

Board of Trustees
Museum Division
3/12/2018 Meeting Notes
Room 14 – Potomac Building

Members Present: Dale Springer, Lynn Fitrell, Peter Butt, Peter Neus, Jeanette Pettit, Eleanor Slater, Bryan Barthelme, Christopher Shea, Michael Blackwell

Members absent: Victor Govier, Dr. Regina Faden

Museum Staff present: Karen Stone

Advisory Staff present: Arthur Shepherd

Quorum established at 8: 33 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence Conducted

January 8 Meeting Minutes: corrections were made to date (from 2017 to 2018) and some misspellings. Moved for approval with corrections by Lynn Fitrell and seconded by Jeanette Petti. Approved unanimously.

Old Business:

- Accreditation from A.A.M.: Karen Stone presenting: Karen met with the A.A.M. reviewer at a workshop on strategic plans. The reviewer recommended that our plan should be reduced to a three-year plan because goals will be substantially different after three years. Karen has made this change. A new plan will need to be written in two years however, we will not have to resubmit a plan to A.A.M.—the plan may simply be revised internally. A question was raised: what are the benefits of A.A.M. accreditation and is it a peer review? Yes, it is a peer review. It establishes that a museum has recognized best practices/procedures in place, allows museums to easily obtain/exchange items on loan, establishes credibility when seeking grants, loans and other financial support and professionalizes our processes. We expect approval to be finalized at the A.A.M. June meetings.
- Arthur Shepherd reviewed last week's meeting at Dynard Elementary on the Capital Improvement Project for St Clement's Island Museum and an MOU with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to use St. Clement's Island. The session was to allow for public input. Members of St Clements' Hundred and the 7th District Optimist Club expressed concerns about how the MOU might affect their used of the island. The MOU will simply streamline operations of the Museum with DNR. The Friends of the Museums, the Museum Board of Trustees, the St. Clement's Hundred, and the 7th District Optimists will form a task force to draft an MOU. Two Board members will serve on this Task Force. The first meeting of this Task Force will be this spring. The island will still be maintained by DNR. The final MOU will be reviewed by the Trustees before being submitted to the County Commissioners.
- On Tuesday, February 6th, a ribbon cutting ceremony re-opening the Drayden African American Schoolhouse was held in spite of some cold weather. Representatives from the County,

community including some of the "student body" gathered afterward as guests at the Paul Hall Center Hotel in Piney Point to celebrate the event.

New Business:

- **Upcoming Events:** Maryland Day celebrations will commence on Sunday, March 25th with an event hosted at the Drayden African American Schoolhouse followed by a ceremony held at the 2nd District Firehouse. Dr. Janice Walthour will give the keynote address and five students who attended school are also planned to attend. Since the dedication/opening of the schoolhouse we are seeing an increase in the visits. Monday's (March 26th) Traditional celebration at the St. Clements Island Museum will feature Msgr. Ed Coyle as guest speaker along with a wreath laying and dedication ceremonies.
- **Director's Update:** Karen Stone: First of exhibit designs at Piney Point have been approved. CPR/AED training for employees is complete. The Friends have already met their first quarter fund raising goals. Three news exhibits are at St Clements Island: decoys, a photo exhibit, and one on sinking of the Black Diamond. The St Clement's Island renovation project continues with the initial plans for the gallery area to be rebuilt as a two story, while the waterfront shop area will remain as is architecturally. The project will be funded from various sources over the next five years. The shop will stay open as much as possible, and we hope to run the water taxi throughout the project, but gallery must be closed for the renovation.
- **Department Update:** Arthur Shepherd expressed appreciation for how well attended the meeting at Dynard was, and for the energy and passion devoted to our museums. A new position—grounds keeper/boat captain is listed as a high priority in the department's county budget submission. That budget also request funding for "gators" and a beach cleaner for the Snow Hill Farm Park along with additional hourly employees for safety and security; these employees may also be used to support events at the museums.
- **Friends update:** Dale Springer: the next Friends Board meeting is Thursday March 15th. The Friends have hired a fundraising coordinator. Jazz Festival planning is well underway and coming together nicely. Museum stores upgrades are completed and many new consignment items from local vendors are now available in the stores.

Additions:

- The Little Free Libraries were stocked this past weekend at the Piney Point and St Clement's Island museums. Thank you Michael Blackwell.
- Certificates of Appreciation from the commissioners were presented to those Board members who could not attend the Volunteer Appreciation ceremony hosted by the Commissioners.
- We reviewed the 2017 Annual Report in draft form. We have been asked to complete a more formal report than we have the past few years, when we simply submitted the Museum Division's Annual report. Dale asked for comments to be made on the report via email. It is due, but we may leave it open for comment at our next Trustees' meeting.

Adjournment: Bryan Barthelme made a motion to adjourn; Peter Neus seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.