

Fort Concho Museum Board Minutes August 16, 2022

I. OPEN SESSION

A. Call to Order - President Roger Banks called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. at Fort Concho Officers' Quarters 8, 215 East Avenue D.

B. Determination of a Quorum –Site Manager, Bob Bluthardt confirmed that a quorum was present: Roger Banks, Brandon Allen, Kathy Keane, Dave Schaller, Sherley Spears, Yukio Kuniyuki, Monty Stanley, Dr. Jason Pierce, Curtis Milbourn, Lisa Marley, Don Barnhart, George Balli, Lt. Col. John McAllister, and Colleen Haddad. Absent: Sarah Clemens. Staff members: Cory Robinson

This being his first meeting, Lt. Col. John McAllister provided a brief introduction of himself.

C. Approval of Excused Absences – Sherley Spears moved to approve the absence of Sarah Clemens. Dave Schaller seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Introduction of Guests – No guests were present.

E. Presentations – None.

F. Public Comment - None.

Noting the special occasion, Roger led the singing of “Happy Birthday” to board member Don Barnhart.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the June 21, 2022 Minutes – Lisa Marley moved to approve the Minutes of June 21, 2022. Curtis Milbourn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report – Lisa Marley presented the financials for June/July 2022, noting that YTD income was \$107,641 above last year. Shop Sales and Admissions were down due to the excessive heat which affected visitors. Donations were also down due to renewing admission charges. Rent revenue has far exceeded the last ten-year average and is the third best in the last twelve years. Overall expenses stand at 76.1% at the 83.3% budget year mark. Total income over expenses for the year is \$72,783 which will slightly decrease in the last two months of the budget year, yet we should end the year in the black and add to the Fort's Fund Balance.

Responding to the questions of the Board, Bob noted that Rent Income had rebounded due to the COVID recovery coupled with the fact that the Fort does not offer set-up/clean-up and thus charges a lower rate than other venues. It also does not charge extra for tables/chairs, rather, the Fort charges an all-inclusive flat fee. He also noted that although donations were down due to resuming admission fees, the overall related income represented only 1% of the total budget.

Bob also noted that the preliminary City budget currently reflects a \$9K decrease in General Fund allocation to the Fort. He noted, however, that the \$50K Hotel/Motel Tax allocation remains. Sherley Spears encouraged board members to be attentive to the City's budgeting process noting the decrease in

Hotel/Motel Tax monies allocated to the CVB/Destination Marketing. She expressed kudos to CVB Vice-President Diann Bayes for a job well done marketing San Angelo as a whole.

Don Barnhart moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Yukio Kuniyuki seconded the motion, which carried unanimously

3. Site Manager's Report – Bob referred members to his written report in the agenda packet. He noted the regretful retirement of Jerry Bruno, Site Maintenance Supervisor; however, he informed that staff was hopeful he could stay on in a part-time role for consultation and training. Bob stated that Jerry had served the Fort well during his tenure. Bob further noted the recent hiring of a new maintenance worker, Max Ybarra.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

4. Building & Grounds Report – Bob stated that previous contractor, BASIC IDIQ, had begun the last of the column replacement/repair project (a total of 185 columns) which is scheduled to be completed by the Christmas event.

5. Update on Long Range Plan for Displays & Exhibits – Cory provided an update on the following displays and exhibits:

- Barracks 5 Exhibit – With funding provided by the Fort Concho Foundation, Cory was able to purchase material to make new bed sacks and purchase new bed slats, bedding, dirty clothes bags, and a period stove.
- Native American Exhibit – The Comanche-style tipi is still under construction and was delayed slightly due to activities of local tribes. He reminded that funding received from San Angelo Gives will provide for display stands and panels. A volunteer from the Museum of Fine Arts is researching text for the display panels. The exhibit will include information on 5-6 regional tribes, not solely Comanche. Cory expressed hope that the exhibit would be completed by the Christmas event.
- Buffalo Soldier Exhibit – Planned for Mess Hall 6, where the soldiers were originally housed, the exhibit will be displayed for the first six months at Angelo State University as students will be providing text and panels for the exhibit. The exhibit will complement the Buffalo Soldier Memorial and tell the African American experience at Fort Concho.
- Barracks 2 – Will hold the Artillery Exhibit.

Cory also noted plans to tell the entire story of soldiers stationed at Fort Concho whereby visitors will receive a card or a type of digital image of a soldier. As they tour the Fort, they will see the soldier's background from enlistment to retirement through various displays/exhibits.

Yukio Kuniyuki informed of potential funding through the Texas Travel Industry grant and advised he would provide contact information to staff.

Bob informed that the Telephone Museum will be expanded in 2023 to reflect military communication.

6. Update on the Buffalo Soldier Memorial – Sherley Spears thanked Lt. Col. McAllister for the service men and women who participated in the recent Buffalo Soldier Day as well as the Board

Members who also attended the event. She expressed her appreciation for the news media coverage and social media posts. Sherley noted that the completion of the Memorial is expected to be late Spring/early Summer of 2023 and will be marked by two noteworthy events including Buffalo Soldier Day. She thanked Art in Uncommon Places for the mural which will provide an entrance to the Memorial. Sherly encouraged the Board to find and watch the film “The 24th” which tells the true story of the Houston riot of 1917. She informed that the local NAACP was working with other organizations to push for clemency for the 110 Black soldiers convicted in the riot. Sherley concluded her comments in expressing appreciation to Bob and all the fort staff for their support in the Memorial project.

7. Nominations Report – Bob referred the Board to the Board Terms document in the packet and reviewed the upcoming renewal opportunities and openings. While he noted potential appointments made by the City Council, he encouraged Board members to seek out interested individuals as well. Bob stated that he and Roger would meet to discuss the make-up of the 2023 Executive Committee.

8. Consideration of Collections Acquisitions – None

9. Duplicate Item – See Item #5

10. Update of Barracks & Mess Hall 3-4 Reconstruction Project – Bob noted the project was coming along nicely and reminded that the reconstruction consists of cinder block walls with limestone facing. He informed that the project was scheduled to be completed by late October and that staff was considering a walk-through path for visitors to see the work via photo displays of past and present during the Christmas event weekend.

11. Fort Concho Foundation Report – Roger informed that financials were stable noting that the market dictated that now was not the time to sell. As noted by Cory in his previous report, the Foundation approved \$5K for the Barracks 5 Exhibit. The Foundation additionally allocated \$6K to replace uniforms for the Living History program.

12. Update on Events and Programs for the Rest of 2023 – Bob noted the following event for 2023:

- August 27th – Scout Day
- Wednesdays in September – Speaker Series
- September 2nd-3rd – Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) will hold an event in various buildings and grounds of the Fort but is not a Fort event
- September 17th – Museum Day and Archaeological Fair
- September 30th – October 1st – Cowboy Jubilee

13. Membership Drive Update – Bob informed that \$42K of the \$45K goal has been attained with a recent \$2,500 renewal. He distributed a list of former members and asked the Board to assist in updating addresses and/or contacting members regarding potential renewals. Bob also noted that grant funders are impressed when he can say that all Board members are active members of the Fort.

14. Staff News – Bob highlighted the recent 30th work anniversary of Special Events Coordinator, Carol Cummings and noted that between himself, Carol, and Historian Evelyn Lemons, they have 105 years of service to the Fort. He stated that the past and continued success of Christmas at Fort Concho was largely due to Carol’s work.

15. Future Agenda Items – Sherley Spears stated that she would not attend the September 20th meeting due to a family wedding.

Adjournment – Yukio Kuniyuki moved to adjourn the meeting. Sherley Spears seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Roger Banks adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Kathy Keane*

Kathy Keane, Board Secretary