

June 15, 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 Officers' Quarters 8, 215 Avenue D.

B. Determination of a quorum –Site Manager, Bob Bluthardt established that a quorum was present with eleven members.

Members present at 3:31 p.m.: Roger Banks, Joyce Lowe, Lisa Marley, Yukio Kuniyuki, Brandon Allen, Dave Schaller, LTC Joe Garwacki, Don Barnhart, Kathy Keane, and Dr. Jason Pierce. Sherley Spears arrived at 3:42 p.m.

C. Approval of excused absences – Lori Barton and Curtis Milbourn were absent. Yukio Kuniyuki moved to approve the absences, Dave Schaller seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Introduction of guests – Del V. Velasquez, Executive Director of Downtown San Angelo, Inc. Staff: Cory Robinson, Fort Curator of History and Sarah Ross, Fort Concho Education Coordinator.

E. Presentations – Del Velasquez gave an update on the news and activities of Downtown San Angelo (DSA), Inc. Several buildings have sold to new owners. The Black Swan Gallery will remain a wine bar and art gallery under its new ownership. Downtown will soon host a whiskey distillery with a tasting room and spa. A new amusement business, to include a climbing wall, is scheduled to open soon. Sidewalk and street improvement construction continues. There will be new street lighting. Lee Pfluger donated an historic clock to be installed at the corner of Concho and South Chadbourne. DSA, Inc. has put together a July 3rd music and fireworks event to replace the Symphony Pops concert which will return July 3, 2022. The Air Force Band of the West will perform this year along with the Community Band, a mariachi, and the West Texas Jazz Band. The “1812 Overture” will once again be the fireworks finale featuring our Fort Concho cannons. An ‘after party’ will feature a Fleetwood Mac tribute band, Forever Mac, from Dallas. DSA, Inc. has had continued success with the fiberglass sheep fundraiser. There are currently 110 sheep watching over San Angelo with a waiting list of sponsors for more ewes for the flock. DSA, Inc. is happy to report that even with the ongoing downtown street improvement project, in the past two weeks The Cactus Bookstore had two of its best days ever.

F. Public Comment - None.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration of approving the May 18, 2021 Minutes – Kathy Keane moved to accept the minutes of 05/18/2021 with a correction on the second page changing the word “fort” to “float.” The sentence is corrected to read, “The fort will provide a float for the Juneteenth Parade on June 19.” Lisa Marley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

We are eight months into the fiscal year. We are \$48,877.00 in the black with \$659,843.00 of income and \$610,966.00 of expenses. We filled two staff positions so the surplus will decline, but we anticipate the budget will remain in the black. Gift shop revenues were good with school groups boosting receipts. We should be at our membership target by the end of the year. The first half of the year was slow for rentals, but we anticipate \$85,000.00 or more by the end of the year. Admission income is back and tourism has increased, however summer weather may affect visitation. Brandon Allen moved to accept the treasurer's report. Yukio Kuniyuki seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Site Manager's Report -Bob Bluthardt, Site Manager, see item #11 below. Mr. Bluthardt deferred most of his time to our guest and staff presentations.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

4. Fort Board Nominations Update – Bob reported that there are two slots available on the board. There has been an application, however the applicant, Sammie Ann Wicks, could not attend today's meeting. Sherley Spears moved to table the consideration of the application to the next meeting. Brandon Allen seconded the motion with carried unanimously.

5. Consideration and Approval of Collections – Fort Curator, Cory Robinson, announced that we have received a new collection. Historian Gordon Chappell passed away recently and part of his collection featuring at least 36 military helmets and various uniforms will be arriving sometime in 2022. Dr. John Langellier assisted in obtaining the collection. Dr. Langellier also donated another uniform to our collection. Cory is working on exhibits and the foundation will be assisting with funding for the transport of the helmets.

Sarah Ross, Education Coordinator, presented information on past and upcoming programs. There was a flag retirement ceremony last night (June 13th.) Allen Mack of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Living History Program presented a children's program recently. On September 25th there will be a Candlelight Tour from 7:30-9:00 p.m. The theme will be "History from a Different Light." The nonprofit group, The Living History Foundation (LHF) will focus on people color and other marginalized groups. LHF will provide 3-4 interpreters who will each give 30-minute presentations. This will be a new interpretation of Texas history. This will help us move towards our interpretive goal of broadening the story we tell at Fort Concho. There will be Campfire Story Nights on July 16 and August 13 from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

6. 2021 Membership Drive Report – We sent letters to between 75 and 85 members who have not yet renewed. We are at about \$43,000.00 and our goal is to have at least \$45,000 in memberships.

7. Update on May and future events – May was good, but Memorial Day was lighter visitation than usual as folks slowly return to pre-pandemic routines. Sarah Ross did an outstanding job with her event in May, which was followed by 60 mile per hour, straight-line winds which were quite dramatic. The fort will participate in the Juneteenth Parade. June 24th is the opening of our annual American Plains Artists Summer Show. There will be food and beverages at the opening reception from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Our cannons will be featured at the July 3rd fireworks and concert at the River Stage. Sarah will be hosting a sewing/embroidery event later in July. July 24th is the National Cowboy Day. July 28th is

Buffalo Soldier Day and events will begin at 5:15 or 5:30 p.m. This is the 155th anniversary of the Act of Congress that created the Buffalo Soldiers

8. Consideration of Request by ASU College of Education to use Fort Building on August 16-18 for meetings and waive payment – This item has been withdrawn.

9. Update on Exhibit and Interpretation Plans Implementation – See item #5 above.

10. Staff Reports – See item #5 above.

11. Building Maintenance and Repairs Updates – There has been a bid on re-roofing Barracks 1 and 2 from a new local contractor. The bid is pending approval in July with work to be completed sometime this summer. This will be the first time we have had good roofs on all our buildings since the 1990's. Soon all air conditioning units will be in top condition as well. There will be a new maintenance worker coming on staff soon. The mowers are all out of service so the grass is getting long, but that should be remedied soon.

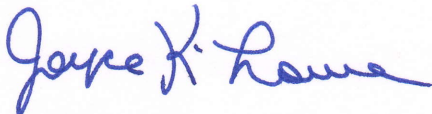
12. Fort Concho Foundation Report – No report. There will be an update at the next meeting.

13. Future Agenda Items – There is new information on the Rust Street land deal for the strip of land behind the Post Hospital. The land must be sold. It cannot be donated. This issue will be taken up at the next meeting. The recent 50-60 mile per hour straight-line winds damaged and removed some fence slats and shingles on the barn. The Ruffini Building is okay. Diann Bayes at the CVB is to be congratulated on her successful effort in naming San Angelo as the Visual Arts Capital of Texas for the next ten years. A meeting for the Cultural District Committee is planned for August.

14. Consideration of cancelling the regular meeting of July 20, 2021 – Traditionally the board does not meet in July. Kathy Keane moved to uphold the tradition and not hold a July board meeting. Dave Schaller seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

15. Adjournment – Brandon Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Jason Pierce seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Roger Banks adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce K. Lowe

Board Secretary