

St. Mary's County Museum Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes: November 19, 2018

1. Call to order at 8:38 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence Observed
3. Roll Call
 - Present: Dale Springer, Bryan Barthelme, Jeanette Pettit, Peter Butt, Peter Neus, Lynn Fitrell, Michael Blackwell
 - Not attending: Victor Govier, Dr. Regina Faden, Christopher Shea, Eleanor Slater
 - County and Museum Personnel Attending: Arthur Shepherd, Karen Stone
 - Approval of September 17, 2018 Minutes: Motion to approve: Bryan Barthelme seconded by Lynn Fitrell. One spelling error corrected, otherwise unanimously approved as written.
4. Old Business
 - Marketing Grant: we have won a grant from Cultural Area Heritage for \$2,500, which will help pay for new design and printing of rack cards. The Friends will match the amount, and some marketing funds will also be used to complete the project.
 - DNR MOU Final: this issue is closed, with an agreement completed, though final agreement on paper is still pending
 - SCIM Renovations: we are waiting for the results of the engineering study. Several options for proceeding are under consideration, but we have to stay within the current foot print due to being in the critical shore zone.
 - Event Parking Improvements: We are looking to buy two plots, as noted elsewhere in these minutes.
5. New Business
 - 2019 Meeting Schedule Approval: Moved by Lynn Fitrell, second by Jeanette Pettit. Approved as proposed. January 14, March 11, (optional March 25 for Maryland Day, May 13, July 8, September 9, November 18.
 - 2019 Board Officer Nomination. Current officers have agreed to continue. An invitation for other names was extended, but no other names were put forward. Peter Neus moved to approve and Peter Butt seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
 - Department Update: Arthur Shepherd: On St. Clements Island Museum, we shall pay \$40k on the engineering assessment to keep this project going—this amount matched the low bid. Karen Stone and Arthur attended training on open meetings, and noted that we are in compliance. The Division will be working on a land swap at St. Clements to be submitted to the county commissioners on December 11, 2018 for approval. A lot of movement will take place with the County CIP in the upcoming month however, the SCI Museum renovation is expected to

remain in the CIP. An Ad-hoc group will be formed to work on updating the Divisions strategic plan. The FY 2020 operating budget for the museums has been drafted and will be submitted in the county budget process.

- Monthly Reports & Upcoming Events: Karen Stone:
 - Presentation: Who We Are and Where We Are Going
 - Review of personnel and their duties; discussion of some possible changes, with Karen taking on more of a role with the exhibits, the captain taking over the water taxi, and increasing outreach, especially to the schools.
 - Land Management: The County/Museum owns 34.7 acres but manage more than that; At SCI, the Museum Division is exploring the purchase of land for overflow parking; working with DNR on developing walking trails and dock improvements, including a kayak launch and boat lift. This project to be launched after the Museum is renovated.
 - Capital Improvements:
 - Piney Point Exhibits are in their final design phase and will be put out to bid for fabrication.
 - St. Clements Island Museum design will be completed after the Engineering Assessment is completed.
 - Some current areas of weaknesses include lack of public awareness, adequate parking, insufficient outreach, outdated technology, not living up to potential, staff not used properly. We are working on these, with shifting staff duties and increased publicity and outreach.
 - Strengths: sites are historic and of interest, financial support, professional staff, mission-based events, experiential tourism, authentic experiences. Our AAM accreditation brings credibility and allows us to borrow effectively from other significant museums.
 - Review of 9 vital goals set out in strategic plan, with a briefing on how we are acting on them.
 - How the Board can help: Join the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning, to meet three times before February to help set specific directions.
 - Monthly Report:
 - The future of the Blessing of the Fleet event hosted at SCIM and sponsored by The 7th District Optimists is in question as the 2018 event was marred by many issues coordinating with the Optimists, their lack of participation and the mess left with fireworks residue. They have also suggested moving the event to June, which the Museum Division opposes. At an upcoming meeting, they will set out future plans, and Museum Division representatives will attend. Museum Division

has offered to take over the event and to be much more active in its planning and execution.

- Review of dinner cruise, which was successful despite being limited by the size/capacity of the water taxi.
- Toured African American Schoolhouse in La Plata; though not as authentic/well-preserved as Drayden, theirs is well visited because of attendance of the Charles County Fair. They wish to do joint programming and will be visiting Drayden.
- Participated in Citizens' Academy, which gives useful connections to community leaders.
- Working to expand jazz festival weekend into Leonardtown, with the aim of having people stay overnight/the weekend.
- Working with NAACP, UCAAF, and other county museums on expanding cultural events—specifically, on commemoration of a lynching victim, with a memorial to be placed at Old Jail House; working on getting a pillar in our county.
- Upcoming events: Holiday events for museums at end of November and start of December

- Friend's Update: Dale Springer: Meeting coming up in December. Appraiser's Fair coming up in January.

6. Next meeting is January 14th, 8:30 a.m. at the Potomac Building

7. Adjournment at 9:51, moved by Lynn Fitrell and seconded by Bryan Barthelme