secretary.

## APRIL

Debra Pence reported volunteers from NuStar, scouts and college students participated in the annual "Potomac River Clean-up" at both sites.

After all inspections were made for the season the water taxi at St. Clement's Island opened for business. The vessel can now carry 23 passengers (18 prior) plus the captain.

Jack Russell from the Bay Lab presented the Bay Life program at Piney Point museum.

Bus transportation will be provided from the hotel in Leonardtown to the Jazz Festival. The event's capacity is 800. Tickets are available to "Friends" first. Lack of available parking diminishes capacity. The bus enables the sale of additional tickets.

The volunteer luncheon was well attended.

In a discussion regarding possible future events as profitable as the Jazz Fest, "Blues on the Beach" or a similar event at Piney Point was mentioned as a possibility.

## **THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM**

Dale Springer reported the "Friends" next meeting will be May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Future events were discussed at last meeting. Two positions are open on the board. Two nominees at this time are Judy Sterling and Todd Morgan. Lewie Aldridge, Jr. remains ongoing president. Mary Hyatt will assist as vice president.

## **ST. CLEMENT'S HUNDRED & DNR**

Helen Dorsey reported a gathering of volunteers will be assembled for Volunteer Night.

Other items included in Helen's report are: May 1<sup>st</sup> the Parks Advisory Commission will be meeting at the Wye Institute.

Alternate funding sources for state parks were the topic of discussion by "Friends of Maryland State Parks", a strong advocacy group. It is based in Annapolis with Chuck Hecker as the director.

Helen also reported at-risk students make up 95% of the Civil Justice Corps. The program enables most to go on and do good things with their talents from what they learned in the Corps.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Debra presented an explanation of the County and “Friends” budgets by saying the Board of Trustees’ role is overseeing operations and accountability to the county for the two sites, while the “Friends” board is a separate fund raising group that supports the museum’s mission by contributing funds for special projects, marketing and volunteer s.. They each have separate budgets.

St. Clement’s Hundred is included because it provides volunteers for events and tours at St. Clements Island and in general partners with the museum division and DNR to preserve and interpret St. Clement’s Island.

Anecdote: The Board discussed contributions that Bobbie McWilliams made to this board while serving , and the many activities in her life. She will be missed.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- May 15 – tickets available to “Friends” members for Jazz Festival.
- Next Board meeting and tour of site is at St. Clements Island on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m. after the motion was made and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Stephanie Waikart, Secretary