

Fort Concho Museum Board Minutes

September 17, 2024

Officer's Quarters 8

I. Open Session

- A. **Call to Order** – Board President Don Barnhart called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM
- B. **Determination of a Quorum** – Site Manager Bob Bluthardt confirmed a quorum was present: Don Barnhart, Lisa Marley, Ewell Loudermilk, Yukio Kuniyuki, Asher Rogers, George Balli, Tracy Simpson, Dr. Jason Pierce, and Tommy Earnest. Absent: LTC Raymond Kuderka (shanghaied by a General), Colleen Haddad, Sarah Clemens, Sherley Spears, Penny Roberts, and Monty Stanley.
- C. **Approval of Excused Absences** – Motion made to excuse the absences by Lisa Marley and seconded by Tracy Simpson. Motion carried.
- D. **Introduction of Guests** – Fort Concho's Eunice Tibay, Brendalee Brown, Sarah Thieme, and Jeremy Bartz, VP of San Angelo Chamber of Commerce Destination Market Organization (DMO). Jeremy led off with what is going at DMO. DMO uses Fort Concho as the #1 tourist attraction. Submitted application to True West. Bob expressed gratitude for the relationship of Fort Concho and the DMO. Jeremy told of an agreement just completed with Ty Harris and Dillon Hancock, tie down ropers of the PRCA, who will represent Discover San Angelo at the NFR Rodeo Finals in Las Vegas this December.
- E. **Presentations** – No presentations
- F. **Public Comment** – No public comment

II. Consent Agenda

- 1. **Consideration of Approving the August 20, 2024 Minutes** – Motion made to accept the Minutes by Yukio Kuniyuki and seconded by Ewell Loudermilk. Motion carried by unanimous harumph.
- 2. **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Lisa Marley stated this report represents the 11th month of the Fiscal Year or 91.7% of the year. August Income – admission and shop income up despite punishing heat for the month, Christmas over double last year due to earlier mailing of solicitations, rent down; a slower month than normal, overall monthly income up almost \$15K; second best in past decade. Year to Date Income – admissions up 12%, gift shop up 29%, Christmas up 27%, membership up 23%, interest up 73%, rent about the same as last two years but above last ten-year average, donations up 10%, overall YTD up over \$100K or 17% the best YTD at this point in past ten years. YTD Expenses – Staff expenses higher due to full staff and adjustment, supplies/services (second largest item) near target for this point, other expenses levels near appropriate levels for this point of Fiscal Year, overall is at 93.5% versus target of 91.7%. Total Income for YTD is \$1,143,676. Total Expenses for YTD is \$1,174,968. Expenses over Income is \$31,292, which is down from \$68,700 last month. The Treasurer's Report was Acknowledged and Accepted by the Board.

III. Regular Agenda: Public Hearing and Comments

- 6. **Review and Approval of Updated Rules and Guidelines for Use of Materials at Fort Concho Library/Archives** – The updated Agreement was provided within the packet sent out

to the Board. Eunice Tibay explained the updated verbiage in the Rules and Guidelines. Site Manager Bob Bluthardt stated that Staff recommendation is to Accept the updated Agreement. Motion made to Accept the Updated Agreement made by Dr. Jason Pierce and seconded by Tracy Simpson (and others). Motion carried.

Sarah Thieme presented synopsis of the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the Red River Wars starting with a presentation at the Fort Concho Speaker Series. Re-enactors will start at Fort McKavett, travel to Christoval's Pugh Park, to the Concho Mail Station, ending up at Fort Concho. Sarah along with many others have been planning this event for over a year. The battle of Palo Duro forever changed the makeup of the West Texas frontier.

8. Report on Changes to Fort Concho/City Social Media Programs – Brendalee Brown stated the Fort will be collaborating with the City's website people. The Fort will be able to incorporate the store for more exposure. A new point-of-sale will help in on-line purchases. The FortConcho.com website name will most likely stay. Brendalee will be the Fort's webmaster. No changes in social media expected. These changes are being driven by ADA guidelines.

4. Update on The Wall That Heals Proposed at Fort Concho in March 2025 – No news from JJ Graham at this time. Doesn't appear that the March 2025 time will be granted. When that group has a date, the Fort will be ready to assist.

5. Nominations Report – nothing new at this time. Sherley Spears and Dr. Jason Pierce both have prospects. Timing of Council appointment of these potential Board members will be critical in that Dr. Pierce's prospect doesn't go into Sherley's spot and vice versa.

7. Fort Concho Logo Committee Report – the logo committee met on September 9th and the bullet points from that meeting were included in the Board packet. Jeremy Bartz offered DMO's assistance with a graphics designer, Jasmine Harris, he has on staff. Jasmine designed the Buffalo Soldier Memorial logo.

9. Review and Approval of Downtown San Angelo to use Stables Hall on October 1-2 for event and waive regular rental fee – the Board verbally agreed during the August Board meeting to grant this request. Motion made to approve the request by Dr. Jason Pierce and seconded by Ewell Loudermilk. Motion carried. The Fort has a good relationship with DSA.

10. Briefing on Christmas at Old Fort Concho 2024 – Site Manager Bob Bluthardt led off with report on Carol Cummings, longtime Fort employee, who retired August 15th with 32 years of service. Carol retired to take care of her husband Todd. She will be a seasonal staff employee, mainly to help on C@OFC. The Fort is on schedule with C@OFC, vendors payments on schedule. Bob told of being approached by Laramie Stroud, Chief of Staff for Texas State Representative Drew Darby to sponsor a billboard for C@OFC. Volunteer coordinator "retired", Fort looking at replacements.

11. Collections Report – Bob had on display an 1880's bedstead from the Bill Green collection. Bob also told of being offered a 1,500-unit gun collection that may or may not be acted upon. More on that in the October Board meeting.

12. Fort Concho Membership Drive – Bob provided the attending Board members additional membership lists for the Board to peruse through. A certain Board member let it be known that they renewed their membership just before this meeting, so they are off the list. Almost 100% of the Fort's Board are contributing Members. Subject will be revisited in January 2025. Membership drive is at the \$51,000 mark. Easier to get members to RENEW than to get NEW members. May look at the Membership Program sometime next year to see if needs to be revamped. More money is coming from fewer people.

13. Update of Barracks & Mess Halls 3-4 Reconstruction Project – Shelves being installed. Still number of punch list items to address. Certificate of Occupancy (COO) still pending. May have October Board meeting there if COO is granted, otherwise may meet in Barracks 6 and go have a peak in the new buildings. May have soft opening before the Christmas event and possible ribbon cutting in Jan/Feb timeline.

14. Fort Concho Foundation Report – will meet in November. Investments doing well.

15. Review of Upcoming Events – Bob led off talking about a new Arcadia book about Fort Concho. Dr. John Langellier will be the shadow writer, with input from Bob and Eunice. These coffee table books will be an added bonus for the gift shop, membership enticements, etc. The plan is to have these available for C@OFC 2025.

The Christmas Lights program run by Lee Pfluger will be taken over by the Downtown San Angelo group with City of San Angelo help. The lights are currently stored in two of the Fort's buildings and the Fort needs the space, so Bob has requested that the City ponder a new storage home.

Bob acknowledged the recent passing of Rod Bridgman, founder of Sealy Flats in downtown San Angelo. Barbara Hesse, former Board President along with other titles, is under Hospice care.

Also, for today's date history lesson, Bob acknowledged that today the Fort Concho Museum was theoretically founded in 1927 by Ginevra Carson. The second history lesson was today in 1936 was the great flooding of San Angelo.

16. Staff News – no news

17. Briefing on National 2026 250th Celebration and Fort Concho Centennial 2027 – the Fort may take a supportive roll in whatever activities are planned, but not the lead for the 250th. The Fort's museum centennial could be a good production with various activities. This item will be on future Board meetings for discussion.

18. Future Agenda Items – nothing at this time

Motion to adjourn made by Yukio Kuniyuki and seconded by George Balli. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 4:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tommy Earnest, Secretary

/s/ *Tommy Earnest*