

Fort Concho Museum Board

Minutes of Meeting

May 15, 2018

The Fort Concho Museum Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 15, at Fort Concho's Officers' Quarters 8. Attending were: Kathy Keane, Roger Banks, Lori Barton, Monty Stanley, Wayland Cooksey, Brandon Allen, CPT Iskandar Atajanow, Dave Schaller, Joyce Lowe, and LTC Yukio Kuniyuki. Guests present: Diann Bayes/San Angelo CVB. City staff present: Carl White, COSA Parks & Recreation Director. Fort staff present: Bob Bluthardt, Cory Robinson, Amy Cole, Rocio Moncibais, Carol Cummings and Evelyn Lemons.

Ms. Keane called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm. A quorum was declared. Absent members: Sherley Spears, Darrin Fentress, James Dusek, Kelcey Herrera, Sarah Howell, and Dr. Jason Pierce. Motion made by Roger Banks to excuse all absences that was seconded by Dave Schaller and approved by all present.

Ms. Keane asked Ms. Bayes of the CVB to address the board on their recent promotional work. She noted the many new ads in special magazines, social media, and other marketing strategies that included Fort Concho and its activities. She thanked the fort for hosting the recent Tourism Lunch in the Stables Hall. Mr. Bluthardt noted the dramatic increase in distant guests for Frontier Day/Regional Cavalry Competition, attributing this to the CVB's aggressive promotion. The board thanked Ms. Bayes for her work.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the April 24 meeting were reviewed. Roger Banks made a motion for approval that was seconded by CPT Atajanow and approved by all present.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Mr. Fentress, Mr. Bluthardt reviewed the financials for May and YTD. Income was on target and expenses were below target levels. Roger Banks made the motion to accept the report that was seconded by Mr. Schaller and approved by all present.

Staff Reports

Curator of History Cory Robinson briefed the board on the NAGRA (Native American Graves and Repatriation Act) regarding human remains in the fort's collection. He summarized past research, the extent of the fort's holdings, and visits by Native American stakeholders. He passed out his report for the board's review and noted that the fort was in compliance with the current laws. He then displayed an ironstone dish that was being donated to the fort, noting the long-range plan of getting accurate copies of such table items for the Mess Hall 5 exhibit. He brought to the board's attention two more items for consideration for accession into the collections: an Indian Wars bayonet, an excavated 1830s military belt buckle. A motion was made by CPT Atajanow to accept all items for the collections as presented that was seconded by Mr. Cooksey and approved by all present.

Visitor and Volunteer Services Coordinator Rocio Moncibais reported on her efforts to get accurate replicas of another period Army table piece for sale in the gift shop. She passed out a prototype that was determined to be too large, but a new order was to be placed with a goal of a wholesale cost of \$20 a unit and a retail of \$35-40 per unit. She explained a new event, "Members and Margaritas" set for August 16 to thank renewed members and perhaps attract new ones. Several board members asked about the city liquor policies and Mr. Bluthardt explained the fort would follow all applicable rules. She reported on plans to expand and improve the recent "Rise and Shine" members breakfast event and the re-named and expanded Night Tours now called, "Fort Concho After Dark."

Special Events Coordinator Carol Cummings passed out flyers for this summer's Fun at the Fort program, noting that registrations are already being received. She briefed the board on the merchant application process for Christmas at Old Fort Concho, noting staff and volunteer trips to other craft shows and festivals to seek out new vendors. Mr. Bluthardt summarized the selection process that was directed entirely by volunteers under staff/board approved guidelines thus keeping the process honest and consistent.

Librarian Evelyn Lemons told a story of an Abilene college student whose research at the fort resulted in a paper that may get read or published at a future professional conference. She then noted the deep and expanding level of resources our library/archives manages and noted some of the many research requests she handles annually. A future visit to the facility during a board meeting was suggested.

Education Coordinator Amy Cole briefed the board on her ongoing partnerships with the art museum for summer programs and a future teacher training program with the Region 15 Education Service Center. Mr. Bluthardt noted her good work with the living history program's "road shows" and her setting up camps at other fort festivals like the recent campaign at Fort McKavett. She also noted ongoing research in curriculum development packages for current and future fort programs.

Several board members expressed their appreciation and thanks for these staff members' good work, creativity, dedication, and excitement in bring new and interesting events and programs to the site.

Site Manager's Report

Mr. Bluthardt announced that a check presentation by the Texas Historical Foundation would take place at OQ 1 this Thursday, May 17, 2:00 pm. Local THF board member Lee Pfluger would present the \$5000 check to the Fort Concho Museum & Foundation Board to support the current renovations project.

He passed around a copy of the Frontier Army of the Dakota (FAD) newsletter that had several multi-page stories on Fort Concho and its events.

Capital Projects

Mr. Bluthardt noted there was no new figures/news on Barracks/MH 3-4. Work at OQ 1 was going well with the front roofing taking place. A full report on the Barracks 1-2 Visitor Center project with several funding approaches/schedules would come at the June meeting.

Military Artifact Collection

There is no additional information. Staff are awaiting a MOU or some agreement from the owner.

Avenue D Removal Project

Mr. Bluthardt suggested a full review of all issues at the June meeting. A fall approach to Council was suggested.

Cultural District

The briefing of the April 24 joint meeting with the SAMFA Board was reviewed. Both Ms. Keane and Mr. Bluthardt suggested that it was time to create some action items with timetables and steps for completion. Several board members agreed but thought another joint meeting might not be the best approach. Mr. Bluthardt offered to visit with Howard Taylor, SAMFA director, and suggest a joint task force with the two site directors and a few folks from each board. There was general consensus by the board for this action.

San Angelo Gives

The board reviewed the summary in the attachments. Mr. Bluthardt noted that about \$5700-\$6000 would be available for the purchase of new display cases. He thanked all who donated. Several board members suggested approaches for the 2019 campaign.

Cancelling July Meeting

Mr. Bluthardt noted that the board usually passed on a July meeting due to summer vacations and conflicts. There being no objections, Mr. Cooksey made the motion to cancel the meeting that was seconded by Mr. Allen and approved by all present.

Maintenance Report

Mr. Bluthardt noted that the maintenance crew was always busy fixing broken windows, boards, pipes, HVAC units, locks/doors, and much more!

Membership Drive Report

Mr. Bluthardt passed out a report that showed near 150 members and \$28,000 in revenue as of May 14. He thanked the six board members who submitted names of prospective new members and urged others to submit names. To make our goal of \$50,000 we will need some new folks.

Fort Concho Foundation

Mr. Banks said there was no news. Mr. Bluthardt noted the Foundation Board's next meeting was in August.

Future Agenda Items

Mr. Bluthardt suggested bringing back most items that were not fully explored at this meeting.

Announcements

Check presentation by Texas Historical Foundation, May 17, 2 pm at OQ 1

CPT Atajanow noted that his last meeting might be in June. He was working on recommending someone for Board endorsement and Council approval to take his place.

There being no additional business, Mr. Cooksey moved for adjournment that was seconded by Mr. Schaller and approved by all present. The board took a group photo on the porch as part of the "This Place Matters" program to support historic preservation.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm

Notes taken by Lori Barton/Fort Concho Museum Board

Transcribed by Robert F. Bluthardt/Fort Concho Site Manager