

## Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, July 13, 2020)

Generated by Andrew Ponti

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order at 8:32 AM

### 2. ROLL CALL

#### A. Roll Call

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

#### B. Welcome New Members

- Karla Langhus introduced herself to the Board. Welcome, Karla! Karla "loves museums," wants to learn more about St. Mary's County history and culture, and looks forward to spreading the word about the museums' activities.
  - Dale notes that we are still two members short of our allotted 11, and we are looking to fill those positions.
  - If any members are having issues with BoardDocs, communicate with Dale or Andrew Ponti for help.

#### C. Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2020 Meeting

I move to approve the minutes of June 8, 2020 as presented.

Motion by Mary Pettit, second by Amy Davis.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dale Springer, Mary Pettit, Dr Regina M Faden, Michael Blackwell, Amy Davis, Karla A Langhus

### 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. The subcommittee meetings may take place in the new Garvey Center, with the public on a call-in basis.

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

- A meeting between DNR and St. Clement Hundred has taken place but no signed document is prepared yet.

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

- One June 11, the Friends saw a draft MOU. The MOU is still pending final comment from the Friends.
- A concern: The inventory of the Museum Stores is not insured by the county, as was supposed, and so the Friends are in the process of seeking insurance quotes. Once that issue is resolved, approval should be quick.

#### D. Open Board Positions

#### E. Museum Division 2019 Annual Report

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

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

- Testing of employees in the Division is occurring to help ensure public safety.
- Walking on the trail has grown immensely in popularity.
- The new turf fields are in place and will be a game-changer for sports in the county.
- The Homeless Encampment has been disbanded, with all but 5 people now in homes. Help for those 5 is ongoing.
- The Commissioners are looking at the effect of the hiring freeze on the Department tomorrow and may consider limited hiring in light of growth of use of Department facilities.
- We are still on the Governor's Schedule for reopening the Museums, and Arthur is working with the Health Department on possible ways to open on a limited basis, with reservations perhaps in place to allow staff to be in place and to control the number visitors.
- Plans for the renovations at St. Clement's Island Museum are with an architect, which is progress.

#### B. Museum Division Update

- Water Taxi began operations 7 days a week with restricted capacity.
- All June events were canceled.
- July, August and September events have been canceled.
- If the museums are able to reopen in August, Lighthouse weekend will be held but just as a small event – no outside participants as vendors or exhibitors.
- If restrictions are lifted, a Dinner and a Cruise event will be added back in during the fall.
- Facebook and other on-line offerings continue to be very popular.
- The museum's e-store continues to do well; Father's Day offerings were popular.
- Temporary 1st floor exhibit at Piney Point (Corinthian Yacht Club) is finished.
- Painting of all permanent exhibit areas at Piney Point is finished; exhibit installation begins July 1.
- The Old Jail Museum is getting upgrades as needed.
- A second intern was brought on for the summer, to help with research for exhibits at the Old Jail Museum, with a \$2,300 grant from the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Trails.
- A virtual walking tour at Piney Point is available.
- At Piney Point, we have seen some issues with people coming on the grounds after hours; Karen and April have worked with law enforcement to sort this out. They have also worked with the neighborhood association in the area to sort out issues with attempts to close the road.
- Maryland Heritage Area Authority grant will pay for the prep work for the Piscataway exhibit.
- Funding for the porcelain eggs at Piney Point has been secured.
- A game kiosk is funded at Piney Point that teaches people (especially young people) learn about birds.
- The Friends have funded the Fresnel lens at Piney Point.

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

- Still working on the MOU with the Museum Division, as noted above.
- The 2020 Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival was canceled far enough in advance to avoid any financial loss.
- The Museum Facebook page will have some jazz-related events during the time the Festival was to take place.
- Working with the Museum Division on the Old Jail Museum project, including a small museum store.
- Working to try to increase membership.
- There is some consideration to change the name of the organization from "Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums," which is not representative of all activities, to something shorter and more helpful. Suggestions are being taken.
- Karla asks if there are any Friends activities at which company members could volunteer so that the company would be able to sponsor those events. The answer is yes, although activities are canceled this year due to the pandemic, Dale will look to compile and distribute a list of potential upcoming activities. Some funding could be available for this year, so action will be taken.

## 5. ADJOURN

### A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

- September 14, 2020; Location TBD

### B. Adjournment

I move to adjourn the meeting of July 13, 2020.

Motion by Dr. Regina M. Faden, second by Mary Pettit.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 AM.

Yea: Dale Springer, Mary Pettit, Dr. Regina M Faden, Michael Blackwell, Amy Davis, Karla A Langhus.