

Fort Concho Museum Board

January 19, 2021

I. OPEN SESSION

A. **Call to Order-** President, Roger Banks called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. at the Fort Concho Stables Hall, 210 Henry O. Flipper Street. The Stables Hall is large enough to allow for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protocols as the coronavirus pandemic continues. All persons in attendance wore proper facial coverings and maintained at least six feet separation in accordance with CDC guidelines.

B. **Determination of a quorum-** A quorum was established with 7 board members present in person and 1 member participating by telephone.

Members present: Roger Banks, Sherley Spears, Joyce Lowe, Lisa Marley, LTC Brian Ryan, Brandon Allen, Dave Schaller, and Yukio Kuniyuki,(by telephone.)

C. **Approval of excused absences** – Sherley Spears moved to approve absences. Dave Schaller seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Members absent: Kathy Keane, Dr. Jason Pierce, Curtis Milbourn. Monty Stanley's term expires 01/31/2021 and he was not present at this meeting. He presented closing remarks at the November, 2020 meeting.

D. **Introduction of guests** – Kevin Reynolds, Executive Director and Marci Menchaca, Associate Director of House of Faith (HOF.)

E. **Presentations** – Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Menchaca expressed their thanks to the Fort board and gave a summary of their Christmas 2020 event held at the Fort.

Board members received a copy of the HOF December 2020 newsletter. The newsletter included some, but not all of the photographs of the event. Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Menchaca said that the Stables Hall was filled with gifts and food for their guests. Participants received food, a family gift, children's gifts, and each family received "Blessing Books." Parents received tips for positive parenting such as 'speaking life' to their children. Between 400 and 500 families attended the event, which was about 2,000 people. Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Menchaca thanked the board for allowing their event and stated that the Fort was an unforeseen blessing as it allowed the theme "A Cowboy Christmas" to "come alive" in a real way for attendees. Site Manager, Bob Bluthardt pointed out that the HOF gave the Fort a very kind donation to cover utility expenses. Bob attended the first night of the event and reported that there were shows at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. and the event went off like clockwork through the various locations at the fort. The shows occurred three times per night for four nights and allowed for about 10% of the fort's total annual attendance, in spite of the pandemic, which was a good thing for all involved.

F. **Public Comment** – None.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consideration of approving the November 17, 2020 Minutes** – Lisa Marley moved to accept the minutes of the meeting of 11/17/2020. Brandon Allen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2. Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Lisa Marley presented the following:

The reports in the board members' packets cover the first quarter of the new fiscal year, October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Total revenue from all sources was \$233,519. Operating expenses were \$214,384, with revenue over expenses of \$19,135. There are two open staff positions. This helps with shortfalls from the cancellation of Christmas at Old Fort Concho and the decrease in rental income. We have \$15,500 in memberships so far which also helps immensely.

Joyce Lowe moved to accept the treasurer's report and Sherley Spears seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board then took up item numbers **8: Collections Report and Consideration and Approval of Acquisitions and **9: Briefing on Humanities Grant Project for Fort Concho Exhibit and Interpretation Plan****

Cory Robinson, Fort Curator, brought two individual items, as well as a group of items, to the board for consideration. The first item is a late 19th century swivel desk chair. The chair comes to us without casters, which is not a problem. The chair has been refinished and the wicker was replaced. The piece will work well in our collection because we are looking for pieces to use in exhibits. Although visitors will be discouraged from sitting on the chair, if someone did, it would most likely not be damaged the way it would be if not refinished. The second item is a medical officer reproduction sword donated by Dr. Don Carlyle. Dr. Carlyle volunteered at the fort used and the sword during his presentations. The sword will be used in a uniforms exhibit along with a hat that the fort recently acquired. The third is a group of miscellaneous items donated by Burt Schultz. One of the items is an 1879 trumpet for foot troops which Cory brought to the meeting. It is an "F" trumpet with a "C" crook. This means it has a slide that allows the player to change the key of the instrument from "F" to "C." The trumpet was made by the Horstmann Company, which also made other items for the military such as buttons. The trumpet is an original item and we do not have one like it. Some of the other 75 items donated by Mr. Schultz include forager rounds. We do not have any of those in our collections at this time. Sherley Spears made a motion to accept the items as presented to the board today and Dave Schaller seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Cory also talked about his discussions with a gentleman from Montana who is considering donating a collection of musical instruments, original music and photographs of the era.

Cory wrote a grant proposal for Humanities Texas to begin revitalizing all exhibits at the fort. The plan was to have work completed under the grant by March of 2020. Dr. John Langellier agreed to visit and assist in the planning phase. Dr. Langellier wrote books on the Buffalo

Soldiers and historic military uniforms and assisted us in Arizona when we were acquiring the Doug McChristian collection. The pandemic and other unforeseen events delayed Dr. Langellier's visit, but in November he finally arrived on site. He stayed in Officer's Quarters 1 for about a week and a half. He went building by building to assess where we are and where we want to be with our interpretation of the history of the fort. We want to broaden our interpretation of the Buffalo Soldiers, as well as Native Americans, minorities and women's roles at the fort and region. We want to use the McChristian collection to tell a story and not just exhibit miscellaneous pieces from the collection. Bob will email a copy of the report that was generated from the collaboration with Dr. Langellier. Bob praised Cory's work and pointed out that this is the first new guidance for interpretation at the fort in 40 years.

3. **Site Manager's Report** –Bob Bluthardt, Site Manager, referred board members to the report in their packets, but remarked on the snows received on December 31, 2020 and January 10, 2021. The pictures posted on Facebook received numerous comments and praise and staff did an excellent job of documenting the snow events. Lisa Marley moved to accept the Site Manager's report; Dave Schaller seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

4. **Nominations Report and Approval of Officers for 2021** – There are no new nominations at this time. There are three slots open on the board. The executive board will stay the same through 2021.
5. **Buildings and Grounds Report** – Officer's Quarters (OQ) 2 renovation is 95% complete. It is still in need of masonry work, but the masonry expert is backed up on work and will get to us as soon as possible. Work has moved on to OQ3. Unless a more pressing need arises, work will continue building by building around the grounds. We had storms in April, May and August of 2020. Roofs were replaced less than 9 months before the storms, but inspection revealed damage and the new roofs need to be replaced. Insurance will pay for the work and there are no out of pocket expenses for the fort. We will be replanting grass in the courtyard area between Barracks 5 and 6 and hope that a designated loading and unloading area will reduce damage to the grassy areas there.
6. **Review of 2021 Events Calendar and Pandemic Condition Adjustments** – Bob handed out a list of eight "Factors in Event Planning During COVID 2021."

Page 43 of the board packet lists planned events for 2021. The Fort plans to move forward with all the events on the calendar to the extent it is possible in light of the eight factors on the presented list. Bob discussed each factor and how it affects major events on the calendar. As the pandemic goes forward, we will find ways to allow events to happen if at all possible.

7. **Review of Proposed Memorial Plaque for Fort Concho Living History Volunteers** – Conrad McClure is a former staff member and volunteer and he

proposed a memorial plaque for all deceased volunteers. The goal is to place it in the Living History Stables. This is a high profile location and very visible. The cost would be a few hundred dollars, which would come from donors or the Fort Foundation. Joyce Lowe moved to approve the memorial plaque to honor deceased living history volunteers. Brandon Allen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. See discussion above on pages 2 and 3.

9. See discussion above on pages 2 and 3.

10. Update on Barracks & Mess Halls 3-4 Reconstruction Project – To begin the project, the city will re-plat blocks where fort buildings are located. The fort's neighbors will be getting a letter (Bob presented copies to the board) with details of the rezoning and a Notice of Public Hearing. The rezoning has nothing to do whatsoever with Avenue D, which cuts through the fort. The fort is being rezoned to match current land use of the 38-40 acres. There are 13 blocks and over 100 lots encompassed by the fort. The current zoning was established in the 1950's before the land became an historic site. The zones and plats created at that time no longer apply to the current uses of the land.

The architect has updated plans for the reconstruction project. The designs are being reviewed. Dr. Brian May is seeking quotes from construction companies. Our goal is to tidy up administrative issues in January and February and to get building permits in March. At that time, we will present contracts and begin breaking ground in late spring.


11. Fort Concho Foundation Report – See item 10.

12. Staff News – Rocio Moncibais has tendered her resignation effective January 27, 2021. Ms. Moncibais has accepted a position with the San Angelo Symphony. She began her tenure at the fort in April of 2015. We wish her well in her new position and though she will be missed, we are glad to know she isn't going to be too far away.

13. Future Agenda Items – There was a brief discussion of the Buffalo Soldier events in February. The events will occur the week following our next meeting.

Dave Schaller moved to adjourn. Lisa Marley seconded the motion. The motion carried. President Roger Banks adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joyce K. Lowe

Board Secretary