HISTORIC ST. MARY’S CITY COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2021

Commission Members Present:  Fr. William George, S.J., Chair; Lawrence Leak, Vice Chair; Kelsey Bush, Michael Dougherty, Bill Drew, Ilene Frank, Tim Heely, Foundation President, Todd Morgan, Mike Smolek

Staff Present: Regina Faden, Executive Director, Joe Kangas, Travis Parno, Doug Hunter, Peter Friesen, Henry Miller, Howie Grube, Stephanie Whitehead, Sharol Yeatman, Porzia Purves, Recording Secretary

Guests Present:  Silas Hurry, Elena Langrill

10:00 a.m.   Board Meeting

1. Call to Order: Called to order at 10:03 a.m. Fr. Bill George

Father George reminded the members of the board that HSMCC is in need of board members, if you have suggestions please forward them to Regina.

Father George also explained the need for an additional meeting in April or May following the end of this year’s Legislative session. We will need to sign two resolutions to coincide with two bills currently being introduced, the Fort to 400 Commission and the Maryland Stadium Authority feasibility study.

2. Confirmation of Approval of September Minutes Fr. Bill George

Motion to accept the September Minutes by Ilene Frank, seconded by Mike Dougherty

Minutes were approved as written.

3. Director’s Report Regina Faden

A. Commission Member Update – Dr. Faden reported that with the upcoming announcement of the Fort and the People to People program. We are looking forward to welcoming new members.

B. Master Plan Update – Dr. Faden thanked the board members who participated on the master plan committee. This plan takes Historic St. Mary’s City to 2034 and beyond.

C. Legislative Update:
   a. The Historic St. Mary’s City Fort to 400 Commission – Dr. Faden reported that a bill to create the Fort to 400 Commission is in Annapolis now awaiting approval from both the house and senate.
4. Budget Requests - Dr. Faden reported she and Mr. Grube worked together to submit a very aggressive supplemental budget request. Mr. Grube reported the Foundation has hired Cornerstone to assist with requests. He explained the submission was for $1.129M, almost 1/3 of the museum’s regular budget, this is a significant. We do not know the time line regarding approval, but we know this is capacity raising and will give us the ability to engage more people.

Committee Reports

A. Finance & Administration  

Michael Dougherty

Mr. Dougherty congratulated Mr. Kangas for having projects that are “shovel” ready which is key for additional DGS support. Mr. Dougherty touched on some highlights from the committee meeting, and reminded everyone the notes on in the shared file. Dr. Faden explained the emeritus status action item to the board and Mr. Dougherty asked for a motion. **Action Item:** Approval of Emeritus Status to be added to the Personnel Manual. Ms. Frank asked for the motion, seconded by Dr. Leak, the motion was passed unanimously.

B. Governmental Relations  

Margaret McFarland

Dr. Faden indicated that the minutes of the committee meeting were in the shared folder.

C. Research  

Travis Parno

Dr. Faden explained that we have asked Ilene Frank to be the Chair of the Research Committee. She has graciously accepted. Dr. Parno gave the highlights of the committee meeting. Dr. Miller has been researching the tabernacle and altar to complete the Chapel. The crypt environment continues to be monitored, we need to regulate the climate within the crypt before we can return the remains. The waterfront exhibit is in development. Dr. Parno reported there was a field school scholarship donation this year to server underserved students, on scholarship tuition, housing and stipend in the amount of $5K. The donor wished to remain anonymous.

D. Education and Marketing  

Danielle Troyan

Mr. Friesen reported the highlights we were able to give small raises to interpretive staff. The new Dove construction is continuing, with a few brief delays. Guided tours are continuing to be developed.

Dr. Faden reported the website is just about completed. Mr. Grube worked with the Secretary of Commerce to move forward to produce a virtual Maryland Day. Ms. Yeatman continues to work with CBMM regarding the Dove.

Dr. Parno reported on the People to People project. Ms. Troyan suggested this project could be a national model for inclusion, diversity, and equity.

5. Foundation Report  

Tim Heely

The Foundation met this morning and we continue to move forward with projects.
A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. by Dr. Leak and seconded by Kelsey Bush, motion to adjourn.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:  
- September 18, 2021  
- March 19, 2022  
- September 17, 2022