

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING

AN AGENDA OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE *Fort Concho Museum Board* THE CITY OF SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

February 21, 2023 3:30 pm

Fort Concho Officers' Quarters 8

215 East Avenue D

Masks optional when within the building

FORT CONCHO'S OFFICERS' QUARTERS 8 IS ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. IF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED TO OBSERVE OR COMMENT, PLEASE NOTIFY THE FORT CONCHO BOARD LIAISON, BOB BLUTHARDT, 630 South Oakes, 481-2626 AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

*As a courtesy to those in attendance, please place your cell phone on "Silent" or "Vibrate"
Thank You!*

I. OPEN SESSION

- A. Call to Order
- B. Determination of a quorum
- C. Approval of excused absences
- D. Introduction of Guests
- E. Presentations
- F. Public Comment

The Board takes public comment on all items in the Regular Agenda. Public input on a Regular Agenda item will be taken at its appropriate discussion. Public input on an item not on the Agenda or Consent Agenda may be identified and requested for consideration by the Board at this time. The Board may request an item to be placed on a future agenda, or for a Consent Agenda item, to be moved to the Regular Agenda for public comment.

II. CONSENT AGENDA


- 1. Consideration of approving the January 17, 2023 Minutes
- 2. Treasurer's Report
- 3. Site Manager's Report

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

- 4. Collections Report
- 5. Review of 2023 San Angelo Gives Program and Authorization to Participate
- 6. Staff Reports
- 7. Review of Request to Fort Concho Board for Support of Historical Marker at Site Regarding Battle of Remolino, Mexico
- 8. Review of Future Proposed Project for Site of Concho Mail Station and Request for Fort Concho Board Support

9. Update on Symphony Polo Event of April 29 at Fort Concho and Review of Charges
10. Update on San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts and Use of Quartermaster from January-May, 2023
11. Review and Approval of 40-Year MOU between San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts and Fort Concho for Shared Collections Storage Space in Chase State Building
12. Review of Fort Concho Membership Drive for 2023
13. Building Maintenance & Repairs Updates
14. Fort Concho Foundation Report
15. Update on Barracks/Mess Halls 3-4 Reconstruction
16. Future Agenda Items
17. Update on NAACP Buffalo Soldier Memorial Project
18. Review of Site Fees For Programs, Rentals & Services and Actions Taken for FY 2024
19. Announcements

Given by order of the Fort Concho Museum Board and posted in accordance with Title 5, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Friday, February 17, 2023


Robert F. Bluthardt
Site Manager
Fort Concho

Fort Concho Museum Board Minutes November 15, 2022

I. OPEN SESSION

A. Call to Order - President Roger Banks called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. at Fort Concho Officers' Quarters 8, 215 East Avenue D.

B. Determination of a Quorum -At 3:40 p.m., Site Manager, Bob Bluthardt confirmed that a quorum was present: Roger Banks, Kathy Keane, Sherley Spears, Monty Stanley, Lisa Marley, Don Barnhart, Colleen Haddad, and Yukio Kuniyuki. Absent: Brandon Allen, Dave Schaller, George Balli, Sarah Cole, Curtis Milbourn, Dr. Jason Pierce, and Lt. Col. John McAllister.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

4. Update and Authorization for Bob Bluthardt to negotiate an agreement with the Alex Freeman, San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts Director, for the use of the Quartermaster in 2023 – Bob introduced Alex Freeman as the new Director for SAMFA, replacing longtime Director Howard Taylor. Mr. Freeman informed that he had previously served as the Executive Director of the Texas Association of Museums in Austin and had a longstanding TAM membership relationship with both Bob and Howard Taylor.

In discussing the use request, Mr. Freeman noted the May 2020 hailstorm which seriously damaged the roof of the Museum. As a result, staff had to move many art pieces to storage and close galleries for an undetermined amount of time. He requested authorization to move the administrative offices and an upcoming February exhibit to the Quartermaster. Bob reminded the Board that they had previously granted approval for the move and advised that Fort staff had freed up the calendar from January 1st through April 30th. In discussing lost revenue, Bob noted that SAMFA had agreed to cover the expense of necessary improvements to the Quartermaster which would bring it up to art gallery standards. He further noted that the cost of such improvements would cover the estimated lost revenue.

Don Barnhart moved to authorize Bob to work with Alex Freeman on a Memorandum of Understanding to move SAMFA administration offices and exhibit space to the Quartermaster under a revenue neutral arrangement as described above. Yukio Kuniyuki seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

I. OPEN SESSION (cont.)

C. Approval of Excused Absences – Lisa Marley moved to approve the absence of Brandon Allen, Dave Schaller, George Balli, Sarah Cole, Curtis Milbourn, Dr. Jason Pierce, and Lt. Col. John McAllister. Colleen Haddad seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Introduction of Guests – Bob introduced ASU Honors Students Kaci Wainscott and Robert Burnett who will serve as the ASU Student Honors Program Liaisons to the fort board for this school year. Carl White, COSA Parks and Recreation Director was also in attendance.

E. Presentations – None.

F. Public Comment - None.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the September 20, 2022, Minutes – Lisa Marley moved to approve the Minutes of September 20, 2022. Sherley Spears seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report – Lisa Marley presented the financials for September 2022 and end of fiscal year noting that September income was up about \$1,600 over last year and the second-best September of the past ten years. Christmas income was up substantially due to aggressive collection of booth payments and sponsorships and rent overall was above monthly average. End of year income was up almost \$100,000 due to the Christmas event. Additionally, admissions were up, gift shop revenues were near ten-year average, and rental income was the best of the last ten years. All major expense line items spent less than budgeted; however, the percentage of budget spent was higher due to more staff positions filled and programs/activities taking place. Final numbers for the 2021-2022 fiscal year ended with \$1,192,163 income and \$1,056,920 netting at \$135,243 for the Fund Balance. Responding to the question, Bob stated that the Fund Balance stood at approximately \$350,000-\$400,000 which is now at or above the required 90-Day operating expense balance.

Don Barnhart moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Colleen Haddad seconded the motion which carried unanimously

3. Site Manager's Report – Bob referred members to his written report in the agenda packet. He paused to note the tragic passing of Historian/Archivist Evelyn Lemons. Evelyn served the Fort for 32 years and will be deeply missed. A memorial service is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16th at 10:30 a.m. in the Stables. Bob further noted that the San Angelo Fire Department organized the event and would provide a luncheon following the service.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

4. Building & Grounds Report – Bob stated that contactor BASIC IDIQ had completed most of the column replacement/repair and the Fort will look its best for the upcoming Christmas at Old Fort Concho event. Some minor improvements such as adding chat to the streets would be completed soon; however, no major renovations were scheduled.

5. Update on Buffalo Soldier Memorial – Sherley Spears expressed her appreciation for being awarded the Community Impact Award at the recent San Angelo Chamber Celebration of Diversity Awards Luncheon. She stated that she was able to give a presentation on plans and progress for the San Angelo Buffalo Soldier Memorial and asked for a moment of silence in honor of Evelyn Lemons. Sherley further stated that the first tree planted at the Memorial will be in Evelyn's honor. She invited all to attend a blessing ceremony to be held on February 4, 2023, followed by the fundraising performance by the Houston Ebony Opera Guild. Sherley updated the fundraising efforts noting a recent \$15,000 donation which brings the total funds raised to almost \$500,000. The group is hoping to raise another \$50,000 to cover the cost of additional benches and trees. Marketing packets will be going out soon. Sherley stated her hopes to schedule the groundbreaking prior to the end of the year.

Dr. Jason Pierce arrived at 4:03 p.m.

Sherley stated that they are close to finalizing an MOU with Angelo State University for education curriculum and a speaker series to launch in January 2023. She stated that donations could be made to the Area Foundation. The Memorial will also be participating the *San Angelo Gives Day* in May 2023.

6. Briefing on Standard-Times Library Project – Bob informed that staff had received the green light to begin identifying, cataloging and moving the incredible community records within the former Standard-Times building. Some records will be displayed in the new Barracks 4, others will be stored in OQ7. Bob further informed that Kevin Barry, former publisher of the Standard-Times, recently took a tour of the former facility and has expressed interest in raising funds and directing the digitizing of the treasured records. Sherley and Kathy expressed interest in helping with the preservation project.

7. Nominations Report and Approval of Officers for 2023 – Roger noted the application of Tracy J. Simpson to replace Brandon Allen on the Board. Kathy Keane moved to recommend Mr. Simpson to the City Council for Board appointment. Yukio Kuniyuki seconded the motion which carried unanimously

Roger presented a slate of officers for 2023: President, Sherley Spears; Vice President, Don Barnhart; Secretary, Kathy Keane; and Treasurer, Lisa Marley. There being no other nominations, Colleen Haddad moved to accept the slate of officers for 2023. Monty Stanley seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

8. Consideration of Collections Acquisitions – None; however, Bob stated that Curator of History Cory Robinson would come to the January 2023 meeting and brief the board on an interesting de-accessioned item.

9. Update of Barracks & Mess Hall 3-4 Reconstruction Project – Bob stated that the project continues to make progress with the limestone façade to be going up soon. The original completion date was delayed due to supply issues and weather. A new completion date is anticipated by the end of the year.

10. Fort Concho Foundation Report – Roger reported that with the Barracks and Mess Hall 3-4 project nearing completion, the Foundation was readying for a time to begin discussing the next project, the new Visitors Center. He further reported that the Foundation had voted to honor Evelyn Lemons for her longtime dedication to historic preservation in the new library building.

11. Briefing on Christmas at Old Fort Concho – Bob stated that plans were now in the home stretch with all vendor booths filled, billboards up, social media running, and tickets on sale. He suggested that the event appeared to be 90-95% of where things were prior to COVID and that a large turnout was anticipated. Bob also reminded that staff would enforce the service animals only policy which is a policy currently being used at all COSA facilities as well as the Stock Show & Rodeo Grounds.

13. Staff News – Bob referred to his Site Manager's Report and noted that staffing was almost at the 14-member level with one maintenance position vacant.

14. Future Agenda Items – Bob distributed the new brochure for the E.H. Danner Museum of Telephony in OQ4.

Yukio Kuniyuki noted that *Leadership San Angelo* would be moving the January 2023 Fort Concho and Museum of Fine Arts session to May.

15. Canceling the December 20, 2022, Board Meeting – Colleen Haddad moved to cancel the December Board Meeting. Sherley Spears seconded the motion. Yukio Kuniyuki opposed. Motion carried 8-1.

16. Tabling of Walk About to Review Site Capital Issues – Due to the weather, Bob stated that he would reschedule the walk about.

Bob distributed the recent edition of the Ranch & Rural Living Magazine which included an article co-written with Evelyn Lemons entitled "*Saving Fort Concho Through the Decades*" and another written by Dee Lackey entitled "*History, Tradition on Display at Fort Concho Christmas Celebration*".

Bob also noted the recent decision by the Council on America's Military Past (CAMP) to establish their archives at Fort Concho. The archives will include past Heliogram newsletters, books, photos, files, and other CAMP resources.

Sherley Spears displayed the new Buffalo Soldier Memorial lapel pins and noted they were on sale through her and at the Fort's Visitor Center during Christmas at Old Fort Concho. The cost is \$25 per pin.

Adjournment – Sherly Spears moved to adjourn the meeting. Colleen Haddad seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Roger Banks adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Kathy Keane*

Kathy Keane, Board Secretary