

Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, July 8, 2024)

1. CALL TO ORDER (8:45 a.m.)

- A. Establish Quorum
- B. Moment of Silence
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call

- Present: Lynn Fitrell, Catherine Bowes, Laura Friess, Kate Ross, Michael Brown, Kathy Bailey, Connor Wolfe, Caitlyn Hunter, Michael Blackwell, Valmora Lewis
- Absent: Robin Finnacom, Karla Langhus
- Friends Members: Dale Springer, Bryan Williams, Todd Morgan, Paul Nelson
- Staff: Karen Stone

B. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2024 Meeting

- Motion by Michael Brown
- Kathy Bailey second
- Approved unanimously

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Opportunities for Trustees to Support the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums

- Dale Springer, President of the Friends began. The Friends are making efforts to expand membership, including former members and Museum Board of Trustee members
- Friends staff are visiting businesses to look for sponsorship; it would be appreciated if any Board members have business contacts would help pave the way for a Friends visit
- New membership opportunities have been developed
- Dinner and a Cruise is now open for groups of 20 or less, including family reunions or other events
- The Division has received a bid on the new boat, which will open the cruises to go farther out on the water, including into Leonardtown
- There is a special Friends Christmas ornament that is NOT for sale but are available only to members
- The Friends are helping with various events throughout the year. The Division also gets grants to support these events; the Friends often provide matching money and often serve as an applicant/passthrough on grants
- The Friends also run the museum stores, which offer local crafts and books. Online sales began during the pandemic are continuing well
- Volunteer help from the Museum Board of Trustees is welcome
- The Friends (and Division) are planning for events commemorating the USA's 250th and Maryland's 400th anniversaries

B. St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks Strategic Plan

- The plan was recently updated. A short video about the plan was shown, detailing the short, medium and long-term goals and objectives, which can be seen here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-059A_r2_I0
- The full plan can be seen here: <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Recreate/StrategicPlan/>
- Streamlining and targeting programming department-wide is a high priority

C. St. Mary's County Museum Division Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Requests

- Funds are requested each year for preservation and this constant line-item needs to be high priority
- Funds for additional staff was approved which allows for Drayden African American Schoolhouse and the other museums be open more often
- Additional funding for more full-time staff will be requested in future and should be likely once the St. Clement's Island Museum reopens

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Board Calendar for 2024

September

- Recruitment: none needed for now, but we should see if anyone's term ends in January
- Draft Division budget review: will look ahead to FY26

November

- Possible Visit St. Mary's MD tourism presentation

- Division budget adoption: we will review the recommendation and write a letter of support to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County

January

- Election of Board Officers

B. St. Mary's County Museum Division & Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums Updates

- The Division is receiving a seed grant to cover the costs of restoring artifacts related to watermen, including Black watermen
- The Drayden African American Schoolhouse has had many upgrades
- Met with the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCA) to renew the MOU on the Interpretive Center; the UCAC will look for funding for exhibits and Museum Division will provide staffing

MAY

- The Division participated in two outreach events in May: Southern Maryland Equity in History event at St. Mary's College and the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase and Awards Luncheon
- Three staff members attended the American Alliance of Museums annual conference in Baltimore
- Potomac River Clean-Up was held at St. Clement's Island Museum
- Annual Report was distributed for 2023
- Division Manager had an article published in Lighthouse Digest
- Staff mentors attended end of the year reception with apprentices from Forrest Tech Center
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Site Manager participated in podcast with U.S. Lighthouse Society

JUNE

- Heritage Day was held at the St. Clement's Island Museum
- Museum Art Kids was held at the St. Clement's Island Museum
- Division participated in three outreach events this month: Flag Day, Juneteenth and Calvert County Teacher's In-service training

C. St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks Update

- Tyrone Harris Field Dedication went well and was very well attended
- Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved the St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks Strategic Plan on June 25, 2024
- Improvements made at the Drayden African American Schoolhouse along with new sign installed
- Discussion with UCAC on June 2, 2024 regarding the U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center in Lexington Park
- Playground and pavilion being installed at Snow Hill Park
- Summerstock at Great Mills High school to occur on July 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 & 28, 2024

5. ADJOURN

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: September 9, 2024

B. Upcoming Events

- July 12-14: Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival
- July 22: Outdoor Adventures at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
- August 3-4: National Lighthouse Weekend at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
- August 17: Children's Day at St. Clement's Island Museum
- September 14: FamilyFest on the Potomac at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
- September 25: St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce Business after Hours at St. Clement's Island Museum
- October 5: Blessing of the Fleet at St. Clement's Island Museum
- October 25-26: The Haunting at Piney Point

C. Adjournment

- Motion by Michael Brown
- Seconded by Kathy Bailey
- Adopted unanimously