

Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, November 9, 2020)

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order (8:35AM)

2. ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call

- Members Present: Dale Springer, Regina Faden, Amy Davis, Lynn Fitrell, Jeanette Pettit, Karla Langhus, Michael Blackwell
- Employees Present: Karen Stone, Arthur Shepherd
- Members Absent: Victor Govier

B. Approval of Minutes from September 21, 2020 Meeting

- Lynn Fitrell notes a change in one date listed in the minutes.
- Lynn Fitrell moves to accept amended minutes, Amy Davis seconds, motion passes unanimously.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Nomination Committee - Report

- The committee reported that Lynn Fitrell has agreed to serve as Chair, Amy Davis as Vice Chair, and Michael Blackwell as Secretary.
- With no further nominations coming from the floor, Michael Blackwell moves to elect this slate, Gina Faden seconds, passes unanimously.

B. Open Board Positions

- We have had several applicants via the county. After the commissioners approve application on December 1, we expect to have a full board of 11 members starting in the new year.

C. MOU - Museum Division / DNR

- This MOU is still stuck in the hands of the St. Clements' Hundred; until they sort out their relation with the DNR, we cannot move on anything.

D. MOU - Museum Division / Friends

- This MOU is also pending. It has been reviewed by the Friends, and it is necessary to ascertain if it has been formally submitted. Dale will follow up on this with Karen and Arthur.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2021 Meeting Schedule

- January 11; March 8; May 10; July 12; September 13; November 8.
- All meetings scheduled for Room 14 of Potomac Building for now, with telephone option being kept for now due to the pandemic.
- Motion by Gina; seconded by Lynn; approved unanimously.

B. MOU - St. Mary's County Historical Society

- This MOU will formalize some dates and operation procedures for working on the Old Jail Museum in downtown Leonardtown. It helps to guarantee the safety of artifacts and update the exhibits.
- The Historical Society and the Museum Division have already done some projects together and the relationship is a strong one.

C. Department of Recreation & Parks Update

- The first county budget meeting has taken place, looking at Capital Improvements Projects; there is some funding allocated for the St. Clement's Island Museum project, including acquisition of some nearby property.
- There has been a meeting about work on the shore erosion at Piney Point. The temporary fix is working on the Potomac side, but work on a more permanent structure — preferably an oyster reef that will be self-sustaining — is being planned. Funding for the creek side needs to be shifted and will be made available to create a "moving" shoreline, planted with sea grass, to stabilize the shore that way. The museum will be in communication with Nu-Star to move forward.
- Work is being done on getting funding for a boat ramp at the Snow Hill Park.
- The Commissioners have begun looking at how a sports complex can be funded.

D. Museum Division Update

- Water Taxi operations ended for the season; it is being taken out of the water for maintenance. Museums went to winter hours on Nov. 1 (12-4 daily).
- The Drayden African American Schoolhouse was the subject of two virtual library programs (one taped and one live) about segregated education in St. Mary's County.
- The Old Jail Museum was open for Leonardtown First Friday (64 visitors) and has been open regular museum hours daily since October 1. Updates and more are continually happening. New exterior sign and interior brochure racks going in for Leonardtown Visitor Center area. Participating in Leonardtown events and happenings.
- St. Clement's Island Museum was open daily and Piney Point was open for Museum Store visitors. The new exhibits have been made final and have come out very well; reservations to see it can be made through RecTrac; a UV wand is being obtained to allow for virus cleansing so all parts of the museum (such as the osprey nest, which cannot otherwise be easily cleaned) can be sanitized to allow full opening.
- Planning for holiday events and exhibits at each location underway. A tent will be set up at Piney Point to allow for outdoor sales there, because it is too small for social distancing inside.
- Working with Civil War Trails to update all the signs, including adding a new one about the Black Diamond by St. Clement's Island Museum.
- Amber Puschinsky has resigned and a replacement is being sought to be fundraising coordinator; new part-time museum assistants are being hired.
- In spite of COVID-19, the Museum Division has been very active.

E. Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums Update

- Met the 10th of September via Zoom. The Friends fund the fundraising coordinator position and are working with the Division to fill it.
- Funds are down due to having to cancel in-person events, but they did recoup about \$8,000 with an online auction of donations.
- The Friends received a loan to pay some salaries, and they are working on documentation to have the loan forgiven.
- They also applied for a grant from the county for \$3,500 to help.

F. Trustees Year End Report

- Michael will put together highlights of our group's activities for the year and submit it to the Board in January.

5. ADJOURN

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

- January 11, 2021

B. Adjournment

- Adjournment at 9:44 a.m.
- Motion by Lynn; seconded by Jeanette, unanimous approval