

## Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, May 13, 2024)

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

### 2. ROLL CALL

#### A. Roll Call

- Present: Conner Wolfe - President, Kate Ross, Robin Finnacom, Carla Langhus, Kathy Bailey, Michael Brown, Lynn Fitrell, Catherine Bowes, Michael Blackwell
- County Staff: Karen Stone, Arthur Shepherd, Gary Whipple (DPW), Jeffrey Reed (DPW)
- Absent: Laura Friess

#### B. Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2024 Meeting

- Motion by Lynn Fitrell
- Seconded by Carla Langhus
- Approved unanimously

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. St. Mary's County Department of Public Works (DPW) Presentation on New St. Clement's Island Museum Building Plans

- The museum is a unique project, capturing a story of the founding of Maryland. DPW doesn't know the narrative and space needs, so they depend on the Division to come up with that. They help the building suit that narrative and space.
- It should be modern, but not too modern, and match the local architecture.
- It originally had a partial second floor; however, after design, it has a full second floor.
- It matches the current footprint and so avoids extra permitting and development.
- The entrance leads into a reception desk and then the museum store; the lobby will serve as a visitor center.
- The exhibit space on first floor has some flexibility to allow for different display options.
- The first floor has an orientation room, multipurpose room and research library.
- The mural will be preserved and moved into the building towards the end of the project.
- The second floor will have permanent displays through the Piscataway and English views and ship models.
- It will also have a "Please Touch" room for tactile learning.
- The second floor will house the staff offices and breakroom.
- Schedule: Approvals completed February, 2024; Posted bid, May 2024; bid received, Jul 2024; Construction award, August 2024; Notice to proceed, September 2024; Substantial completion, December 2025.
- Questions
  - Will artifacts be on display? Yes, from the Piscataway, the Smithsonian and some from the English side, including digital copies of items from the Calvert manor in England and Father White's journal.
  - Will there be interactives? Yes, including many touch screens, including one of the Piscataway language.
  - Will people be allowed to rent space for private parties? Yes.
  - Will there be QR codes to help engage people with the displays? Yes, they are being worked on with County IT with due consideration for cybersecurity.
  - Will there be space for changing exhibits from local partners? Yes.
  - What color is it? A gray-blue pastel that is muted rather than bold.
  - Will the windows open? No, that is not ideal in a museum.
  - Why does the National Park Service need to approve? Because part of the funding comes from that source.
  - Where are the emergency exits and the ADA entrance? Located on the deck, with the elevator close by the ADA entrance.
  - Will plantings around the foundation be native for educational purposes? Yes.
  - Could there be a weather station? It has been discussed. The water temperature and salinity displays are already planned, but more could be added.
  - Will there be a "coming soon" construction sign soon, to suggest why the current building is not being well-maintained? Not until it is out to bid, so we are more certain.

### 4. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Board of Trustees Legal Requirements

- We discussed the ADA aspects of the new building

#### B. Bylaws Reminder

- May be viewed online

### C. Strategic Plan Refresher

- May be viewed online

### D. Board Calendar for 2024

- The July meeting should be a joint one with the Friends

### E. Division & Trustees Reports Posted Online

- May be viewed online

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

#### March

- The Division celebrated Maryland Day at SCIM with a great crowd
- A large dead tree was removed from the annex yard at SCIM
- A new art exhibit was hung at SCIM for Women's History Month
- The federally funded water taxi received 1 bid – late – so will go out again
- The Museum Division Manager signed a book contract with The History Press
- The St. Mary's County Mobile Library began its monthly visits to PPLM and SCIM

#### April

- The Division had 3 special events in April
  - Rebels & Redcoats at Piney Point: 350 to 400 people attended to see blacksmith demo, cannon firing, musket drills
  - First Landing Wine & Arts Festival at SCIM with 350 to 400 people
  - The Black Diamond commemorative ceremony at SCIM: 50 people attended on a very cold, rainy day
- The Dinner & a Cruise series started up again (sold out)
- A temporary exhibit was hung at SCIM for the Black Diamond event
- Recreation & Parks Department staff is working on strategic plan
- What changes or improvements would UCAC like to see in our partnership with the Museum Division?
  - Joint Strategic Planning for the following:
    - Drayden African American Schoolhouse open to the public more often. Specifically, we'd like to see it open every Saturday or, at least, two Saturdays a month from April – October. UCAC would continue to cover one Saturday a month with docents from our membership.
    - Put a Generac heater/cooler at Drayden for the health of volunteers - heat/cold weather open windows (insects), showing presentations, etc.
    - Discussion of cleaning Drayden School
  - UCAC Interpretive Center - More welcoming entrances
    - Cobwebs cleared around the entrances of the Interpretive Center
    - Office signage for UCAC (at our expense)
    - Cobwebs in the building - dust
    - Termites suspected in the building
    - Exhibits - Redo the area based on research for interior exhibits in a building that size and shape
    - Support in revising existing exhibits for a more professional display
    - Support in developing portable exhibits to travel to schools and organizations
    - Display cabinets for artifacts, etc.
  - Museum Division Membership in the Smithsonian Museum and the National Museum of African American History for more access
    - Traveling exhibits.
    - Other resources that these museums have to offer
    - More accessible audio-visual equipment for sharing power points and you tube presentations (big screen tv. or screen, lower the projector, etc.
    - Planning workshops, presentations, book talks, films, of past and contemporary issues that connect the past to the present.
    - Work session for ways to get the youth involved in the African American history of St. Mary's County.

### G. St. Mary's County Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Update

- The appeal for the raised employee hourly rate was approved by the County Commissioners for \$31,000.
- The request for moving the part-time position to full-time was postponed till next year.

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

- The Carver Building is being renovated, with the Arts Council and Pax Space partnering on a Makerspace. Supporting grants are being sought, and a lease is being worked on.

## 5. ADJOURN

### A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: July 8, 2024

## B. Upcoming Events

- May 15-20: American Alliance of Museums annual conference in Baltimore – 3 staff attending
- June 1: Heritage Day at SCIM
- June 14: Flag Day
- June 15, 16, 19: Juneteenth
- June 22: State 250th Launch event in Annapolis
- June 18: Kids Art classes resume at SCIM
- July 12-14: Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival
- July 22: Outdoor Adventures resume at PPLM

## C. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Robin Finnacom
- Seconded by Lynn Fitrell
- Passed unanimously