

Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, January 24, 2022)

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Call to Order at 8:30 a.m.
- B. Moment of Silence
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call

- Members present: Robin Finnacom, Lynn Fitrell, Jeannette Pettit, Michael Blackwell, Walter Boswell, Laura Friess, Amy Davis, Mike Brown, Karla Langhus, Regina Faden
- Members absent: Catherine Bowes
- Staff: Karen Stone, Arthur Shepherd
- **Quorum Established**

B. Approval of Minutes from November 15, 2021 Meeting

- Moved to accept by Lynn Fitrell
- Seconded by Jeannette Pettit
- **Adopted Unanimously**

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. MOU - Museum Division / Friends

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed by the County Commissioners; the Friends are now writing several grants to benefit the museums

B. Update on Strategic Plan

- Karla Langhus reports that the process is on schedule; a meeting with Museum Division employees is scheduled for February to solicit their ideas on action items

C. Update on St. Clement's Island Museum Building Plans

- Plans are not completely finished but are very close to completion. The deck has been extended slightly too far and needs to be scaled back to fit the current footprint, as required by permitting in the critical zone. The permits are underway and look likely to be approved. The interior plans are nearly complete. The final construction schedule is being determined. The plans are appended to these minutes.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Staffing & Hiring Updates

- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Site Supervisor
 - Interviews are being held this week
 - A number of good candidates applied
 - Narrowed field down to the top 5, but one withdrew so we will interview four
- Hiring for Museum Assistants (front line staff) year round now

B. Appraiser Fair at St. Clement's Island Museum Update

- About 60 people attended - a bit smaller than usual, likely due to cold weather and COVID, but attendees had an enjoyable day.

C. St. Mary's County Museum Division Update

NOVEMBER

- The Benjamin Hance Historic Marker Dedication Ceremony was held November 1, 2021 at the Old Jail Museum and was a huge success
- The Holiday Open House at Piney Point was successful, with attendance better than any prior year (141 over 4 hours)
- The Old Jail Museum was open for Leonardtown's Christmas on the Square with good attendance
- Wildlife Photography Class was held at St. Clement's Island Museum (14 people attended)
- April Havens, the Piney Point Site Manager, retired after 15 years

DECEMBER

- The December-long Christmas exhibits were as popular as ever at St. Clement's Island Museum and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
- The Holiday Open House at St. Clement's Island Museum was successful, with attendance of 83 over 4 hours

HUSEMAN PROPERTY

- The house next door to St. Clement's Island Museum is now in the hands of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and they are working on the lease
- Museum Division can use it with case-by-case permissions
- St. Mary's County Department of Public Works (DPW) has done an exterior inspection and it is in good repair
- DNR prefers we keep it at this time rather than razing it and replacing for other uses

D. Coordination of County Museums & Historic Sites

- The group is working on a pass that could be given to B&B guests, paid for the B&B owners, that would allow access to all museums and historic sites in St. Mary's County. A joint event between Sotterley and the Museums is being planned for the Blessings of the Fleet weekend. Events for Moll Dyer Day and An Underground Railroad Commemoration Day are being coordinated. The different entities are trying to eliminate event schedule conflicts.

E. Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums and Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival Update

- Plans continue for an expanded and exciting event with gifted musicians across 3 days. See www.PotomacJazzAndSeafoodFestival.com for continual updates.

F. Department of Recreation & Parks Update

- Arthur Shepherd, Director, reports that the Department is nearly done with Accreditation (CAPRA) process, and is confident they will be successful.

G. Monthly Report & Upcoming Events

- On January 26, 2022, St. Clement's Island Museum is opened to the local public for an update on what will be happening at the new museum building
- The Chamber Business After Hour, also scheduled for January 26, 2022 at the museum is postponed by the pandemic
- Maryland Day is Friday, March 25, 2022 at St. Clement's Island Museum with Mass on the island at 11:00 a.m. and the ceremony is at 2:00 p.m. Museum is open to the public for free all day from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with free water taxi rides until 2:00 p.m. and food trucks on site
- A presentation on the Black Diamond Tragedy during the American Civil War is upcoming
- Dinner and Cruise Series 2022 schedule is now posted
- Many guest lectures are scheduled at the museums
- Retrofest on the Potomac at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum has been moved to June to coincide with antique boat races

5. ADJOURN

A. Announcements, Clarifications or Questions

B. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: March 14, 2022

C. Adjournment at 9:11 a.m.

- Moved by Robin Finnacom
- Seconded by Regina Faden
- **Motion Passes Unanimously**