

Fort Concho Museum Board Minutes February 15, 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 present with 100% attendance: Roger Banks, Brandon Allen, Kathy Keane, Dave Schaller, Don Barnhart, Sherley Spears, Dr. Jason Pierce, Major Barger, Yukio Kuniyuki, Curtis Milbourn, George Balli, Monty Stanley, Colleen Haddad, and Lisa Marley. Hailey Hawkins, ASU Honors Student Intern, also attended.

New Board Members Colleen Haddad and George Balli introduced themselves to the Board.

C. Approval of excused absences – No approval needed.

D. Introduction of guests – Bob introduced Marci Menchaca, Interim Director and Mackenzie Gunter, Community Resource Coordinator with the House of Faith.

E. Presentations – House of Faith representatives thanked the Board for allowing them to hold their 2021 Family Christmas Party in the Stables where they provided gifts and food to over 1,800 children and their families. Bob reminded that the Board had previously approved their 2022 Christmas event.

Bob displayed the recent award from True West Magazine, naming Fort Concho National Historic Site as the 2022 Best Preserved Historic Fort of the West.

F. Public Comment - None.

Item # 10 of the Regular Agenda – Education Programs: Sarah Ross, Education & Living History Coordinator, noted some of the upcoming events in March for the Education Department including their attendance at Fort Clark Days in Brackettville March 4th & 5th. Fort Concho events will include the Spring Break Tours, Frontier Ladies Symposium, Artillery Training, and the beginning of Campfire Story Nights. Sarah further noted her participation in Austin Elementary's Texas Culture Art Show.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the January 18, 2022 Minutes – Lisa Marley moved to approve the Minutes of January 18, 2022. Sherley Spears seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report – Lisa Marley presented the financials for January 2022, noting that income was slighted down from last year; however, YTD income was up \$74K due to the success of Christmas at Old Fort Concho and up 8% over the last 10-year average. Expenses were at 31.9% at the 33% budget mark. Overall, the Fort is \$32,366 to the good as of the end of January. Curtis Milbourn moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Sherley Spears seconded the motion, which carried unanimously

3. Site Manager's Report – Bob referred members to his written report in the agenda packet and expressed thanks to the Mayor and City Council for their continued financial support of ongoing building repairs. Don Barnhart moved to accept the Site Manager's report. Yukio Kuniyuki seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

10. Staff Report – Exhibit Activities – Cory Robinson, Curator of History, reviewed the three exhibits his department is working on: the Artillery Exhibit; the Buffalo Soldier Exhibit in coordination with Angelo State University; and the Native American Exhibit that will include a life-size replica of a tipi lodge. He further noted the proposed enhancement to the Museum of Telephony in Officers' Quarters #4 which would better relate to Fort Concho and provide a history of communications.

5. Update on Lease of Fort Concho Land Near Post Hospital to Rust Street Ministries – Bob reminded that the Board had previously approved the lease in concept and stated that the City Council had given their approval for the 40-year lease at today's City Council Meeting. He further informed that Fort Concho would retain ownership of the land and that the Texas Historical Commission could still require an archeological study before final signature of the Lease.

6. Approval of Participation and Discussion of Themes for San Angelo Gives Day, May 3 – Bob reviewed a breakdown of the past years' donations and informed that all funds raised through the San Angelo Gives program are held in trust within the Foundation's bank account for their specific purpose. Noting Cory's previous presentation, Bob suggested this year's campaign focus on finishing out the Native American Exhibit. Sherley Spears moved to approve participation in the San Angelo Gives Day on May 3. Brandon Allen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Curtis Milbourn moved to approve the Native American Exhibit ask for the San Angelo Gives Day on May 3. Brandon Allen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. Report on the Buffalo Soldier Memorial – Project Coordinator, Sherley, informed that she would be traveling to Arizona to visit the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial in Tucson and be part of the Black History Celebration including a parade and flag raising ceremony. She further informed that she had met with local architect Craig Kinney on the design and would be forming the Memorial Committee within the next month. Sherley noted that the Buffalo Soldier National Convention was to be held in Houston in 2023.

8. Review and Approval of Proposed Shade Structure to Post Hospital Garden – Bob informed that a local girl scout had created the plans and will raise funds for the shade structure; however, he noted that the project may require a building permit and historic overlay review. Don Barnhart moved to approve the project in principle pending the possible permit and review. Lisa Marely seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Lisa suggested that once the project is approved, we invite the girl scout to make a presentation to the Board.

9. Briefing on Barracks and Mess Hall 3 & 4 Reconstruction Project – Bob stated that most of the underground construction has been completed and the footing for the buildings were underway. He stated that he hoped to have construction schedule available for review at the next meeting.

11. Building Maintenance & Repair Project Updates – Bob stated that the top projects were underway. With the Board’s approval, he stated that he would produce an executive summary of remaining projects for the next 5-8 years and present it for the Board’s review at the March or April meeting. Bob estimated funds needed to “Finish the Fort” were \$8-12M and suggested that the completion date be 2028 that would be the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Fort Concho Museum and Preservation Project.

Responding to the question, Bob stated that he would be asking for a quote from the current contractor to finish the building columns that the fort staff cannot complete in a timely manner due to staff shortages.

Noting plans to finish the fort, Roger asked for the Board’s consensus to again move forward with efforts to close Avenue D. The Board discussed previous efforts and ideas for gaining support in another approach. After much discussion, the Board agreed by consensus to have Roger move forward in determining the details of a petition to have the item placed on an upcoming City ballot.

George Balli left the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

12. Fort Concho Foundation Report – Bob informed that the Foundation was in good financial condition.

Don Barnhart left the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

13. Future Agenda Items – Bob noted the suggestion to have the local girl scout make a presentation to the Board regarding her proposed shade structure project for the Post Hospital garden. Yukio Kuniyuki agreed to prepare notes to guide Board members in promotion of the May 3rd San Angelo Gives, Native American Exhibit project.

Adjournment – Dave Schaller moved to adjourn the meeting. Sherley Spears seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Roger Banks adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathy Keane

Kathy Keane
Board Secretary