

Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, March 11, 2024)

1. CALL TO ORDER: 8:32 a.m.

- A. Establish Quorum
- B. Moment of Silence
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call

- Present: Conner Wolfe, President; Laura Friess, Kate Ross, Robin Finnacom, Carla Langhus, Kathy Bailey, Michael Brown, Michael Blackwell (Lilyanne Ohanesian has resigned due to work changes, leaving two vacancies)
- Present for County: Karen Stone, Arthur Shepherd
- Absent: Lynn Fitrell; Catherine Bowes

B. Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2024 Meeting

- Motion by Mike Brown
- Seconded by Carla Langhus
- Approved unanimously

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board of Trustees Legal Requirements

- Try to attend Open Meetings Act Training offered by the County on 3/13/2024, or view the video made of it
- A few notes: There are no excused absences; we cannot conduct business without a quorum; we must meet in a county place that allows proper video recording

B. Strategic Plan Refresher

- The St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks is working on a strategic plan now; a SWOT analysis has been made for the department and will be conducted for each of the divisions (museums, etc.)
- The Museum's strategic plan is on the county website.
- The Board's plan has recently had some updates; board members should review.
- Robin Finnacom commented on the importance placed on communication aspect of the plan and asked if there were ways to enhance getting news to other organizations and press releases. Karen talked about some recent related efforts, including co-marketing with event partners such as the library. Each of the museums has an Instagram and Facebook account.

C. Bylaws Reminder

- The bylaws are on the website as well. Conner Wolfe reminded the board of Section 2, our purpose, and of Article 4, on attendance.

D. Board Calendar for 2024

Proposed upcoming meeting events:

- May: Friends' new membership program and other opportunities for financial support; Possible discussion with the Unified Committee on Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) about the U. S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center in Lexington Manor Passive Park
- July: Joint meeting with the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums at Wicomico Shores Golf Course to discuss Friends' budget; Division budget priorities
- September: Recruitment; Draft Division budget review
- November: Visit St. Mary's MD meeting; Division budget adoption
- January 2025: Election of officers

E. Training Session for Members of Boards, Committees & Commissions

- Scheduled for March 13, 2024 at 5:20 p.m. in the Commissioners of St. Mary's County's Meeting Room (Chesapeake Building)

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Annual Report

- Submitted to county in January of 2024

B. Finance Report

- Getting to the end of the FY24 budget year and spending remaining funds

C. Division & Trustees Reports Posted Online

- All St. Mary's County Museum Division public documents can be found at this link: <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Recreate/Museums/Reports/>

D. St. Mary's County Museum Division & Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums Updates

January

- Division held a training session for all of the Museum Assistants – well received
- St. Clement's Island Museum held its annual Appraiser Fair – 103 tickets sold; 85 attended (2023=167)
- Division Manager gave a lecture at the Leonardtown Library: Targeting Lighthouses: the Civil War on the Potomac River
- Staff worked with Amy Carter and the St. Mary's County Public Information Office on a Black History Month video featuring county-owned sites of relevance

February

- The Division was part of the Black History Month proclamation issued by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County
- The U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center was open with staff and volunteers every Wednesday and Saturday for Black History Month
- The Drayden African American Schoolhouse was open every Saturday for Black History Month
- Mediation Center of St. Mary's County held a Community Conversation event with the Division at the U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center
- The Old Jail Museum participated in Moll Dyer Day (2024 = 286; 2023 = 111)
- The federally funded water taxi went out to bid
- Division Manager guest lectured for St. Mary's College of Maryland's Museum Studies class
- Students toured Piney Point Lighthouse Museum later in the month

Upcoming

- March 12th: Mobile Library at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum (2nd Tuesday of every month)
- March 19th: Division Manager giving a talk at Leonardtown Library: "I Know You! Intercolonial Relations in the 17th century"
- March 25th: Maryland Day at St. Clement's Island Museum; water taxi season opens
- March 28th: Mobile Library at St. Clement's Island Museum (4th Thursday of every month)
- April 6th: Rebels & Redcoats at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
- April 13th: First Landing Wine & Arts Festival at St. Clement's Island Museum
- April 20th: Southern Maryland National Heritage Area public launch event (St. Mary's College of Maryland)
- April 21st: Black Diamond Ceremony & Civil War Day at St. Clement's Island Museum
- May 16-20: American Alliance of Museums annual conference: Baltimore: 3 staff are attending

E. St. Clement's Island Museum Building Plans Updates

- Will be soliciting bids for construction in March 2024, evaluating responses and choosing a contractor, and then beginning construction. Demolishing the old building most likely to begin in October

F. St. Mary's County Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Update

- We will know more after the hearing tomorrow

G. St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks Update

- Arthur Shepherd, St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks Director: the sign at the Drayden African American Schoolhouse will be renovated
- April 6, Cherry Blossom Festival, the Arts Park is being readied for the event
- Murals are being completed at many county locations
- Repairs on the pier at Piney Point will be undertaken soon

5. ADJOURN

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

- May 13, 2024 in Room 14, Potomac Building, St. Mary's County Governmental Center, Leonardtown, MD 20650

B. Upcoming Events

March

- 25: Maryland Day at St. Clements Island Museum | 10AM to 5PM; Ceremony 2PM
- 25: Water Taxi Service at St. Clements Island Museum begins daily
- 29: Good Friday | SCIM, PPLM & OJM open 10AM to 5PM

- 31: Easter | SCIM, PPLM & OJM open 10AM to 5PM

April

- 5: Leonardtown First Friday | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 7PM
- 6: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House | 11AM to 2PM
- 6: Rebels & Redcoats at PPLM | 10AM to 4PM
- 6: Cherry Blossom Festival at Lexington Manor Park | Museums Table
- 13: First Landing Wine & Arts Festival | 10AM to 5PM
- 13: Second Saturdays as part of the First Landing Wine & Arts Festival
- 21: Black Diamond Event | 10AM to 5PM; Ceremony 2PM Sunday Only
- 21: Dinner & a Cruise: The Civil War and St. Clements Island
- 27: Car Show in Leonardtown | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 5PM

May

- 3: Leonardtown First Friday | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 7PM
- 4: Homecoming at Drayden African American Schoolhouse | 11AM to 2PM
- 11: Second Saturdays
- 12: Mother's Day (Free admission for moms at SCIM & PPLM)
- 12: Dinner & a Cruise: Topic TBD

C. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Michael Blackwell
- Seconded by Robin Finnacom
- Passed unanimously