

Board of Trustees - Museum Division

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Establish Quorum: Meeting began at 8:47 a.m.
- B. Moment of Silence
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Welcome - New Education Programming Coordinator, Sara Saunders & new Fundraising Coordinator, Zach Steele

2. ROLL CALL

- A. Roll Call & Self Introductions
 - Present: Lynn Fitrell, John Deatrick, Jeannette Pettit, Laura Friess, Michael Blackwell, Catherine Bowes, Regina Faden
 - Members absent: Robin Finnacom, Mike Brown, Amy Davis, Karla Langhus,
 - Present for County: Karen Stone, Arthur Shepherd, Zach Steele, Sarah Saunders
- B. Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2022 Meeting
 - Motion by Jeanette Pettit
 - Second by Catherine Bowes
 - Approved unanimously

3. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Museum Division & Friends Updates
 - Summer events are finished and were successful
 - Karen reviewed present programs and some that are soon-to-come
 - 5 student interns are creating training videos, doing interviews for oral history and other useful projects
 - Karen has submitted final report on the grant received for the Piscataway partnership
 - Karen is writing grants for upgrades for the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and the U-1105 exhibit
- B. "17 Men" U.S. Colored Troops Exhibit Overview
 - The U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) Interpretive Center in Lexington Park is hosting "Seventeen Men: Portraits of African American Civil War Soldiers" by professional artist and illustrator Shayne Davidson
 - The St. Mary's County Museum Division, the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC), Civil War Trails and other community partners are the sponsors
 - The portraits celebrate men who served with distinction in the Union's U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) during the American Civil War
- C. St. Clement's Island Museum Building Plans Updates
 - The public hearing is on September 26, 2022 in the Chesapeake Building at 6:30 p.m.
 - Attendance by the board is requested to offer support as necessary

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Strategic Plan Draft Review & Possible Vote
 - Motion by Michael Blackwell
 - Second by Jeanette Pettit
 - Unanimously approved
- B. Appointment of Nominating Committee
 - Regina Faden, Jeannette Pettit & Laura Friess will be on the committee
- C. St. Mary's County Museum Division General Overview
- D. Discussion of Division Needs for Possible Memo to Commissioners of St. Mary's County
 - What do we, as a Board, feel the Division needs for financial and other support?
 - Arthur Shepherd suggests that the Division can bring its Essential Cost Changes to the November meeting to let us know exactly what is needed; Expect a discussion in that meeting
 - Karen Stone mentions need of more marketing funds, make the education position fulltime, additional contract service money and a fulltime boat captain for the St. Clement's Island Museum boat
 - Lynn Fitrell adds that the Division needs money for a new boat, for exhibits, for new signage and a traveling van to take exhibits into the community
 - A list will be written up and dollar amounts estimated
- E. Introductions of and Brief Comments by New Staff Sara Saunders and Zach Steele
 - Sarah is the Education and Program Coordinator: She spoke of the new Second Saturdays programs that are more drop-in, flexible and high value with low cost, using the environment. For example, the one yesterday that was "Shore Combing" at Piney Point Lighthouse & Museum looking at the river environment. The next one will have an autumn theme; young people will look at sensory things and older ones will be introduced to tracking and shelter building

- Zach is the Fundraising Coordinator: He spoke of his goal to modernize the Friends organization with new technology to track membership and program attendance, expanding the member base and ramp up donations and enhance fundraising amounts

F. Department of Recreation & Parks Update

- Arthur is staying on in his position rather than having the county appoint an interim Department Head
- Three new playgrounds are being built
- The Snow Hill Park plan was generally well-received but concerns about accessibility were raised, so it is going back for final approval
- The Royal Farms development is adjacent to the Passive Park and Community Garden in Lexington Park and concerns have been raised about how this development will affect public lands. Those concerns are being addressed to ensure that the park will not be affected
- The Department is now nationally accredited - the 199th in the country and 6th in Maryland to be accredited

G. Upcoming Events

OTHER EVENTS:

Leonardtown First Fridays each month | Old Jail Museum open 10PM to 7PM

September

17: Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day at SCIM & PPLM (Free admission w/ website passes)

22 - 25: St. Mary's County Fair | Department Table

24: Youth Pilgrimage event on St. Clement's Island State Park

30: Osprey Gala at St. Clement's Island Museum

October

1: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House | 11AM to 2PM

1 - 2: Blessing of the Fleet at St. Clement's Island Museum

7: Leonardtown First Friday | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 7PM

8: Second Saturdays Outdoor Adventures at SCIM

9: Dinner & a Cruise: Environmental | 2PM to 6PM

10: Columbus Day | SCIM, PPLM & OJM open 10AM to 5PM

15 - 16: U.S. Oyster Festival at Fairgrounds | Friends & Division Table

20: "Special Nights at the Museums" at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum | 5PM to 7PM

22: Trick or Treat on the Square in Leonardtown | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 5PM

31: Water Taxi Service at SCIM ends

November

1: Just Society Scholarship Facebook Live | 12PM

4: Leonardtown First Friday | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 7PM

11: Veteran's Day | SCIM, PPLM & OJM open 10AM to 5PM

12: Second Saturdays Outdoor Adventures at PPLM

17 Men Exhibit

USCT Interpretive Center

Lexington Manor Passive Park

10am-2pm

Every Wednesday now through December 7th

On September 20th for National Voter Registration Day

And on these Saturdays: September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10.

5. ADJOURN

A. Announcements, Clarifications or Questions

B. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: November 7, 2022

C. Adjournment

- Motion by Michael Blackwell
- Seconded by Jeanette Pettit
- Motion approved