

## Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, June 8, 2020)

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order at 8:33 a.m.

### 2. ROLL CALL

#### A. Roll Call

- Members present: Dale Springer, Peter Butt, Dr Regina M Faden, Michael Blackwell, Amy Davis, Lynn Fitrell
- Members absent: Victor Govier, Peter Neus, Jeanette Pettit
- County Staff present: Karen Stone; Arthur Shepherd

#### B. Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2020 Meeting

- Pete Butt suggest an amendment on a date in item 5: Motion to approve with amendment by Lynn Fitrell; seconded by Gina Faden; passed unanimously.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Ad Hoc Committee - Annual Report:

- No action as of this time, largely due to pandemic interruptions. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting, with a reach-out in the interim for thoughts and information from the board members. Dale, Karen, and Arthur Shepherd will look at how the committee might meet formally under St. Mary's Open Meetings guidelines and will give guidance.

#### B. MOU - Museum Division / DNR

- No action on this item because State DNR has not met with the St. Clements' Hundred due to various postponements; the museum will operate under the current MOU until such a meeting can take place.

#### C. MOU - Museum Division / Friends

- A draft of the MOU between Friends and County has been prepared and was distributed at the March 5 Friends' Meeting. It is still pending comment from the Friends; once the Friends have commented, it will be returned to county for further consideration.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

We had two open board positions that have not yet been filled. We have received a resignation from Peter Neus, so we will have three positions to be filled. Dale will speak with Diane Gleissner about filling the vacancies.

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

- County's health nurse is evaluating buildings for safety and employees are incrementally returning in-person; waterfront parks are now open and are busy, with county residents only due to capacity. Limited outdoor sports may now have operations in county parks. Portable power washer is getting lots of use to help with sanitizing. On the week on June 22nd, Great Mills Swimming Pool should open. The turf fields project is underway and will be complete soon.
- Question: Have there been any developments with property acquisition close to the St. Clements' Island Museum? DNR is trying to acquire the property from a private homeowner. The county is good with this development. Full details will be forthcoming.

#### B. Museum Division Update

- The museum water taxi service has recommenced under the most recent relaxing of the stay-in-place orders; the museum store is also now opened; masks and physical distancing are mandatory, and safety measures are being taken. 59 people took advantage over the weekend.
- The new exhibits are being readied in Piney Point and the museum is seeing some renovations; the pier has been opened; ospreys have nested on the lighthouse and the museum will have to wait until fall to clear off the nest.
- A virtual store has been opened; much activity on Facebook though many in-person events have been canceled due to COVID-19.
- Several grants are being applied for.
- Operations continue, with employees in 2 days a week and teleworking the others.
- Having future events will depend upon decisions by the state and county on loosening COVID-19 restrictions.
- The annual report will be made electronically in the next week, with only a few print copies being made.
- See BoardDocs attachment for a complete report for January 2020 – May 2020 from Karen Stone, Museum Director.

Museum Division Highlights: January – May 2020

#### January

- Appraiser Fair was very successful again, in spite of the rain (192; up from 169 in 2019)
- Meetings began for Blessing of the Fleet planning
- The opening act was booked for the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival
- A letter of intent was submitted for a grant in support of the object loan from the Smithsonian
- The first meeting for the Year of the Woman was held with a number of community partners
- 2020 Calendar of Events finalized

#### February

- The County Commissioners approved the MHAA Grant funding request for the CIP at St. Clement's Island Museum
- The County Commissioners approved the DNR Grant funding request for a study of the erosion problem at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park
- The County Commissioners approved the increase to the SCIM CIP budget
- An artists' reception was held at SCIM in conjunction with current exhibit; 85 people attended (new)
- Community Day at SCIM and brought items to donate from local hotels (4; up from 1 in 2019)

#### March

- Key was picked up for the Old Jail Museum; First Friday attendance was 42; Benjamin Hance exhibit was installed
- Meeting was held with DNR about Island MOU

- The County Commissioners closed the museum buildings to the public on the 16th.
- Work in the Annex Building at SCIM was completed by Building Services
- Maryland Day activities were cancelled; a virtual event was held
- Interviews were held for Museum Assistant positions, but hiring is now on hold
- Lower Potomac River Half Marathon was held with 80 runners (had been a full marathon in the past)

#### **April**

- PO request was submitted to complete the exhibit fabrication and installation at Piney Point
- New flooring was installed in exhibit areas of Piney Point
- Both piers were closed due to COVID-19; visitors continue to use Piney Point pier in spite of signage
- The Black Diamond Civil War weekend activities were cancelled; a virtual event was held in conjunction with the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office
- Division began weekly Facebook offerings of things from our collection, and videos of stories from SMC history
- All of the staff has been attending webinars and other online conversations about working during shutdown, how to go about reopening, dealing with fundraising while closed, etc.

#### **May**

- All May events were cancelled; all June events were cancelled (includes Heritage Day)
- Piers at SCIM and Piney Point were re-opened (during lockdown 2,230 people visited PP pier)
- Decision was made to cancel this year's Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival (July); refunds being given
- Facebook and other on-line offerings continue to be very popular
- The museum's e-store is doing well but income is far below normal; Mother's Day offerings were very popular
- Division began weekly Facebook offerings of things from our collection, and videos of stories from SMC history
- New changing exhibit at Piney Point (Corinthian Yacht Club) is nearly finished and will be ready for reopening
- Three students have expressed an interest in summer internships
- Leonardtown approved financial support of the operation of the Old Jail Museum; accepted by county as well
- Day of Giving resulted in some donations and interest in the Friends organization

#### **C. Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums Update**

- Remain active in looking for supplemental funding in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Working on grants as 501-C-3 to supplement payroll of Friends and to make up for revenue losses of museum division.
- Maryland Heritage Area Grant also applied for; though the initial money ran out, trying to be in line for any next round of funding.
- Looking to find funding for projects, especially for Piney Point Lighthouse displays.
- The open Board position has been filled by Brian Williams.

### **5. ADJOURN**

#### **A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting**

- Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: July 13, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. – Conference Call (or, Room 14, Potomac Building, St. Mary's County Governmental Center, Leonardtown, MD 20650)

#### **B. Adjournment**

- Adjournment: Motion by Lynn Fitrell, seconded by Regina Faden, adjournment at 9:23 a.m.