

Museum Board Minutes

Meeting held in Potomac Room at Governmental Center

March 11, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order 8:32 a.m. The following members were present: Steve Dunlap, Lynn Fitrell, Brian Barthleme, Dale Springer, Stephanie Waikart, Helen Dorsey, Susan Gough; staff members: Debra Pence and Brian Loewe. Members excused: Patricia Friend and Barbara McWilliams.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence. Minutes of the 1/14/13 meeting were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

The Appraiser Fair's attendance, held at St. Clement's Island Museum, perhaps was diminished a little by the previous snow that fell the night before with a small profit over expenses. January and February attendance was similar to 2012. The Clifton family will share 17th C artifacts found on their property on Maryland Day. Staff helped revamp facilities for the coming season.

Suggestions solicited from the Board and the community regarding permanent interpretive displays at St. Clements Island for the coming years were encouraged; such as, Potomac River history -- rotating exhibits displaying a slice of county life near or on the river; light keeper's life on St. Clements Island.

NEW BUSINESS

Brian Loewe and Debra Pence, staff members, gave a concise and professional presentation to the Trustees on upcoming events and expenditures for the coming fiscal year and that a good working relationship exists between the two. Ms. Pence reported revenue is flat and that the Parks and Recreation budget will stay the same as last year. Expenditures were moved around, however CIP was not changed. Lancaster Park monies were restored, as was the "flattop" house. Additionally, monies are available for Piney Point Lighthouse and Museum.

THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Dale Springer reported the “Friends” met on February 27. The group’s finances are sound. Their goal for the Jazz Festival is to balance the event package with sponsors. Marketing recommendations were solicited from Museum Division.

Two positions are open on the Board. Two nominees at this time are Judy Sterling and Todd Morgan. Lewie Aldridge, Jr. will serve as president. Mary Hyatt will assist as vice president. Future Friends Board meetings to be determined for coming months.

ST. CLEMENT’S HUNDRED

Helen Dorsey , board member of St. Clement Hundred, presented a projects report by the Governor’s Advisory on State Parks, and a copy of the Funding Study, to the Board.

Other items included in Helen’s report are : composting toilet is on its way; materials for the museum pier redecking , a long-awaited project, arrived at the Island this week and will be brought by the barge to the pier; story boards are together; (individual?) presented the committee with a suggestion of a 60 passenger paddle wheel boat designed for disabled people to connect them to the island from museum; access to Newtowne Neck Park on hold waiting for answers from MD DNR regarding the safety issue from found ordinances.

STAFF REPORT

Debra Pence passed out the “Friends” budget, which supplements the county budget, to Board members.

Debra presented an overview for raising fees to the public visiting the museum, which haven’t been raised since before 2000, for consideration. The topic was open for discussion. After reviewing the pros and cons for the raise and a vote was taken, the Board unanimously approved the raise as requested.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Maryland Day, St. Clements Island, March 25th.
- Piney Point Lighthouse and Museum opening, March 25.
- Volunteer Clean Up of grounds at both sites, March 25.
- Volunteer Appreciation luncheon for approximately 35 to 58 volunteers. Awards to be given. April 14.
- Next Board meeting at Piney Point Lighthouse and Museum, May 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m. after motion made and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Stephanie Waikart, secretary