

## Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, November 15, 2021)

Generated by Andrew Ponti

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Call to Order at 8:32 a.m.
- B. Moment of Silence
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

### 2. ROLL CALL

- A. Roll Call
  - Members present: Robin Finnacom, Lynn Fitrell, Jeannette Pettit, Michael Blackwell, Regina Faden, Karla Langhus, Catherine Bowes
  - Members absent: Amy Davis, Walter Boswell, Laura Friess, Mike Brown, Victor Govier
  - Division Staff: Karen Stone, Allison Ellis (new Education Coordinator)
  - **Quorum Established**
- B. Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2021 Meeting
  - Motion to approve by Robin Finnacom
  - Seconded by Karla Langhus
  - **Motion carries unanimously**

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

- A. MOU - Museum Division / Friends
- B. Update on Strategic Plan
  - Karla Langhus, Laura Friess and Karen Stone are working on a draft, with monthly meetings and a target of May 2022 to have a draft for all to review.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Amending Bylaws to Accommodate County Commissioners Reporting
  - The bylaws were not amended, but voted to put them aside for this meeting to vote this month for officers rather than December to get the names to the Commissioner.
  - Motion by Robin Finnacom
  - Seconded by Karla Langhus (prior to election of officers)
  - **Passes unanimously**
- B. Search Committee for Annual Election of Officers - Suspend Rule of Bylaws/Vote on Slate of 2022 Officers
  - Slate of officers presented: Lynn Fitrell as Chair, Amy Davis as Vice Chair and Michael Blackwell as Secretary. No others put their names forward.
  - Karla Langhus moves to approve
  - Jeanette Pettit seconds
  - **Passes unanimously**
- C. Overview of Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center
  - Site of the Benjamin Hance Memorial Ceremony attended by several hundred public and dignitaries; the event was covered well by media outlets. The next step in this project is a public hearing of stories conducted by the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project - people's reaction to the event and what it means to people today. This meeting will occur on the first Saturday in February. Karla Langhus suggests it would be a good idea to involve high school debate teams in some way.
  - The exhibit at the Old Jail Museum has been updated to include the pardon.
  - Had a paranormal event with a group that teaches people how to look for ghosts; the Friends made about \$600 in ticket sales from this event.

#### D. Staffing Adjustments

- Introduced Allison Ellis as new Education Coordinator for Division.
- April Havens, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum site manager, is retiring; her position has been posted, and the plan is to have the next person hired in December.
- Doing interviews for additional museums assistants that are needed.
- Will ask for an Exhibit Curator, a manager for the Old Jail Museum and to make the Education position full time in the upcoming budget cycle.
- Will also ask for a budget increase to accommodate increased programming, responsibilities and staff.

#### E. Update on Storm Damage at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and St. Clement's Island Museum

- Had floods from the October 29 storms at both St. Clement's Island Museum and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, with debris needing to be cleared, damage to the piers and flood damage to various items in some Piney Point buildings. Despite damage, museums are up and running again.

#### F. Just Society Scholarship Fund Sponsors

- Discussed scholarship winners for 2021 as well as plans for future years' scholarship contests.
- Scholarships were generously supported by many private donors including SMECO, UCAC, NAACP and others.

#### G. St. Mary's County Museum Division Update

- The Blessing of the Fleet went off well with about 1,500 attending; looking at making this a one day rather than a two-day event next year.
- The plans for the new St. Clement's Island Museum building are coming along quickly. An exterior rendering is available; it will have many local history elements. Met with the Piscataway Tribal leadership group last week to work out details of the Piscataway display.

#### H. Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums and Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival Update

- Continue working on plans for Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival in July 2022 and on a Point of Sale system to tie all three Museum Store locations together.

#### I. Department of Recreation & Parks Update

- Working on the budget for FY23, which must be submitted in January 2022.
- Going through the exercise to be accredited nationally as a certified Parks & Rec Department (CAPRA).
- In the process of updating the Land Preservation and County Recreation Plan (LPPRP).

#### J. Monthly Report & Upcoming Events

### 5. ADJOURN

#### A. Announcements, Clarifications or Questions

#### B. Tour of Old Jail Museum & Just Society Scholarship Winners Artworks

#### C. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

- January 10, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in TBA location

#### D. Adjournment

- Motion by Karla Langhus
- Seconded by Jeannette Pettit
- Adjourned at 9:26 a.m.