

Fort Concho Board Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2017

The Fort Concho Museum Board met in Officer's Quarters 8 on Tuesday, September 18th, 2017

Staff Present: Robert Bluthardt

Board Present: James Dusek, Sarah Howell, Roger Banks, Lori Barton, LtC. Yukio Kuniyuki, Kelcey Herrera, Monty Stanley, Joyce Lowe, Jason Pierce, Wayland Cooksey.

Meeting called to order and quorum confirmed. Mr. Bluthardt confirmed the absences of Kathy Keane, Brandon Allen, Sherley Spears, Iskandar Atajanow, and Darrin Fentress. He recommended all absences be approved. Motion was made to excuse all absences by Roger Banks, seconded by Sarah Howell, approved by all present.

Motion to excuse Darrin Fentress for all remaining 2017 meetings also approved (motion by Roger Banks, seconded by Sarah Howell, approved by all present).

Introduction of Guests next. Mr. Gabriel Rangel (member of the Texas Lipan Tribe) explained his plan to bring a Pow-Wow to Fort Concho on March 17, 2018. Asked for a waiver in rental fee for event and use of Barracks 6 and the Parade Ground. Motion to approve by Roger Banks; seconded by Monty Stanley; approved by all present.

Mr. Carl White, COSA Parks & Recreation Director and Mr. John Rangel, COSA Maintenance Supervisor, were introduced.

Bryan Jarvis of Rust Street Ministry made brief remarks in favor of closing Avenue D. with the provision that the ministry still have access to their back lot.

Diann Bayes from the San Angelo Convention and Visitor's Bureau discussed recent promotional events. She also discussed the new discoversanangelo.com website.

Approval of Minutes for August meeting. Ms. Howell noted spelling corrections for her name. Motion to approve as amended by Joyce Lowe; seconded by Roger Banks; approved by all present.

Roger Banks gave the Treasurer's report. Attendance has been up. Poor Christmas of 2016 still dragging down overall revenue, but Fort should be close to making budget for 2017. Monty Stanley asked about the purchase of a floor cleaner. Bob responded that the cleaner is now in use and performing admirably. Bob also discussed a long-term plan to purchase a "cherry picker" for use at the fort. Roger Banks asked about rentals and getting caterers to pay for use of facilities. Sarah Howell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Joyce Lowe; approved by all present.

Site Manager's report. Bob briefly discussed the recent closure of the railroad museum, and stressed that there are no legal or financial ties between the fort and the RR museum. Bob discussed final preparations for the "Wall that Heals" in November. He mentioned that applications are coming in for a current maintenance position opening. He invited the board to attend the opening of the new exhibit on September 28th, and the volunteer party on October 7th. He also discussed the apparent delay to the launch of the new fort website but the near final draft can be seen at sanangelofortconcho.com and hopes to have the situation resolved and the new website active very soon. Also discussed updates to capital projects: OQ1 is delayed by HVAC issues and work will not begin until after Christmas; will open up bids in October. Barracks 1 and 2 (the new visitor center) has a preliminary draft in place. Final plans will be shared with the board in the coming weeks. Barracks 3 and 4 will have preliminary plans completed soon.

Roger Banks brought forth a nomination for a new board member, Dave Schaller. Sarah Howell made a motion to accept Mr. Schaller's application and send it to the city for approval; seconded by Joyce Lowe; approved by all present. Bob mentioned two additional spots will open soon and asked the board to ponder additional nominations.

Discussion of October joint board meeting with SAMFA. Sarah Howell made a motion to hold the joint meeting; Roger Banks seconded it; approved by all present.

Bob asked the board if they wanted to meet in November before Thanksgiving and December before Christmas. A decision to move the meeting was tabled until the October board meeting.

Request by Representative Drew Darby to use the Stables and to waive the rental fee for the Annual State Staff Picnic on October 17th, 2017 was brought forward. Motion to approve by Wayland Cooksey; seconded by Joyce Lowe; approved by all present.

After action report on BBQ as part of Riverfest. Bob discussed both positive and negatives of the BBQ contest held on the parade ground. Over 150 contestants parked their RVs and cookers on the grounds, which held up to the increased traffic well. On the negative side, there was no discernable benefit to the fort in terms of increased admissions or sales. In addition, the cleanup produced a large amount of trash and incurred some overtime costs for fort staff. Roger Banks asked if next time a contract should be written to ensure that costs are shared fairly. Bob asked if the board would approve of sending a letter to the organizer to see about recouping some of the costs incurred by cleanup, which the board approved (Roger Banks made the motion, Sarah Howell seconded).

Update on FY 2018 budget. Bob mentioned that issues of capital improvements should ideally be handled by creating a long-term maintenance plan.

Bob asked the board if they knew any of the 30 members who have let their memberships lapse to contact those folks about renewing.

Bob gave a briefing on progress to make repairs to facilities from the strong storms of June 23rd and July 4th. The fort is receiving proposals for roof repairs from Harrison, Hartman, and Parsons roofing companies to repair the wood-shingle roofs that were damaged in the storm, but fortunately there is no leaking of the roofs, but they are in need of repair.

Roger Banks gave the Fort Concho Foundation Report. The market is up and the endowment is growing.

There being no additional business before the board, Roger Banks made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Sarah Howell; approved by all present. The Fort Concho Board adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Notes taken and transcribed by Dr. Jason Pierce
Acting Secretary