

Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, September 9, 2024)

1. CALL TO ORDER (8:41 a.m.)

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

2. ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call

- Members Present: Lynn Fitrell, Robin Finnacom, Kate Ross, Catherine Bowes, Laura Friess, Karla Langhus, Caitlyn Socrates, Michael Brown, Kathy Bailey, Conner Wolfe, Michael Blackwell
- Staff Present: Karen Stone, Jessica Hale (Acting Director, Recreation and Parks Division)

B. Approval of Minutes from July 8, 2024 Meeting

- Laura Friess moves to approve
- Caitlyn Socrates seconds
- Motion passes unanimously

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks Leadership Transition

- Jessica Hale gave an update about the budget timeline
- She noted that there is a national search on for the Director position, with several rounds of interviews culminating in an interview with the Commissioners of St. Mary's County
- The Parks Operation Manager, Aquatics and Wellness Manager and Communications Coordinator positions are also open and to be filled
- Karen Stone noted that a Boat Captain position is also open and budget allowing, a Mate position will also be added
- The Education Coordinator position in the Museum Division is also open

B. St. Mary's County Museum Division 2025 Budget

- Karen noted that the Division is doing much more, so it needs more employees
- Much of the budget goes to essentials like utilities, memberships, insurance, etc.
- For next year, it is hoped to make a Boat Captain position fulltime and to add a Mate position, but the other budget lines should remain about the same
- A contract for the new boat has been negotiated but not awarded; the boat should be completed before the end of summer 2025
- For FY26, the Trustees would like to see Fundraising and Exhibits employees added, but it is understood that will be up to county funding
- Having the Drayden African American Schoolhouse open more often is a priority for the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC)

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Opportunities for Trustees to Support the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums

- Conner Wolfe reminded the board members that the Friends can use help at events; a schedule of events may be found online

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

Highlights of the Division Overall

JULY

- 24th Annual Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival was held at the St. Clement's Island Museum and at College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Leonardtown campus. It will be expanded next year for the 25th anniversary.
- Museum Art Kids was held at the St. Clement's Island Museum
- Outdoor Adventures was held at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
- Drayden began its schedule of 2 open houses a month
- Dinner & a Cruise program continued with sold out attendance
- Division participated in two outreach events this month
 - Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC) meet and greet event (co-hosted)
 - St. Mary's County Teacher's In-service training

- The Division Manager gave a talk at the Leonardtown Library about St. Mary's County in the Revolutionary Era; another talk at the library will occur later this month
- Began planning for Blessing of the Fleet, which returns to the St. Clement's Island Museum this year

AUGUST

- Annual Lighthouse Weekend was held at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
- Children's Day at St. Clement's Island Museum was a great success again this year
- Museum Art Kids was held at the St. Clement's Island Museum
- Drayden continued its schedule of 2 open houses a month
- Dinner & a Cruise program continued and is back at Morris Point
- Division participated in two outreach events this month
 - Sunflower Festival
 - St. Mary's County Teacher's In-service training
- Accepted a donation of images related to Blackistone Lighthouse Keeper Leonard Staubly
- Division was awarded a grant from the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area for restoration of some boat building tools and objects
- ADA water taxi bid was received, adjusted and being awarded
- New museum building project took some big steps forward toward bid release; there were negotiations over certain fees, which have now been settled. The bid should go public soon

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

- See Jessica Hale's comments on leadership transition above
- The Department has been nominated in 5 categories for "Best of" for the Southern Maryland News; voting will run for the next few weeks and board members are encouraged to vote

5. ADJOURN

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: November 4, 2024

B. Upcoming Events

- September 14: FamilyFest on the Potomac at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum (9:00 a.m.: Ceremony for U-1105; Event: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
- September 25: Chamber of Commerce Business after Hours at St. Clement's Island Museum (5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)
- October 5: Blessing of the Fleet at St. Clement's Island Museum

C. Adjournment

- Motion by Michael Brown
- Seconded by Karla Langhus
- Adjournment at 9:28 a.m.