

Fort Concho Museum Board Minutes

September 21, 2021

I. OPEN SESSION

A. Call to Order - President Roger Banks called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. at Fort Concho's Barracks 6, Flipper at Burgess Streets.

B. Determination of a quorum –Site Manager, Bob Bluthardt, established that a quorum was present with 10 members and one member arrived later for a total of 11 members.

Members present at 3:33 p.m.: Roger Banks, Joyce Lowe, Lisa Marley, Yukio Kuniyuki, Brandon Allen, Dave Schaller, Major Barger (covering for LTC Garwacki), Don Barnhart, Curtis Milbourn, and Kathy Keane. Dr. Jason Pierce arrived at 3:37 p.m.

C. Approval of excused absences – Sherley Spears, Lori Barton and Curtis Milbourn were absent. Brandon Allen moved to approve the absences. Joyce Lowe seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Introduction of guests – Marci Menchaca, Interim Director of House of Faith and Annie Zesch, House of Faith Volunteer Coordinator

Regular Agenda item #5: Review and Approval of House of Faith event on Fort Concho Grounds and use of buildings December 12-17 and waiving of most fees and charges - The board considered item 5 of the Regular Consent Agenda: Ms. Menchaca and Ms. Zesch provided a one-page handout called "Wrangling Together Cowboy Christmas" by Ryan Moran. The handout consisted of text and photos of the 2020 Christmas event held at the fort. The House of Faith proposed holding the 2021 event at the fort and asked for use of the facilities. The event would be held December 12 (the Sunday after Christmas at Old Fort Concho) and would continue until December 17. House of Faith members will volunteer at the fort in exchange for use of our facility for their event. Kathy Keane moved to approve the use of Fort Concho facilities for the 2021 House of Faith Christmas event and waiving fees. Curtis Milbourn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

E. Presentations – None.

F. Public Comment - None.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration of approving the August 17, 2021 Minutes – Curtis Milbourn moved to accept the minutes of 08/17/2021. Dave Schaller seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report - Treasurer, Lisa Marley, presented the following:

In the 11th month of the fiscal year, we are at 91.7% mark. Our operating income is at \$947,271.00 and expenses are \$849,247.00. Our revenue is \$98,000 over our budgeted amount. August income was up \$13,000 over last year. Rental income has continued to bounce back as COVID restrictions have eased. Our shop income is in the top three of the past ten years. We expect membership to exceed our

budgeted amount. Bob reported that our rental deposits are kept in a separate fund from the rest of the fort's funds, and these have not been fully refunded in the last 10-12 years. The money will be transferred to the Fort Concho fund balance with the exception of about \$5,000.00 which will remain in the rental deposit fund to cover any past issues. The fort's fund balance is a separate city account and cannot be transferred or otherwise used without City Manager approval. The fort is required to carry a fund balance equal to 90 days operating budget, so the current and future balances will meet that goal. This means that we are in a good position financially and the fort's financial safety net is strong. Joyce Lowe moved to accept the treasurer's report. Don Barnhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Site Manager's Report -Bob Bluthardt, Site Manager, yielded the floor to Cory Robinson for Item #9 of the Regular Consent Agenda: Collections Report and Consideration and Approval of Collections Acquisitions - Cory announced that the entire Gordon Chappell Collection has now arrived on site, and he has ordered storage boxes for proper storage of the helmets. Cory brought a helmet from the collection. It is circa 1882-1883. It is an Allen shell with a pointed front visor. After cleaning the helmet, it appears that it could have been put together from pieces of other helmets or it belonged to a mounted officer or maybe it isn't even from the 16th Infantry as originally thought. Cory cannot pinpoint if it was ever used at Fort Concho. He hopes that by Christmas at Old Fort Concho, we will be able to display some of the helmets. Brandon Allen moved to accept and assess the Gordon Chappell Collection. Yukio Kuniyuki seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Cory also brought another item that was recently donated. It is a Civil War era, 1856 patent, .52 caliber Gibbs Carbine. L.E. Gibbs patented the carbine for its breech load mechanism. It used a paper cartridge. There were only 1052 of these manufactured before the factory was burned down during the New York Draft Riots in 1863. The serial number on this carbine is #37. Around 500 of these were issued to the 10th Missouri Cavalry and smaller quantities went to the 13th and 14th New York Cavalry. This carbine was most likely used by the Missouri Cavalry. Kathy Keane moved to accept the item into our collection. Curtis Milbourn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The Barracks 2 display is coming along. The history of wagons and civilian contractors will be interpreted, but the main focus will be artillery and the frontier army. The 2022 "May San Angelo Gives" project will most likely be targeted for this part of the interpretive plan previously approved by the board. Our intern, Hannah Hill, is back and she is working on the interpretation of Native American History. We have money for that project, and it is the next focus of the interpretive plan. A discussion of insurance for the fort's collections followed.

Bob took back the floor and presented his report. The staff have been busy with several smaller events. Our color guard presented at the Miles Cotton Festival. Our speaker series has seen 25-30 participants at each event. The Cowboy Way Jubilee October 7-10 has been cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns. The event is rescheduled for September 29 to October 2, 2022. The City of San Angelo was declared the Destination of the Year and the fort was noted as the Historical Site of the Year. Thanks again to Diann Bayes and the CVB team who filed the paperwork to make these recognitions possible.

Barracks 1 and 2 roofs were bid out. There was only one bid which was approved by the council, however, there were problems with pricing, insurance, bonding and COVID, so there will have to be

renegotiations because no contract was let. The City Attorney and purchasing director will be negotiating the contract and we should know more by our next board meeting.

Bob met with nine prospective ASU Honors Students for service with the fort board. We will most likely have an ASU student working with us by the next board meeting.

We may be conducting a joint board meeting with the SAMFA board after our October meeting. Stay tuned.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

4. Buildings and Grounds Report – The exterior contractor is still working on the rear of the hospital building. The contract is extended to November 2.
5. Review and Approval of House of Faith event on Fort Concho Grounds and use of buildings December 12-17 and waiving of most fees and charges – See above.
6. Request by Military Affairs Committee of Chamber of Commerce to use Fort Commissary on October 27 and waive most of fees and charges – Mike Boyd, acting Chamber of Commerce President and Retired TNG Brigadier General, asked to be allowed to host officers from the Military Affairs Committee here at the fort's Commissary. The facility would be made available at no charge or for only the cost of utilities. Dave Schaller so moved and Yukio Kuniyuki seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
7. Review of Upcoming Events – There will be three Halloween themed events. There will be a Haunted House at the Quartermaster building on October 29 & 30. On November 5 and 6 our annual Murder Mystery event will take place. Week after next, there will be artillery training. National Mule Day will be celebrated on October 26 in the late afternoon. Linda Hermes will be here to sign books. On October 30 there will be a wine festival 11 am – 4 pm in Barracks 6 and the courtyard while the En Plein Air Art Show takes place at the Stables.
8. Update on Christmas at Old Fort Concho 2021 – No report.
9. Collections Report and Consideration and Approval of Collections Acquisitions – See above.
10. Nominations Report – City Council approved board member George Balli and he should be here at the October meeting. We still have one more opening on the board.
11. Update on Barracks & Mess Halls 3-4 Reconstruction Project and approval of assignment of foundation stone to Ben Ficklin Cemetery Project – After the meeting, members are welcome to go look at the Barracks 3 & 4 project. The rock there is from the original foundation but cannot be used in the reconstruction project. The Ben Ficklin cemetery has projects which would be a good use for the stone as it was quarried near their location. After nearly 150 years, the stone could return to Ben Ficklin. The board discussed keeping some of the stone to display on site with an interpretive sign. It was recommended that the cemetery place a sign at their location acknowledging the history of the stone and the donation of the stone by the fort. Kathy Keane moved to allow the stone from the Fort Concho building foundations to be given to the Ben Ficklin Cemetery for their projects. Curtis Milbourn seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Bob

will let Brian May know that we kept some stone and would like to have mutual interpretive signs regarding the stone at each location.

12. Fort Concho Foundation Report – No report.
13. Review and Approval of proposed lease of Fort land near Post Hospital to Rust Street Ministries – The lease for the strip of land to be used by Rust Street Ministries has been submitted to the Texas Historical Commission. No archeological dig is required. The agreement would be a 40-year lease from the city to Rust Street Ministries. Don Barnhart moved to approve a 40-year lease of a strip of Fort Concho land to Rust Street Ministries to expand their drive through and in exchange the Fort will be allowed to use Rust Street Ministries parking lot when needed. Lisa Marley seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
14. Membership Drive Update and Review on non-renewals – We are at \$44,590 for memberships not including September deposits. We could top the \$46,000 mark. Please ask your friends and colleagues to become supporting members. This membership year 29 memberships increased their donation level and only 11 downgraded their memberships. About two dozen members did not renew. Bob will send a list of current and non-renewed members to the board when he returns from his trip to Fort Reno.
15. Staff News – Don Dwyer has filled the new maintenance position. We hope to have a guide selected next week. Please keep Evelyn, our archivist, in your thoughts and prayers as she had a serious surgery several months ago. Evelyn has been with the fort for about 30 years. The good news is that she is back to work part-time. Her work is greatly appreciated as she continues her recovery.
16. Future Agenda Items – Howard Taylor of SAMFA wants committees from each board to work on the Cultural District. The Capital Campaign is now tied to our barracks project. Brian May met with the Foundation Board. This is a possible agenda item for next month. Our exhibits plan will be updated by the end of the year. We will put this as a future agenda item.
17. Adjournment and Review of Construction site for Barracks/Mess Hall 3 – Don Barnhart moved to adjourn the meeting to the building site for members who wish to review the project progress. Dr. Jason Pierce seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Roger Banks adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce K. Lowe

Board Secretary