

Fort Concho Museum Board Minutes

October 19, 2021

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 established that a quorum was present with 11 members present. Two members arrived later for a total of 13 members in attendance.

Members present at 3:30 p.m.: Roger Banks, Joyce Lowe, Brandon Allen, Kathy Keane, Dave Schaller, Don Barnhart, George Balli, Sherley Spears, Dr. Jason Pierce, Major Barger (covering for LTC Garwacki), Yukio Kuniyuki, Lisa Marley arrived at 3:32 p.m. Lori Barton arrived at 3:45 p.m.

C. Approval of excused absences –Curtis Milbourn was absent. Kathy Keane moved to approve the absence. Dave Schaller seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Introduction of guests – Bob introduced Hailey Hawkins. Hailey is the Angelo State University (ASU) honors student who will be working with staff this year. Kathy Keane introduced new board member, George Balli. Cory Robinson was introduced and will present during agenda item 7

E. Presentations – None.

F. Public Comment - None.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration of approving the September 21, 2021 Minutes – Kathy Keane moved to accept the minutes of 09/21/2021. Brandon Allen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report – No treasurer's report: There are no financials because the fiscal year just ended. The treasurer will have a report next month.

3. Site Manager's Report -Bob Bluthardt, Site Manager, yielded the floor to Cory Robinson for **Item #7 of the Regular Consent Agenda: Collections Report and Consideration and Approval of Collections Acquisitions and Item #9 Update on Long Range Exhibit and Interpretive Plan**- Cory brought an 1860 model light cavalry saber. It has an 1865 date on it and was an enlisted man's weapon. It could have been used on the frontier or in surplus. It came with an 1885 hanger attachment piece. Mr. Mark McLaughlin also donated a Colt model, 1860 Army .44 caliber rifle. The rifle has 4 serial numbers on it. It is in good working condition. Brandon Allen moved to accept the two items into our collection. Dave Schaller seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Cory has set aside \$10,000 from the Tucker Foundation grant for our Native American Exhibit which is part of our long-range interpretive plan. Mess Hall 6, currently being used for storage, was a possible site for the exhibit, however, we prefer to feature it more prominently. Barracks 1/east wing is a possibility, but there is no security or air conditioning, and the flooring is inadequate. Accordingly, the location search continues. Our intern, Hannah Hill will be researching approximately six regional tribes to feature in the exhibit. Ms. Hill is also assisting with the artillery exhibit in Barracks 2. There is an

expected cost of \$10-20,000 for the project and we don't yet have the money. As money comes in, work will continue. The exhibit will also feature civilians at Fort Concho. The exhibit will showcase the contributions of Mexican American contractors specifically, as well as all other civilian contractors.

The telephone pioneers want to upgrade their exhibit to include military signal corps. The exhibit would cover the era of telegraphs through the period of telephones and modern military communications. The displays would be focused by decades.

The Buffalo Soldiers exhibit has been pushed back to 2023. It will start as modular exhibits to be displayed at the Meyer Museum at ASU. We will need good quality display cases. Some components will be done in-house which will help with the overall cost of the project. Send any ideas and links to information to Cory.

Item #3 Site Manager's report - Bob presented his report and referred members to the agenda packet. Unfortunately, there were two recent notable deaths. Sonny Cleere passed away. Sonny was the voice of the Christmas pageants of the early 1980's. Dr. Bob Prestiano was a retired ASU professor who was an expert on Oscar Ruffini. They will both be missed.

There will not be a joint meeting of the Cultural District with the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts (SAMFA) board members today. There will be a pre-strategy meeting which may happen in early November. It is hoped that the joint board meeting with SAMFA will happen early next year.

A note about group emails: The City Attorney asked that board members not do a "reply all" to emails from Bob to the group. Please reply only to Bob. This will help the board adhere to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The San Angelo Standard-Times asked if the fort would be interested in their research library/story files. Bob informed their staff that we would take, protect, and make available to the public any archival records they have, but no longer want to keep. Bob will be visiting with them soon. Stay tuned for more information on the receipt of those records. Sherley Spears moved to accept the Site Manager's report. Dr. Jason Pierce seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

4. Buildings and Grounds Report – The supply chain issues continue and so the repairs contract is extended an additional 30 days. Work continues on Barracks 5 & 6 and the front of the Commissary. Columns are being done as time allows. We hope to be about three quarters done by Christmas at Old Fort Concho.

5. Review of Upcoming Events – There are three Halloween events coming up. October 15th and 23rd event is sold out. There are events on the 29th and 30th as well. November 5-6 is the Murder Mystery Event based on the board game "Clue." There are an unlimited number of slots for that event. We expect all of the events to be profitable and fun.

Brendalee discovered the National Mule Day and suggested an event to be held on October 26th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event is 'come and go' and is free to the public. Linda Hermes will be here to sign books and there will be 'guest' mules from our local Lost Meadows Mule Refuge.

6. Update on Christmas at Old Fort Concho 2021 – Sponsorships are looking good. We have almost \$36,000 so far. We are near \$16,000 on merchant fees, about two thirds of the way to our goal. We need volunteers, especially for the ticket booths and soft drink booths. Please donate your time and sign up for shifts. Post information on your social media as well. December 3, 4, 5 are the dates. Carol Cummings and Mary Hernandez are the contacts for volunteers.

7. Collections Report and Consideration and Approval of Collections Acquisitions – See above.

8. Nominations Report – Bob presented a handout of board members and terms remaining. If you want to be on the board again, please send a notice to Bob before the next meeting. Refer nominations for the board to Bob.

9. Update on Long Range Exhibit and Interpretive Plan – see above.

10. Update on Barracks & Mess Halls 3-4 Reconstruction Project – There has been below ground progress on Barracks 3. There were delays with sewer lines and the easement for electricity. We hope to have above ground progress in time for the Christmas event. We would like to have a banner erected explaining the construction and marketing information on plans and opportunities for donations.

11. Fort Concho Foundation Report – No report.

12. Review and Approval of proposed lease of Fort land near Post Hospital to Rust Street Ministries – The lease for the strip of land to be used by Rust Street Ministries has been submitted to the Texas Historical Commission. No archeological dig is required. The lease would be a 40-year lease from the city to Rust Street Ministries. Don Barnhart moved to approve a 40-year lease of a strip of Fort Concho land to Rust Street Ministries to expand their drive through and in exchange the Fort will be allowed to use Rust Street Ministries parking lot when needed. Lisa Marley seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

13. Staff News – Nothing new to report. We came close to having a new part-time guide, but the deal fell through so we are still looking for a part-time guide.

14. Future Agenda Items – Consultants on Barracks 3 and 4 and the Mess Hall; we may want to meet at Barracks 6 if there is activity on site next month; update on Christmas at Old Fort Concho; update on the Cultural District; possible vote on whether to hold a December meeting; November 16th is the next board meeting. We may want to do a group photo at the next meeting.

15. Adjournment – Kathy Keane moved to adjourn the meeting. George Balli seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Roger Banks adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce K. Lowe

Board Secretary