

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING

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

**March 19, 2024 3:30 pm
Fort Concho Elementary School 310 East Washington Drive**

**FORT CONCHO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 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 February 20, 2024 Minutes
- 2. Treasurer's Report
- 3. Site Manager's Report

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT

- 4. Student Presentation on Fort Concho History
- 5. Review of 2023 Symphony Polo Event and Approval of Proposed 2024 Polo Event
- 6. Nominations Report
- 7. Update on San Angelo Gives Program of May 7
- 8. Fort Concho Logo Committee Report
- 9. Review of Christmas at Old Fort Concho for 2024

10. Approval of Request for Use of Quartermaster by San Angelo Hunger Initiative for August 27-29
11. Collections Report
12. Fort Concho Membership Drive Update
13. Update on Barracks & Mess Halls 3-4 reconstruction project
14. Fort Concho Foundation Report
15. Staff News
16. Future Agenda Items
17. Adjournment and Tour of Fort Concho Elementary School Campus and Facilities

Given by order of the Fort Concho Museum Board and posted in accordance with Title 5, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Friday, March 15, 2024



Robert F. Bluthardt
Site Manager
Fort Concho

Fort Concho Museum Board Minutes

January 30, 2024

I. Open Session

A. Call to Order – President Sherley Spears called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM in Officer’s Quarters 8.

B. Determination of a Quorum – Site Manager, Bob Bluthardt confirmed that a quorum was present: Sherley Spears, Don Barnhart, Dave Schaller, Penny Roberts, Lisa Marley, Yukio Kuniyuki, Monty Stanley, Tracy Simpson, Lt. Col. John McAllister, Kathy Keane, and Tommy Earnest. Absent: Colleen Haddad, Sarah Cole, George Balli, and Dr. Jason Pierce.

Guests attending were Daisy Herr, ASU Honors Program Intern; Ewell Loudermilk, potential Board Member; Eunice Tibay, Fort Concho Museum Archivist; Marcy Menchaca, House of Faith; Sarah Ross, Fort Concho Education Coordinator, and Brendalee Brown, Fort Concho Volunteer/Visitor Services Coordinator.

C. Approval of Excused Absences – Don Barnhart moved to approve the absence of Colleen Haddad, Sarah Cole, George Balli, and Dr. Jason Pierce. Dave Schaller seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

At this time outgoing Board President Sherley Spears expressed her thoughts and appreciation of her service on the Board and what was accomplished during her tenure. Sherley then turned over the “gavel” to incoming Board President Don Barnhart.

George Balli arrives at 3:37 PM

III. Regular Agenda: Public Hearing and Comment

6. Nominations Report and Approval of Proposed Officers for 2024.

Fort Concho Site Manager Bob Bluthardt read the names of the proposed 2024 Board Officers as: President – Don Barnhart, Vice-President – Monty Stanley, Secretary – Tommy Earnest, and Treasurer – Lisa Marley.

Motion was made by Yukio Kuniyuki to accept and approve the nominees for the Officers and seconded by Sherley Spears. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Open Session

D. Introduction of Guests –

1. Dave Schaller introduced Ewell Loudermilk as a potential Board member. Board members were asked to be on their best behavior.

2. Eunice Tibay, brand new Fort Concho Archivist introduced herself and expressed her pleasure in jumping into the chaos of the Christmas event. She noted she was enjoying getting familiar with the archives and library extensive resources.

E. Presentations

1. Sarah Ross expounded on the growth of the Living History, making period correct costumes and the costs associated, rebuilding the soldiers uniform supply. Touched on Garrison Day coming up in March and the number of interpreters coming in for the event. Event will center around September 1882, the time of the Ben Ficklin flood. She also discussed the Camp Fire

Story program in April, Summer programming in June, and In August, a penmanship class with period correct appliances.

2. Marcy Menchaca, Executive Director of House of Faith, expressed gratitude of using Fort facilities for their event and made a donation to the Fort.

III. Regular Agenda: Public Hearing and comment

7. Briefing by Marcy Menchaca, House of Faith on 2023 Event and Request for Similar Dates in 2024.

Motion made by Sherley Spears to provide Fort facilities to House of Faith for their event in 2024 and seconded by Monty Stanley. Motion carried unanimously. Bob remarked that House of Faith volunteers provide approximately 100 hours of volunteer service at Christmas at Old Fort Concho.

II. Consent Agenda

1. Consideration of approving the November 15, 2023 Minutes

Motion made to approve the November 15, 2023 Minutes by George Balli and seconded by Yukio Kuniyuki. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Lisa Marley presented the financials for November/December 2023 noting that overall income in November up \$9,500 or 21% over 2022. State building rent and general rent up. Overall, the best November in past 13 years.

December income was up \$14,169 or 16% over 2022. Christmas at Fort Concho was up \$8,000. Rent was down from 2022 but near past ten-year average. Interest way up. State buildings rent increased in all of FY 2024.

Year-to-date income up nearly \$35,000 over 2022. Again, Christmas at Fort Concho up almost \$8,000. State buildings up \$12,500. Interest almost \$7,000 over 2022. Best first quarter report since 2014.

Year-to-date expenses overall at 26% at mark 25% of fiscal year. Christmas higher as we paid more bills more quickly. Other line items are at or near normal for this point of fiscal year.

In summary, Total Income from all sources as of December 31, 2023 is \$336,482. Total expenses as of December 31, 2023 is \$333,564 resulting in a positive balance of \$2,918.

Motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report by Kathy Keane and seconded by Dave Schaller. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Site Managers Report

President Don Barnhart presented service plaques to outgoing Board members Sherley Spears, Kathy Keane, and Dave Schaller, thanking them for their service to Fort Concho.

Bob referred members to his written report in the agenda packet.

Bob paid special note that our own Cory Robinson received the COSA Employee of The Year within the Parks and Recreation Department and was one of three runners-up for the overall COSA Employee of the Year.

III. Regular Agenda: Public Hearings and Comment

4. Buildings and Grounds Report

Parade ground grass still looks great! Contractor finishing some columns. Fort maintenance staff installing new sinks in Commissary building. Fort is in good shape overall.

5. Review of 2023 Symphony Polo Event and Proposed 2024 Polo Event

Symphony representative was not present. Bob suggested that he contact the Symphony after reviewing the situation with Don Barnhart.

8. Discussion of Fort Concho Logo

Logo committee did not meet in January. Bob will try to coordinate some dates for the committee. Don Barnhart looked on the internet for other historic fort logos and didn't find much there other than some using the Texas Historic Commission logo. Bob stated to be careful that a logo is not violating a copyright law.

18. Staff News

Brendalee Brown presented the story of the reproduction of the soldier's ceramic bowl. Cory wanted bowls for the Mess Hall 5 display. A shattered original was found in one of the excavation sites at the Fort. She worked with Cory on the new design, which will be unique to Fort Concho. Everyone wants a bowl now.

10. Collections Report

The Fort will be receiving from Dr. John Langelier, after Bob goes to Arizona and picks the collection up, a period correct collection of bedroom set, dining room set, etc. This will upgrade the exhibits in OQ1 and OQ3.

11. Approving Fort Concho Participation in Annual San Angelo Gives on May 7, 2024

Sherley Spears made motion to approve Fort Concho to participate in San Angelo Gives on May 7, 2024 and seconded by Dave Schaller. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Briefing on Fort Concho Fees and Charges for Fiscal Year 2024

Much discussion on dollar cost for a family to attend Christmas at Fort Concho. Bob reiterated that the Fort was AUTHORIZED to increase the gate fees as there has been no gate fee increase in 10 years. He and Fort staff will run some numbers for other similar events. Bottom line, Christmas at Fort Concho is a fundraiser and must be fiscally sound. More Christmas attendees paying by credit card instead of cash. Fort ate the processing fee for attendees that used a credit card. Fort income for Christmas is \$30,000-40,000 admission fees, \$30,000-40,000 is sponsorships, and \$30,000-40,000 for booths, merchants, etc. Inflation has increased costs across the board for the event. Many programs at the Fort are free to the public. More discussion on this subject will be presented during the February meeting.

13. Review of Current Capital Improvement Projects for Fort Concho 2025-2029

Bob noted the next main project after Barracks/Mess Halls 3-4 will be to renovate Barracks 1 & 2. OQ 2, 6, & 8 need renovation, and they can await their turn.

14. Update on Barracks & Mess Halls 3 & 4

Work continuing. Getting close.

15. Fort Concho Foundation Report

FCF has set up a budget for calendar 2024; investments doing well.

16. Update on Concho Mail Station Project

Micheal Bradel wrote letter to Texas Historical Commission, with COSA City Attorney approval, to help smooth the waters on this subject. Then the site can be registered as a State archeological site and further action can be taken on possible development. Mr. Bradel has invited the THC for an on-site visit this spring. No further action will be taken on this land until the site is registered.

17. Briefing on 2023 Christmas at Old Fort Concho

Don Barnhart remarked about being asked where certain vendors were located and by having a vendor list was able to tell the attendees the location. Some attendees come to see and shop at a particular vendor. Bob stated that some of the crafts are declining and also remarked that the 2024 Christmas will include something related to December 7, Pearl Harbor Day. Bob would like to see the Christmas event get back into the cowboy chuck wagon cooking. Board will review many ideas at future meetings.

19. Future Agenda Items

Logo continues. February meeting to be in Barracks 6 and then go to Barracks 3 and/or 4 to inspect.

20. Establishment of 2024 Fort Concho Board Meeting Dates

No conflicts so far. President Don Barnhart out in June, VP Monty Stanley will preside. Next Board meeting February 20, 2024 in Barracks 6.

Announcements: Sherley Spears stated that February 25th will be Buffalo Soldiers Day with activities and speakers.

Motion to adjourn made by Kathy Keane and seconded by Tracy Simpson. Motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommy Earnest, Board Secretary

