

Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, January 27, 2025)

Location: Room 14, Potomac Building, St. Mary's County Governmental Center, Leonardtown, MD

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Establish Quorum (8:35 a.m.)
- B. Moment of Silence
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL

- A. Roll Call
 - Present: Caitlyn Socrates, Katherine Ross, Karla Langhus, Kathy Bailey, Michael Brown, Lynn Fitrell, Michael Blackwell
 - Absent: Robin Finnacom, Laura, Freiss, Catherine Bowes, Conner Wolfe
 - Staff: Karen Stone
- B. Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2024 Meeting
 - Motion to approve: Lynn Fitrell
 - Seconded by Michael Brown
 - Passes unanimous

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Officers & Nominations
 - The nominating committee spoke with the following: Conner Wolfe as Chair, Michael Brown as Deputy Chair, Michael Blackwell as Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor.
 - Motion to approve: Lynn Fitrell
 - Seconded by Michael Brown
 - Passes unanimously
- B. Board Calendar for 2025
 - Should we have different partner agencies attend? Item put on hold till next month for a fuller discussion.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Annual Report
 - 2024 Annual Report was approved via email and submitted to the county in December 2024.
- B. St. Mary's County Museum Division & Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums Updates
 - November**
 - Piney Point Lighthouse Museum held its first Evening Tides Holiday program and had a great response
 - The Friends received a general operating support grant from the MD Humanities Council
 - Division staff participated in two conferences
 - Annual partners meeting
 - Annual conference
 - Staff participated in variety of online programs and training seminars
 - Division hosted the MD Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission SOMD Public Hearing
 - Second Saturdays program continues through the winter
 - December**
 - Both St. Clement's Island Museum and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum had successful holiday open houses
 - Staff attended some online training sessions
 - Friends sent out an annual appeal for the first time in a few years
 - Department hosted Cookies and a Story with Commissioner Santa at the Interpretive Center
 - Division participated in one outreach event this month
 - Christmas on the Square
 - Upcoming**
 - January
 - 25th: Appraiser Fair (with specials for members)
 - February
 - 14th: Community Day: At both sites, the community may submit items and documents/photos for copying to expand the museum's collection.

- Wednesdays and Saturdays: USCT Interpretive Center open for Black History Month
- Saturdays: Drayden African American Schoolhouse open for Black History Month
- March
 - 25th: Maryland Day: Historic St. Mary's will only do displays in the future, so the Museum Division will be the sole host. Many vendors and partners have been invited for the day.

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

- A slide show with conceptual photos, floor plans, and construction schedule was shared. It (and other capital projects) can be viewed on the department website: <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/docs/SCIMOverview.pdf?202501131358>
- Karen Stone presented with the Jessica Hale absent to give the new Department Director (starting today) an orientation.
 - The Budget has been submitted to the county; it does include extra hours for boat captain/mate and for marketing money
 - The division wants to put in free-standing (not connected to the Intranet) kiosks at Piney Point, with videos on the Fresnel Lens, the sunken U-Boat, and various lighthouse keepers. This item has been picked up by the IT department for their budget.
 - The department's new marketing position has been hired
 - Museum Board members are asked to keep track of their volunteer hours, either keeping a list until December or submitting on a case-by-case basis to Karen and Andrew.
 - Questions about the museum capital presentation:
 - Where will the mural be located? Close to the entrance of the museum itself, along a long wall
 - Will there be a key to identify people in it? Yes, a key will be on hand to identify people and also some things the mural may not have exactly correct
 - Why have the captain year-round? The new boat will be more enclosed, so the season can be extended; the captain can do necessary maintenance during the three-month off season
 - Will the existing dock need to be expanded? No, the dock will work and the boat will have a temporary ramp to make it ADA compliant; the docks on the island are being re-done by the state.
 - Will the docks on the island be done in time for the new boat? Yes, and all completed as one large project

5. ADJOURN

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: March 10, 2025

B. Upcoming Events

February

- 1: Black History Month Open House at the USCT Interpretive Center | 10AM to 2PM
- 1: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Black History Month Open House | 11AM to 2PM
- 5: Black History Month Open House at the USCT Interpretive Center | 10AM to 2PM
- 7: Leonardtown First Friday | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 7PM
- 8: Black History Month Open House at the USCT Interpretive Center | 10AM to 2PM
- 8: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Black History Month Open House | 11AM to 2PM
- 12: Black History Month Open House at the USCT Interpretive Center | 10AM to 2PM
- 14: Community Day at St. Clement's Island Museum | 10AM to 5PM
- 14: Community Day at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum | 10AM to 5PM
- 15: Black History Month Open House at the USCT Interpretive Center | 10AM to 2PM
- 15: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Black History Month Open House | 11AM to 2PM
- 17: President's Day | SCIM, PPLM & OJM open 10AM to 5PM
- 19: Black History Month Open House at the USCT Interpretive Center | 10AM to 2PM
- 22: Black History Month Open House at the USCT Interpretive Center | 10AM to 2PM
- 22: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Black History Month Open House | 11AM to 2PM
- 22: Moll Dyer Day | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 6:30PM (Tours 6:30PM to 11:30PM)
- 26: Black History Month Open House at the USCT Interpretive Center | 10AM to 2PM

March

- 7: Leonardtown First Friday | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 7PM
- 25: Maryland Day at St. Clement's Island Museum | 10AM to 5PM; Ceremony 2PM

C. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Michael Blackwell
- Seconded by Lynn Fitrell
- Meeting closed at 9:34 a.m.