



HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING
May 23, 2020
HSMC Full Board Meeting – Virtual Meeting

Board Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Commissioners: Fr George, Commission Chair; Lawrence Leak, Commission Vice Chair; Kelsey Bush, Mike Dougherty, Danielle Troyan, John McAllister Bill Drew, Mike Smolek, Margaret McFarland, Andrea Steele, Jean Russo, Ilene Frank

Staff: Regina Faden, Executice Director; Joe Kangas, Peter Friesen, Silas Hurry, Doug Hunter, Travis Parno, Sharol Yeatman, Stephanie Whitehead, Howie Grube, HenryMiller, Porzia Purves

Guests: Elena Langrill, Tim Heely

10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

1. Call to Order Fr. Bill George
2. Approval of Agenda Fr. Bill George

One order of Business – Voting of the Chair and Vice Chair, election, Nominations from the floor any discussion
Unanimous vote for Fr. George and Dr. Leak respectively.

3. Director's Report Regina Faden

Dr. Faden shared a slide show of the MHIC bringing the entire board up to speed on the Anne Arundel Site and MHIC plan as we move forward, including the exhibits redesign. This building will include a theater similar to that of the Blackistone Room, echoing the architecture of Ocean Hall. There will be dedicated chairs for 80 people, and a warming kitchen to be used for events. Shutters in the temporary galleries, on the Route 5 side of the building, can open or close to protect light sensitive exhibits. We have a wide variety of members on the advisory group.

Ms. Troyan commented, this is beautiful to see and can't wait to see it materialize, asking will this building stay on track due to COVID-19? Has Annapolis said anything at this time? Regina reported that we are doing our best to hold its place in the CIP.

Mr. Bush reported that it has been interesting watching the community involvement [in the exhibit process] and how it has blossomed. There was trepidation in the beginning and watching everyone's ideas flourish and come together, I feel like I have a part in the story that is being told at HSMC. I'm proud of the story we are building. We are including everyone's story in this exhibit. We are incorporating people who are differently abled, we are telling the true story of the history here.

Father George added this is terrific what is going on.

4. Committee Reports

A. Finance & Administration Michael Dougherty

Mr. Dougherty reported on the committee meeting; we are currently looking at a deficit of \$350K. Regina is looking at reopening the museum probably in July. Ms. Frank asked, is the museum eligible for any of the grant funding opportunities. Dr. Faden reported we have looked they have very specific criteria, they don't fit us in some ways. The Foundation has not been able to fundraise.

B. Governmental Relations Regina Faden

Dr. Faden reported we had our hearings they were positive. We had our legislative reception our biggest event, more than 80 members attended. Thank you to the foundation for their support. We also received funds for the archaeology of the fort from the Governor this will cover 5 crew members.

Due to the cancellation of BeerFest, we have relinquished the fund request for Cornerstone Lobbying Firm. Father George stated we should continue to work with our legislators and keep moving forward.

C. Research Jean Russo

Dr. Parno explained the board can read the minutes for the details, but he would like to highlight a few things. The MHIC has taken a lot of staff time. Due to Covid-19 artifact processing has been put on hold. The Margaret Brent Pavilion is nearly complete and looks wonderful. Dr. Miller continues to work with students regarding the tobacco fleet, exhibit continues to be developed. Travis has wrapped up the 2019 Field School. We had to cancel 2020 Field School because when SMCM went on line. We have had our 3rd Ph.D student using our collections for research. Edited volume continues to

change titles and has survived the review process, Unearthing St. Mary's City 50 Years of Archaeology.

In January a number of staff travelled to Boston, to honor Henry when he received a lifetime achievement award from the Society for Historical Archaeology.

Travis expressed profound thanks to Jean Russo for all of her leadership and her work in support of HSMC.

Dr. Miller added Jean was a member of the Maryland "Mafia" who reset all of Maryland history, she has been a friend and colleague for many years she has left us a great book "Planting an Empire." Jean thank you from all of us for great job

Collection Policy vote is tabled, until all Commissioners have reviewed the policy.

D. Education and Marketing

Danielle Troyan

Ms. Troyan described how we are telling our story on inclusiveness. Ms. Yeatman added we are keeping up our social media, being completely positive, putting out things for families to do, scavenger hunts ways use our landscape.

Mr. Friesen reported the Education office received a nice letter from a retiring teacher and he was sorry to not be able to come to HSMC at the end of his career. We are going to be doing a survey to send to the teachers regarding what they need and how we can assist them virtually. Staff and he will meet with the director of Calvert County on line learning director to see what they need. We will be assisted by Erin Moss and Ellen Fitzgerald. All Spring programs have been cancelled, but we are looking at the Fall programs and are working on re-opening in July.

HSMC received a national award from American Association for State and Local History for our Adults Only tour. The announcement will be made in June.

Congratulations to all staff. Mr. Friesen was elected to national board of Association of Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums.

Ms. McFarland asked, is there an opportunity to fundraise a sail on the DOVE? Mr. Friesen replied that we will be able to with our new ship in 2021.

Dr. Faden added we are seeking three bids for our Master Plan design, this will be reported by the Foundation. We have one bid in place at the moment and we are seeking two additional organizations.

Ms. Yeatman reported that we expect to launch the new website in early summer.

