

Fort Concho Museum Board Minutes March 15, 2022

I. OPEN SESSION

A. **Call to Order** - President Roger Banks called the meeting to order at 3:33 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 11 out of 14 members in attendance: Roger Banks, Brandon Allen, Kathy Keane, Dave Schaller, Don Barnhart, Sherley Spears, LTC Joe Garwacki, Yukio Kuniyuki, George Balli, Monty Stanley, and Lisa Marley. Absent: Dr. Jason Pierce, Colleen Haddad and Curtis Milbourn.

C. **Approval of Excused Absences** – Dr. Jason Pierce, Colleen Haddad and Curtis Milbourn were absent. Dave Schaller moved to approve the absences. Sherley Spears seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

D. **Introduction of Guests** – No guests were present.

E. **Presentations** – Roger reminded the Board of the discussion at the last meeting regarding the possible ballot issue for the closing of Avenue D that runs through the historic site. He noted his research and introduced City Clerk Julia Antilley for a review of the process. As detailed in Section 47: INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM of the City Charter, the steps to have an issue placed on a City ballot as follows:

- Five voters, representing the Initiative Committee, shall deliver to the City Clerk a written instrument proposing the ordinance or resolution which is then notarized
- Committee will have 60 calendar days to secure signatures on the Petition Sheets signed by not less than 25% of the number voting at the last regular municipal mayoral election (1,512 signatures). Each sheet shall have an affidavit by the circulator verifying the number of signatures and that they were received in the presence of the circulator.
- Signatures must be registered voters of the City of San Angelo.
- Upon receipt, the City Clerk will have 30 days to verify the signatures. If the number of signatures is sufficient, City Clerk will certify and send to the City Council.
- Within 30 days of from the date of submission of the petition, City Council will accept the petition and a copy of the proposed ordinance or resolution will be published. A date will be set for the public hearing where the Council will consider the proposal. At this hearing, the Council has the option to deny, repeal portions of the petition or accept “as is”. If the petition is denied, petitioners have 20 days to submit a certified letter at the next regular meeting of the Council who shall order a special election in accordance with state law to submit such to the voters.

Julia noted that the entire process could take up to seven and a half months to complete. Julia confirmed that Board members and City staff could not participate in the gathering of petitions; however, Board members could sign the petition. Bob noted that his position would be neutral and that Foundation Members would be eligible to be initiators if they so desired. Responding to the question, Julia stated

that the election would be held on a uniform election date and therefore, would not incur additional costs to the City and taxpayers.

F. Public Comment - None.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the February 15, 2022 Minutes – Lisa Marley moved to approve the Minutes of February 15, 2022. Dave Schaller seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report – Lisa Marley presented the financials for February 2022, noting that income represented a 30% increase mostly due to extra rental income; February income was almost 10% above the last ten-year average. Admissions reflect a slight increase due to the resumption of charging vs free. Year-to-date income is up 43% mostly due to the Christmas event and is 6% above the last ten-year average. Expenses were up \$100K from last year also due to Christmas event. Overall, the Fort is about \$8,600 revenue above expense as of the end of February.

Don Barnhart moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Brandon Allen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously

3. Site Manager's Report – Bob referred members to his written report in the agenda packet.

Sherley Spears moved to accept the Site Manager's report. George Balli seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

6. Update on Buffalo Soldier Memorial – Sherley distributed an update and proposed rendering of the Memorial created by Craig Kinney. She noted that she had met with the San Angelo Area Foundation and established an account to receive donations. Sherley reminded that the fundraising goal was \$250K-\$300K and that a fundraising event would be held on March 29th at the Riverview Restaurant with Dr. Opal Lee, Grandmother of Juneteeth, as the keynote speaker. She noted the next steps as: Establish Campaign and Messaging; Negotiate use of space and maintenance with the City of San Angelo; Present the proposal at the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and then to the City Council; Create a Project Plan; and, participate in the San Angelo Gives program in May. Sherley expressed her thanks to Bob and the fort staff for their continued support and assistance for the project and encouraged Board members to support as well. Responding to questions, she stated that she wanted the project to be locally designed and constructed and that the Project committee would decide on which soldiers would be recognized in the Memorial.

7. Briefing on Shade Cover Project at Community Garden – Bob distributed a handout detailing the project and stated that the girl scout responsible for the project had been invited to attend this meeting. However, he noted that she would most likely attend a meeting and make her presentation after the project receives Design and Historic Review Commission and City Council approval. Responding to questions, Bob stated that the shade would be constructed in neutral colors and that maintenance is proposed to be provided by the Texas Hunger Initiative and its subsidiaries

4. Buildings and Grounds Report – Bob noted there was nothing new to report and referred Board members to his Site Manager’s Report. He stated that a quote had been received and the current contractor would be completing the columns. A start and proposed completion date would be made available at the Board’s next regular meeting

8. Collections Report – Bob noted there was nothing to report; however, he noted a potential book donation which may be reported at the next regular meeting.

9. Update on Barracks & Mess Halls 3-4 Reconstruction Project – Bob informed that both projects are estimated to be complete by Fall. He further informed that nothing would be moved until January 2023 due to the Christmas event activities and that staff’s priority would be to move the special collection over to the new space.

5. Review of Capital Projects – In the essence of time, Bob distributed a proposed 5-Year Plan for Capital Projects: Buildings, Grounds & Operations and stated that he would provide a comprehensive review at the April Board Meeting. He asked that members not distribute until a prioritization and approved messaging could be provided.

Bob distributed the True West and Travel Host magazines containing highlights on Fort Concho. He also displayed old 25-year old shingles from Barracks 1 that are being fully replaced.

10. Update on Cultural District Issues – Bob informed that Howard Taylor with the Museum of Fine Arts was to send a letter to Representative Drew Darby related to the Oakes Street Bridge improvements and would be meeting with the Mayor and Councilmembers as well. Bob further informed that until there was additional news or action to be taken, the Cultural District Committee would not be meeting.

11. Fort Concho Foundation Report – Bob informed that the Foundation was in good financial condition and that the Foundation Board would hold their next meeting in April.

12. Membership Drive Briefing – Bob informed that letters to individuals with memberships above \$500 had gone out and that the second mailing would contain all other membership levels. He encouraged Board members to consider their membership renewals as well.

13. Staff News – Bob noted that part-time guide, Ryan, had left to pursue other opportunities but promised to return as a volunteer.

14. Future Agenda Items – Bob reminded that he would provide a review of the 5-Year Capital Projects Report at the next meeting. Yukio noted that he would provide an update to the messaging for the San Angelo Gives Program.

Bob informed that he had learned of the death of Wayne Daniel, former Fort Concho librarian, and suggested a special fund be established in his memory to address future library needs.

Sherley publicly thanked Bob for his beautiful letter read at Rick Brown’s recent funeral services. Bob stated that Rick was one of the best volunteers and Buffalo Soldier the Fort had ever had.

Adjournment – George Balli moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave Schaller seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Roger Banks adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Kathy Keane*

Kathy Keane
Board Secretary