



Fort Monroe Foundation Report for the
Fort Monroe Board of Trustees Meeting
Fort Monroe Post Theatre
August 20, 2015

FMF Finances

The FM Foundation cash balance at the close of business on July 31, 2015 was \$139,308.27. The FMF financials through June 30, 2015 are attached.

The Waterfront Park Project and 7 mile Trail

FMA staff and the Waterfront Park Design Team continue to work together to develop the concepts and ideas for a linear Waterfront Park at Old Point Comfort. As the concept ideas began to develop for the Park, the scope of work was modified to include connectivity from the Waterfront Park to the Inner Fort along Ingalls Road. The renovation of the Post Office into the FMA Main Office demonstrated how buildings can be adapted to benefit Fort Monroe and created the opportunity to explore how buildings such as the Post Library and the Post Theater could be incorporated into the visitor experience at Fort Monroe. The Design Team and the FMA staff are exploring these concepts now and expect to make recommendations to the FMA Board by the end of the year. We remain hopeful that this effort will also be of value to the activities surrounding the commemoration of the first Africans to arrive at Point Comfort in August 1619. As stated previously, the final conceptual design of the Waterfront Park will also be the basis for a capital campaign to implement this project into the landscape at Fort Monroe.

Music by the Bay Sponsors Reception

The Music by the Bay Sponsors receptions at the FMA house have been very successful and the final reception is on August 27. Future receptions will support additional activities associated with holiday events later this fall and early winter.

On Thursday, August 6, the *Bodacious Bazaar* owner Sandra Gardner presented the Fort Monroe Foundation with an additional \$3,000 that she received from a special events insurance settlement for an inclement weather cancellation. This brings Bodacious Bazaar's total donation to the foundation to \$8,000 for 2015. Ms. Gardner also announced that all charitable donations from her fall and spring shows will now be donated exclusively to the Fort Monroe Foundation.

Virginia Symphony Concert at Fort Monroe

The Fort Monroe Foundation Executive Director and the Virginia Symphony mutually agreed to cancel the symphony concert at Fort Monroe this year and hope that sponsors for this outdoor event could be identified in future years.

Additional Foundation Support for FMA Activities

Over the course of the coming months, the Foundation will provide additional financial support to the FMA by sponsoring activities such as a reception for the volunteers who have worked throughout the year to support FMA Activities. These volunteers and interns provide significant support to the operations and special events at Fort Monroe that allow the public to enjoy this property.

2019 Preparations

The Foundation continues to believe that the events of 2019 associated with the first arrival of Africans in our country can best be commemorated at Point Comfort on Fort Monroe. To that end, the Executive Director is on both the City of Hampton Commemoration Committee as well as the 2019 Jamestown Yorktown Commemorative Commission. The Foundation provides an excellent vehicle for the use of private funds that may be needed to support this event at Fort Monroe.

Foundation Board Membership

The Executive Director and the FMA Chairman have been in discussions regarding the Fort Monroe Foundation Board of Directors and pledge to focus this fall on the recruitment of new Board members to join the Fort Monroe Foundation.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Fort Monroe Foundation is Thursday September 3. The first order of business for this meeting will be the election of officers, the approval of the 2015 budget, and discussion of FMF projects.