

Fort Concho Museum Board Minutes January 18, 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 established with ten members present: Roger Banks, Brandon Allen, Kathy Keane, Dave Schaller, Don Barnhart, Sherley Spears, Dr. Jason Pierce, LTC Joe Garwacki, Yukio Kuniyuki, and Lisa Marley.
- C. Approval of excused absences** – Curtis Milbourn and George Balli were absent. Sherley Spears moved to approve the absences. Dave Schaller seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.
- D. Introduction of guests** – Bob introduced Monty Stanley. Monty is a former member of the Board and is slated for City Council approval to the Fort Concho Museum Board in February. Colleen Haddad, a teacher at Fort Concho Elementary is also a pending appointment approval by the City Council. By unanimous consensus, the Board endorsed the applications of Mr. Stanley and Ms. Haddad.
- E. Presentations** – None.
- F. Public Comment** - None.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of the November 16, 2021 Minutes** – Yukio Kuniyuki noted that Del Velasquez was not present at the Cultural District Meeting with SAMFA on November 4, 2021. Don Barnhart moved to approve the Minutes of November 16, 2021 with this correction. Yukio Kuniyuki seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 2. Treasurer's Report** – Lisa Marley presented the financials for October-December 2021, representing the first quarter of the Fort/City fiscal year. Overall the fort had an excellent first quarter with total revenues at \$316,912 and total expenses at \$280,506 for a surplus of \$36,406. The strong revenue levels are reflected by holding the Christmas event and improved rentals. Lower expenses are due to open staff slots and slight delays in receiving and paying Christmas event bills. Brandon Allen moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Dr. Jason Pierce seconded the motion, which carried unanimously
- 3. Site Manager's Report** -Bob Bluthardt, Site Manager, yielded the floor to Stephen McLaughlin for **Item #5 of the Regular Agenda: Presentation by McLaughlin Advertising on Proposed New Fort Logos and Item #10 Christmas at Old Fort Concho Report (Advertising)** – Bob noted that McLaughlin Advertising has a contract with the City of San Angelo to handle advertising for the City as a whole and that Stephen had been approached to assist the Fort in developing a new logo for the purposes of branding gift shop items and official stationary for the Fort.
- Item #5 of the Regular Agenda: Presentation by McLaughlin Advertising on Proposed New Fort Logos** – Stephen distributed variations of two final designs the senior staff reviewed and recommended for the board's consideration: one being an outline of a barracks building and another resembling a chevron depicting the three rivers, the twin mountains, and an eagle. The Board discussed designs at

great length as well as various other suggestions including the possibility of using an outline of the Headquarters Building (more distinctive than other Fort buildings), a buffalo soldier, and a bugler. Don Barnhart moved to move forward with staff and Stephen to take a fresh approach at the logo design while carefully considering the motivation for changing the existing logo. Dr. Jason Pierce seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Item #10 Christmas at Old Fort Concho Report (Advertising) – Stephen noted the change from newspaper advertising to a more digital approach for the Christmas at Old Fort Concho event as well as other City sponsored events. He stated that a QR code was used for the Christmas event and appeared to be successful. Stephen recognized the continued generosity of local television in their support of Fort events.

Item #3 Site Manager’s report - Bob presented his report and referred members to the agenda packet. Sherley Spears moved to accept the Site Manager’s report. Dave Schaller seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

4. Consideration of Collections Acquisitions – Bob noted that this was a standing agenda item and there were no acquisitions to consider at this time.

5. Presentation by McLaughlin Advertising on Proposed New Fort Logos – See above.

6. Report on House of Faith Event and Approval for Similar Dates in 2022 – Bob reviewed the proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the Fort and House of Faith (HOF). Sherley Spears moved to approve their use of the Fort’s facilities under the same conditions as the 2021 event. Bob noted HOF staff will be attend the February Fort Board meeting. Lisa Marley seconded the motion that carried unanimously

7. Approval of a Request by the Chamber of Commerce to use the Stables Hall for Candidates Forum on February 9-10 and to Waive Fees – Bob reviewed the request by the Chamber of Commerce and noted that staff was in favor of the request. Dr. Jason Pierce moved to approve the request by the Chamber of Commerce to hold a Candidates Forum in the Stables Hall on February 9-10 and to waive associated fees, accepting a small utility donation. Dave Schaller seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

8. Review and Approval of Lease of Fort Concho Land Near Post Hospital to Rust Street Ministries – Bob reviewed the proposed lease with Rust Street Ministries noting at the Board had previously approved the survey included in the agenda packet. He further noted that the City is not permitted to give or sell property without assessing fair market value thus the reason for a long-term lease (40-year maximum) The City’s Legal Department will draft a lease that City Council will need to review/approve, and then the Texas Historical Commission will need to review/approve. Dr. Jason Pierce moved to approve the proposed lease of Fort Concho land near Post Hospital to Rust Street Ministries. Dave Schaller seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

9. Nominations Committee Report and Approval of Officers for 2022 – Bob noted the pending Board appointment approvals (see above). Roger Banks presented the following slate of 2022 Officers:

Roger Banks, President; Sherley Spears, Vice President; Lisa Marley, Treasurer; and Kathy Keane, Secretary. Brandon Allen moved to approve the above slate of officers. Dave Schaller seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

10. Christmas at Old Fort Concho Report – Report by Stephen McLaughlin on advertising (see above).

Bob noted that the Christmas event was highly successful given that we cancelled the 2020 event and it was our first-year post COVID. He estimated final gross revenues to exceed \$100K. Roger thanked those who volunteered and contributed to the event's success.

11. Report on Cultural District Meeting with San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts Committee – Bob noted that representatives of the Fort Concho Board had met with members of the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts on November 16, 2021. The meeting was productive and will pave the way for additional conversations regarding the Oakes Street bridge repair and further development plans for the District. Responding to the question, Bob stated that the Cultural District designation was for 10-year period through the Texas Commission for the Arts and he was unsure of the status. Roger noted that Howard was to speak to our local State Representative regarding potential funding for the bridge in the coming week.

12. Update on Standard-Time Library/Archives – Bob informed that the City of San Angelo had purchased the former Standard-Times building. The library and archives items the Fort hopes to save are secured in the building and there was no hurry to get them moved. When the time is right, Bob will coordinate with fort and city staff for the transfer of files.

13. Report on San Angelo Buffalo Soldier Memorial – Sherley Spears presented a proposed project to develop a Buffalo Soldier Memorial to be located on grounds of the Paseo. She stated that she is working with Jon Covington and members of the Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers of Tucson, Arizona to replicate panels similar to their memorial which depict the history of the buffalo soldiers in Arizona and the Southwest. Sherley estimated that the cost of the project to be \$250K and informed that she had met with the San Angelo Area Foundation about setting up a donation account. She also noted that partial funds could be available through the Cultural Affairs Council as a transfer of funds from a similar project previously scheduled for North San Angelo. Sherley stated that she would soon be traveling to Tucson to see the memorial and encouraged the Board members to support the project as it proceeded. She further reported that the City Council had received a brief on the project through their recent Friday Memo.

14. Briefing on Barracks and Mess Hall 3 & 4 Reconstruction Project – Bob informed that below ground construction was proceeding on Barracks and Mess Hall 3 and that staff was recently notified that \$1.3M had been received from an anonymous donor for Barracks and Mess Hall 4. This means that the two projects would be able to proceed simultaneously and thus, save dollars in the process. Bob noted that COVID has continued to slow the project due to supply and workforce related issues.

15. Staff Reports – Bob informed that the Fort had experienced a COVID issue which created some staff shortages. He also noted that he was down two staff members and that the Fort and the City continued to struggle to find candidates to fill positions.

16. Building Maintenance & Repair Project Updates – Bob informed that the contractor was 98% complete with the exterior projects and that he would be reviewing a punch list next week. He further informed that he is securing a quote from the contractor to complete the column work which has slowed due to staff shortages and ongoing general maintenance conflicts.

17. Fort Concho Foundation Report – Roger informed that the Foundation was in good financial condition due to a positive return on investments.

18. Future Agenda Items – Bob suggested an agenda item to discuss potential projects for this year's San Angelo Gives Program.

19. Announcements – Bob noted various upcoming events including the Buffalo Soldier Day on February 27 and the Regional Cavalry Competition scheduled for April 21-23.

Bob thanked the Board for his 40th Work Anniversary celebration held prior to this meeting and acknowledged the Board, staff, and volunteers for the continued success of Fort Concho.

Adjournment – Lisa Marley moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave Schaller seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Roger Banks adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Kathy Keane*

Kathy Keane
Board Secretary