

Fort Concho Museum Board

February 23, 2021

I. OPEN SESSION

A. **Call to Order-** President Roger Banks called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. at the Fort Concho Stables Hall, 210 Henry O. Flipper Street. (The meeting, originally scheduled for 02/16/2021, was held one week late due to a winter storm. Wikipedia describes this particular winter storm thusly: "The February 13--17, 2021 North American winter storm, unofficially referred to as Winter Storm Uri, was a major winter and ice storm that had widespread impacts across the United States, Northern Mexico, and parts of Canada from February 13 to 17." The storm knocked out power and water throughout the state of Texas and did not let up in San Angelo until February 19.) The Stables Hall is large enough to allow for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protocols as the coronavirus pandemic continues. All persons in attendance wore proper facial coverings and maintained at least six feet separation in accordance with CDC guidelines.

B. **Determination of a quorum-** A quorum was established with 8 members present in person and 2 members appearing by telephone. Two members arrived late.

Members present at 3:31 p.m.: Roger Banks, Sherley Spears, Joyce Lowe, Lisa Marley, Yukio Kuniyuki, Brandon Allen, Dave Schaller, and Curtis Milbourn. LTC Brian Ryan and Kathy Keane participated by telephone. Lori Barton arrived at 3:50 p.m. and Dr. Jason Pierce arrived at 4:00 p.m.

C. **Approval of excused absences** -- No absences.

D. **Introduction of guests** -- No guests.

E. **Presentations** -- None.

F. **Public Comment** -- None.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Consideration of approving the January 19, 2021 Minutes** -- Sherley Spears moved to accept the minutes of the meeting of 01/19/2021. Curtis Milbourn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The report in the board members' packets covers the fourth month of the fiscal year. Overall, the numbers look good. We are ahead by about \$24,000.00. There was a January boost in memberships as those started coming in early. Rental income looked decent in spite of the pandemic. Donations were up, as we have not been charging admission fees during the pandemic. Income is down, but expenses are down as well because there are three open staff positions. Staff are sharing the duties of the administrative position, as well those of Rocío Moncibais. The unfilled maintenance position will remain open until rental income increases. We want to stay as close to budget as possible and maintain a deficit of less than \$50,000.00. If

we can do that, we will not have to dip into reserves. As the year goes on, we will see the effects of the cancellation of Christmas at Old Fort Concho. Joyce Lowe moved to accept the treasurer's report and Brandon Allen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Site Manager's Report –Bob Bluthardt, Site Manager, referred board members to the report in their packets. Bob remarked that despite the pandemic and winter weather, the fort has been busy. Work continues on buildings throughout the fort and will pick up as weather improves. There was a discussion on the Oakes Street Bridge. The media has recently been focusing on the need for bridge repairs. There has been mention of pedestrian use only, however, the bridge is essential to connect the fort and the art museum to downtown. We need a vehicular bridge with improved walkways. We have plans underway for a joint meeting of the fort museum board and the art museum board. We will discuss the bridge at the meeting. Dr. Tom Phillips of Raymond, MS has donated his extensive collection of research books and materials. We expect fifty boxes to arrive within the next month. Special thanks to the City of San Angelo and the Fort Concho Foundation for their support and funding to relocate the collection. The fort received a plaque from True West magazine for Best Preserved Frontier Fort of the West. Buffalo Soldiers Day is Sunday, February 28, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. April brings the Frontier Day celebration, which will be our first major event in about a year. There will be three army cavalry units in various cavalry competitions. There was a discussion of cryptology and cryptography and the possible introduction of a display in the telephony museum.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

4. Fort Board Nominations Update – Board members considered the application to the board of Donald R. Barnhart. After discussion, Dave Schaller moved to approve Mr. Barnhart as our newest board member, subject to City Council approval. Brandon Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration and Approval of Collections – None.

6. Review and Approval MOU between Fort Concho and the Cowboy Way Jubilee for Concert on April 30 or May 1, 2021. – Board packets contained a summary of a concert and singalong on the Parade Grounds for either 04/30/2021 or 05/01/2021. The event would begin at 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. and end at 11:00 p.m.

The Cowboy Way Jubilee would be a welcome addition to the fort's annual offerings, but with the pandemic, the full event is not possible in May. As an alternative, there is a proposal for a concert and singalong event. The Jubilee organization would pay \$1,500.00 or 20% of gross ticket sales, whichever is higher. The Jubilee and the fort will each be required to do nine items each. (See Board packets.) After discussion, Lori Barton moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Fort Concho National Historic Landmark (fort) and Cowboy Way Jubilee (Jubilee.) Dave Schaller seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. Discussion and Approval for Fort Concho to Participate in San Angelo Gives Program of May 4, 2021 – After a brief discussion of the San Angelo Gives

program. Kathy Keane moved to approve participation in the program again this year. Lisa Barton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. Update on Barracks & Mess Halls 3-4 Reconstruction Project -- The board was presented a handout on the progress of the project. (See attached.)

9. Staff Reports -- Bob congratulated our Maintenance Superintendent, Jerry Bruno, on a job well done. Mr. Bruno held the fort together during the unprecedented weather of the past week. There were blizzard conditions and temperatures as low as one degree below zero. There was a broken pipe at the hospital, but repairs will be completed by the end of the week. The officers' quarters lost power, but the north side buildings did not. The Stable Hall had power and sheltered about a dozen people from the storm on only three hours' notice.

10. Report on Fort Exhibits and Interpretive Study -- Bob sent an executive summary to board members by email. A full report will be sent out soon and board members are asked to review it prior to next month's meeting. The full report fleshes out the executive summary and reveals full plans for updating and improving every exhibit. We will be updating the way we tell the story of Fort Concho. One example is that every original artifact on display will be replaced with replicas. This will allow originals to stay safe and in the same condition as when they came to us.

11. Building Maintenance and Repairs Updates -- See notes in the Site Manager's report at item II.3.


12. Fort Concho Foundation Report -- No report. The foundation's next meeting is in April.

13. Future Agenda Items -- We need two more good board members. We would like to improve diversity on the board. Bob asked board members to bring forth nominations and applications to President Roger Banks or himself. We will discuss plans for San Angelo Gives at our next meeting.

14. Announcements -- None.

Yukio Kuniyuki moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave Schaller seconded the motion. The motion carried. President Roger Banks adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joyce K. Lowe
Board Secretary