

Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, September 21, 2020)

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order at 8:30 AM

2. ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call

- Members Present: Dale Springer, Carla Langhus, Lynn Fitrell, Michael Blackwell, Jeannette Pettit, Regina Faden, Amy Davis
- Staff Present: Karen Stone
- Members Absent: Peter Butt, Victor Govier

B. Approval of Minutes from July 13, 2020 Meeting

- Motion by Lynn Fitrell; seconded by Gina Faden. Approved unanimously

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ad Hoc Committee - Report

- No report at this time; Amy Davis reports that Pete Butt says he has sent a letter of resignation, and Dale will check on the status of this resignation with the county. This would mean filling the role of Vice-President, though that issue does not have to be immediately addressed.

B. MOU - Museum Division / DNR

- No news—in the hands of the St. Clements' Hundred's attorney and we will work under the current MOU until anything new is formalized.

C. MOU - Museum Division / Friends

- The MOU is waiting for final approval from the county. The current MOU expires at the end of the year, but the Friends are confident the new MOU will be approved before the current one expires.

D. Open Board Positions

- The county has put out its semi-annual call for volunteers. Our members are encouraged to ask around; we are looking for new members to begin their terms in January. We will be short 3 members, as Dale's 10 year (maximum) term is ending.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee

- A priority item: looking for volunteers to look at officers for next year. We need a committee. Regina volunteers; Jeannette volunteers; Michael volunteers
- Lynn asks if a position remains unfilled, could the County Commissioners extend terms; the answer is yes, but Dale's position with the Friends has become so busy that he would stay on only until the position could be filled.

B. Department of Recreation & Parks Update: Notes from an email from Arthur Shepherd to Karen Stone on 9/20/20

- I've recently spoken with the realtor regarding the property next door to St. Clement's Island Museum. MD Department of Natural Resources' purchase of the property continues to move forward
- The phase III recovery plan allows for citizens to enter county office space during working hours without an appointment
- CIP Projects
 - Master Plans at Snow Hill Park should be out for bid the week of September 21st
 - Master Plan for Shannon Farm – staff has had two (2) meetings with the design firm; one of those included a 6-person Cedar Cove community ad hoc team 212 acres; 3,400 feet of shoreline on the Chesapeake Bay ½ mile from gate 3 of NAX Pax River
 - Three (3) additional turf fields: Chancellors Run, Chaptico and Lancaster Parks
 - Grading permit this week (9/21) for improvements at Lexington Manor Passive Park (\$1.3m in allocated funding)
 - Three Notch Trail continuation- 95% design; begin construction one (1) year away [Lynn notes that benches to help parents whose children's legs give out would be helpful and will follow up with Arthur]

C. Museum Division Update - Karen Stone

- Water Taxi operations at St. Clement's Island Museum continue to be popular; using the south pier due to repair work on the north pier
- New exhibit installations at Piney Point are set for completion in late September and opening in early October
- October events (Blessing of the Fleet, St. Clements' Dinner) remain canceled
- The Old Jail Museum was open for Leonardtown First Friday (12 visitors) and the Young Professionals event (25 visitors)
- The Old Jail Museum was the focus of a blog about local sites; other museum properties will be featured in September
- Arrangements were made for the Old Jail Museum to be included in Sept's Underground Railroad Month promotions with the Network to Freedom Trail
- Reopening plans are in the works for all the museum properties
- Research on the Black Diamond tragedy continues, and Karen may have found the descendent of one of the men killed, adding a name to those lost
- Working on two grants, one to get the front porch on the lighthouse's keepers building and another to pay for interactive exhibits at Piney Point

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

- Had a board meeting last week and filled an open position with Brian Williams
- The Friends are the applicants for the grants that the Museums are seeking and have received grants from the Smithsonian, the St. Mary's County Commissioners among others, so they are diligently working to improve their position even though in-person events are canceled by the pandemic
- An auction will be coming up this week to assist with fundraising
- Hosted the Chamber's Business after Hours event in August, the first in-person event since February, showcasing the Old Jail site
- Have kept the official name as "Friends of St. Clements Island and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum," but are adding an underscore to the letterhead about Drayden School House and the Old Jail

- Please share the link to the online auction on September 25- 27

5. ADJOURN

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

- December 7, 2020 in Room 14, Potomac Building, Governmental Center, Leonardtown, MD 20650

B. Adjournment

- Motion by Jeannette; Seconded by Lynn; Occurred at 9:22 a.m.