

Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, September 9, 2019)

Generated by Andrew Ponti

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 8:37 AM

2. ROLL CALL

Members present

Bryan Barthelme SR, Dale Springer, Lynn Fitrell, Peter Butt, Dr Regina M Faden, Mary Pettit, Michael Blackwell

Members absent

Victor Govier, Peter Neus, Christopher Shea, Eleanor Slater

County Employees present

Karen Stone, Arthur Shepherd, Andrew Ponti

Action, Minutes: B. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2019 Meeting

I move to approve the Minutes of May 13, 2019 as presented.

Motion by Lynn Fitrell, second by Mary Pettit.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Bryan Barthelme SR, Dale Springer, Lynn Fitrell, Peter Butt, Dr Regina M Faden, Mary Pettit, Michael Blackwell

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ad Hoc Committee Report

- Ad Hoc Committee Report on Strategic Plan: nothing to report now

B. BoardDocs

- Work moving forward on how to make our traditional procedures with BoardDocs. For public on front end, it is a great tool; on the back end, transcribing what we have done is more challenging. We can post the agenda, but in BoardDocs the agenda needs to be built and later the minutes have to be entered since our Secretary does not have access to enter data in BoardDocs. We will work to streamline the process, with Arthur Shepherd taking the lead, including making sure all board members have log-ins.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Monthly Reports and Upcoming Events - Karen Stone, Manager of the St. Mary's County Museum Division

- Changes to the St. Clements Island Museum: when looked at final engineer recommendations, it will not save money to save the riverfront part of them building and so the whole building is slated to be demolished, with a new structure to be built. Have reached out to DNR, which owns the property, to see if the "footprint" includes the deck, in which case the buildings odd angles could be more straightened. May not be able to build tower due to ADA regulations. The mural is on canvas, and we have proposed lending it to the state house for a time. This decision must be made by Governor Hogan's office. Exhibits script for English and Native American stories due in November, and we will approach The Smithsonian for Native American artifacts. The Annex will serve as a temporary location—perhaps a small gift shop—during the construction. Water taxi will still run during that time.
- The Division participated in the Chamber's Business Showcase with the other museums - well attended
- NextGen Professionals held a kick-off event at Piney Point - visit all museums in 8 weeks
- Division Manager presented at the AAM annual meeting in New Orleans
- Had a meeting with Building Services about shore erosion issues at Piney Point
- Heritage Day was very successful - 301 people attended
- Dinner and a Cruise with Father Andrew White was a sell out
- Division had a table and Manager made a presentation at Juneteenth
- Division had a table at SOMD Genealogy and History Fair Conference in LaPlata
- Division has taken on two college interns for the summer
- Accepted donation of equipment from local marine railway
- The Jazz festival with all its extra components was very successful
- The sites were open for the 4th of July holiday and were busy
- Division received two grants from MHAA
- Pirates on the Potomac was successful, but it will be the last one. The Pirates theme does not attract the crowd it once did.
- The Division participated in the Fox5 ZipTrip as much as possible in the bad weather
- Children's Day went very well and was very busy
- National Lighthouse Weekend was a success
- The Dinner & a Cruise event went well (sold out)
- Filming for a new site-seeing app was done by a Girl Scout on the Island
- Altar railing, which had been in front of the mural, was returned to St. Francis Xavier Church
- A meeting was held concerning the 2020 Pilgrimage to St. Clements Island State Park for 250 youth
- A Staff Meeting will be held on 9/10/2019 to set up 2020 schedule
- Soil Collection Ceremony will happen on Nov 1 to commemorate the tragic lynching in 1887 of Benjamin Hance, a 22-year-old African American. Next year, we hope to have historic marker about the event

B. Department Update - Arthur Shepherd, Director of the St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks

- County IT has allowed the departments to post on their websites more than previously, which means the Museum Division can post more efficiently.
- Tobacco-Free parks, including museums, with QR codes on signs to help staff point people to the reasons why, are being implemented
- \$350,000 Bond Bill is proposed for Renovations of the museum building
- The old jail in Leonardtown is being renovated and the Department is working on an MOU between various stakeholders, including Tourism, Historical Society, and Town of Leonardtown, to have docents, more regular hours, and make it a visitor center and a museum adjunct.

C. Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums Update - Dale Springer

- The Friends Board Meeting is coming up on September 13; the Friends still have an unfilled position and will talk about it on Thursday; There are several candidates interested in joining.
- By end of the month, there will be a full financial report on Jazz Fest results
- On September 28th, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum will host a new fundraising event: Retrofest, at Piney Point; a small attendance fee is required, with Paul Hall School providing offsite parking: music, food, beverages, vendors, and classic car display will be on site.
- Museum/Friends will have a booth at the County Fair

Lynn Fitrell raised a question about an Enterprise article concerning St. Clements Hundred's MOU with state on upkeep of the Island. There is a question of "grow or mow" there—letting the island be in more natural (which the state likes) or cropped down in order to enhance views (which the Hundred wants). The museum is working on having the mowing schedule match the boat trip schedule. The groups are meeting to discuss

a compromise. Lynn asks that the board be better informed of potential issues, since this caught her by surprise. We will make communication an agenda item for November.

Pete Butt asks that we also have a discussion about board members' roles: what are we to do in our oversight role? How do we serve?

2020 Board Terms and Nominations: Dale's second five-year term (total of 10 years allowed) ends after 2020. Eleanor Slater's does as well. Bryan Barthelme's term ends this year, so we will have one vacancy if he opts not to have another term. Board members should be looking for interested people to join. We will have nominations for board positions in November, and those officers will be elected in January 2020.

D. Upcoming Museum Division Events

- Blessing of the Fleet, October 5-6, 2019 at St. Clement's Island Museum

5. ADJOURN

- Next Scheduled meeting: November 18, 2019

Action, Minutes: B. Adjournment

I move to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Lynn Fitrell, second by Peter Butt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Bryan Barthelme SR, Dale Springer, Lynn Fitrell, Peter Butt, Dr Regina M Faden, Mary Pettit, Michael Blackwell

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM