

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2009

9:39 A.M. - 12:54 P.M.

Attendees: Kathleen Kilpatrick, Chair; Eleanor Krause; Dr. Launette Lee; Ron Lewis for Alisa Bailey; John Munick; Robert Nieweg; Dorothy Redford; Mayor Jeanne Zeidler.

Absent: None.

Others Attending: John Quarstein, FMFADA Commissioner; Catharine Gilliam, FMFADA Commissioner; Julie Carver, Matrix Design Solutions; Peter Dajevskis, Interpretive Solutions; Bill Armbruster, FMFADA Executive Director; Josh Gillespie, FMFADA Project Manager; Joan Baker, FMFADA Executive Assistant/HRD; Trudy O'Reilly, O'Reilly Public Relations.

Meeting agenda is attached.

Call to Order

Ms. Kilpatrick called the meeting to order, and called roll. She added that the HPAG will be joined by a new appointee Bill Frazier at the next meeting to take the position vacated by Mary Means. She described his experience as an architect and planner with Frazier Associates. Ms. Kilpatrick asked for any comments or corrections to the August 10, 2009 meeting minutes. Without discussion, Mayor Zeidler moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Ms. Krause. The minutes were unanimously approved.

HPAG Chairperson Report/Discussion

Ms. Kilpatrick updated the group on the last FMFADA Board meeting. She stated Dr. Jim Beard reported on the Natural Resources Working Group (NRWG) to the Board which was very well received. She added that the issue of the northern connector road stimulated a great deal of discussion, especially with the City of Hampton representatives to the FMFADA Board. The NRWG recommended that a two lane VDOT standard road would create conflicts especially with regards to safety since that area is designated on the Reuse map as a recreation area. She added the NRWG has also identified significant resources and a natural area in that area of Old Point Comfort. She stated that the City's interests for a road connection were for E-911 response time, and interconnectivity between the recreational opportunities in Buckroe and Fort Monroe. Ms. Kilpatrick said she believes it is possible to find common ground on this issue.

Ms. Kilpatrick invited comments from FMFADA commissioners Gilliam, Quarstein, and Zeidler. Mr. Quarstein commented that Councilman George Wallace and Councilman Spencer agreed the City of Hampton wanted walkway access to connect the two areas; with the walkway being large enough to accommodate emergency vehicles if necessary. Mr. Armbruster added that the City of Hampton has set aside money to study a northern connection.

Ms. Kilpatrick said the National Park Service Working Group also made a presentation to the FMFADA Board, represented by consulting staff David Dutton and Cara Metz. Ms. Kilpatrick stated the Board appointed a National Park Service Review Panel that will be chaired by John Quarstein with the following members: Deputy Secretary Lynn Hammond, Dr. Wayne Lett, John Davy, Cherylin Widell and Mark Perreault. This subcommittee is charged with developing a recommendation to present at the November FMFADA Board meeting. This subcommittee is expected to recommend what type of long term relationship(s) the FMFADA should pursue with the National Park Service (NPS). She reminded the HPAG that this issue is part of the Programmatic Agreement (PA). Ms. Kilpatrick asked John Munick and Rob Nieweg to also participate in those efforts, since they were part of the National Park Service Working Group (NPSWG). Mr. Quarstein added that the NPS Review Panel will have weekly meetings; and that Dutton + Associates will provide staff support. Mr. Quarstein stated that they will be investigating all of the issues, using the report from the NPWG, and ensure that there is a very viable way to move forward also with other nonprofit or state resources involved. He declared this to be a great partnership opportunity. Mr. Nieweg indicated his gladness that the NPWG report was well-received by the FMFADA, and commented that he would be pleased to participate on the Review Committee. Mr. Armbruster mentioned that he and Secretary Preston Bryant will also participate with the NPS Review Committee.

Mr. Armbruster noted that it will be critical to have the report from the NPS Review Committee by the November 19th Board meeting, since that will be the last meeting with the Board as presently constituted, based on the political landscape, and as asked by Chairman Bryant. Mr. Armbruster said the direction proposed by the NPS Review Committee will be the beginning of the “real work” based on what direction they propose for the FMFADA to follow up with. Ms. Kilpatrick added that any relationship will require first steps, followed by a series of steps. She stated that any relationship other than traditional technical assistance will have to be approved by Congress. Mr. Armbruster remarked that we should be able to craft a relationship that is uniquely related to Old Point Comfort/Fort Monroe. Ms. Kilpatrick added the driving consideration should be what is best for Old Point Comfort, not other interests or considerations. Mr. Quarstein said that Terry Moore from the NPS will also be involved with the group, and that the initial meeting notice will be sent out today.

Ms. Kilpatrick stated that her agency, the Department of Historic Resources, has lost staff members due to budget cuts, and speculated more to be forthcoming. She expressed concerns for all involved to be effective as partners, and asked everyone to be sensitive to that.

FMFADA’s Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Armbruster shared action items from the FMFADA’s Board previous meeting (attached). Mr. Armbruster stated that the FMFADA has a draft of the nonprofit foundation incorporation documents, and that the FMFADA is on track to move that process forward. Mr. Armbruster gave details of the governance and management recommendations presented to the Board. Mr. Armbruster summarized recent and current Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to include proposals for a video/marketing, a development management partner, interim Deputy Director for real estate, and contract environmental management assistance. Mr. Armbruster concluded with the details of the new eleven member board

approved by the FMFADA Board at the September meeting for the Governor's proposed legislative package.

Questions/comments: Ms. Krause asked if a sub-committee established by the Board could have a non Board member as chair. Mr. Armbruster replied yes. Ms. Kilpatrick pointed out that the Governor's appointees to represent expertise are not confined to citizens of the Commonwealth. Mr. Nieweg asked who would be the chairperson of the new Board. Mr. Armbruster replied the Board would elect the Chair. Ms. Kilpatrick added that there will also be staggered appointments to ensure continuity. Mr. Armbruster stated the Board will still rely on committee support.

Mr. Armbruster presented RCLCO's recommendations for the FMFADA staff. He stated the staff will not grow as large as at Jekyll Island or Governors Island. He said the small staff will rely on partners from the private sector.

Ms. Krause asked the difference between the Real Estate and Historic Asset Management positions of the staff. Mr. Armbruster said the real estate group will be involved with marketing and leasing of property; the historic assets will be working to ensure the commitment to the Design Standards. Ms. Krause asked if the Fort Monroe Historic Preservation Officer (FMHPO) would report to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Ms. Kilpatrick stated that according to the RCLCO report that the placement of the FMHPO was to be determined, but that some believe that the FMFHPO should report directly to the FMFADA Executive Director. Mr. Armbruster said the Board did discuss this, and they believe that as small as the organization is, the HPO needs to be an integral part of the team, and that the HPO should report to the Executive Director, with very well defined functions. Ms. Kilpatrick, Ms. Krause and Mr. Nieweg stated that they both felt the HPO should report to the Executive Director; and gave examples of why this would be best. Mr. Armbruster said the FMFADA needs to bring the HPO on board no later than April 2010.

Mr. Armbruster told the HPAG about the Fort Algernoune Conference of which the FMFADA is a sponsor October 16 through 18. He also announced that in December the FMFADA will host an Industry Forum to bring together all those that are interested in working with Fort Monroe for a day of briefings, orientation, and tours. This would be followed by a Request for Qualifications; and that the FMFADA would like to have partners on board or at least identified by early next year.

Ms. Kilpatrick stated that she remains concerned with key elements that help secure federal rehabilitation tax credits; that this sets the stage for what owners can and cannot do and retain tax credit eligibility. She advised that these are very technical legal issues; and that attorneys must sit down with the NPS and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). After discussion on this topic, Ms. Kilpatrick stated to Mr. Armbruster that until the "sit down" happens she does not know what you would tell potential partners at the Industry Forum; since the way the organization is structured and organized will be driven by what the federal requirements are; and that is not decided until there is discussion with the IRS and Park Service. She likened it to the "cart before the horse." Mr. Armbruster replied that we cannot afford to wait, and we can integrate this step into the process. Mr. Armbruster agreed that he would follow up on this.

Design Standards Update

Ms. Krause stated that after the last HPAG meeting the Design Standards Sub Committee had a lengthy meeting with the staff of the Department of Historic Resources (DHR), and is gathering comments from them to integrate into the working draft of the Design Standards. Ms. Krause stated that we expect information from the Army in December to inform the Standards, including view shed and cultural landscape studies. She said once these comments and reports are incorporated, the Sub Committee will present a final draft of the Design Standards to the FMFADA Board at the first meeting in 2010 [*Note: this may not be feasible and may be better presented at the March or May meeting*]. She asked for volunteers to look at the Design Standards on Egnyte; and to forward any comments or input to her, so she may pass on. Ms. Krause added that the Sub Committee met briefly with members of the NRWG, and talked about how the Design Standards and the NRWG recommendations are meshing together nicely, yet includes some things that need to be worked out. She said they plan on meeting with the NRWG again.

African American Cultural Working Group

Dr. Lauren Lee gave a detailed report of African American Cultural Working Group (AACWG) that consists of Christy Coleman, Cassandra Newby Alexander, Harvey Bakari, Vernon Courtney and Dr. Lee as chair (attached).

Questions/comments: Ms. Kilpatrick asked Dr. Lee for a digital copy of her report, so it may be shared with HPAG, to hopefully endorse before the next FMFADA Board meeting. Ms. Krause suggested the use of oral histories as a way to tell the stories. Mr. Nieweg stated that the report mentions the Gettysburg National Park, and wondered if Dr. Lee could elaborate on what the park does well in the report. Dr. Lee replied that Vernon Courtney and Christy Coleman had been there, and were particularly struck with the balance and the attitude of the park. Ms. Gilliam added there are many lessons we can learn from Gettysburg in terms of partnerships, fundraising and presentation.

Ms. Kilpatrick asked Dr. Lee to elaborate on the thoughts of the working group on the term Contraband, and the challenge of not using the term; but at the same time sharing the story. Dr. Lee replied one of the big concerns is the people who came here; that the people were not objects; and they became humanized. Ms. Redford stated if you don't retain the term "Contraband," then you are implying the slaves were freed. She added that it is important that Fort Monroe not be associated so much with freedom lest we forget that the contraband of war decision did not free anyone. The term Contraband reinforces the fact that even though it was a proactive initiative of freedom; they were not freed.

Mr. Nieweg said he thinks the notion of engaging descendants and involving particular neighborhoods would be fascinating. Ms. Krause added that exploring the theme of what people did when they left Fort Monroe would have great appeal.

Environmental Presentation

Julie Carver of Matrix Design Group presented on the environmental cleanup effort on Fort Monroe, and how it may have potential impact to both cultural and natural resources (attached). Mrs. Carver emphasized that a cultural resource specialist accompanies all digs. She concluded by saying the Army is

holding a public meeting on October 6 for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS); and that the deadline for written comments on the draft statement is October 26.

Questions/comments: Mr. Nieweg asked what the protocol would be if while they are digging with the cultural resource specialist if they came across something sensitive. Mrs. Carver replied that in accordance with the P.A. the work at that point would stop; the item would be secured and pictures taken. If the item was explosive they would call in a crew to disable it. She stated there are Standard Operating Procedures to follow; and the field crews are trained and prepared for those situations. Ms. Kilpatrick stated that the P.A. not only deals with the immediate cultural resources, but also environmental cleanup.

Mr. Nieweg asked if the data generated in the environmental cleanup can be used to identify gravesites. Mrs. Carver said the primary focus of Matrix's investigation is Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC); however the Army is providing all the digital data. The Army is looking for a certain threshold of signals to signify MEC, but she said there have been some anomalies. She added that data is available for the record; and is available for the FMFADA and the Commonwealth. Ms. Kilpatrick added that the P.A. also addresses the possibility of slave burial sites. She said so far there is no evidence of a Contraband Cemetery during the Army's significant amount of work. There is a requirement to do the historical research, and to develop a scope of work for further possible investigations.

Mr. Munick asked what investigations are going on in the bay. Ms. Carver said the initial investigation on the Chesapeake is focusing off of the Dog Beach area. They are investigating at intervals off the shore line, and went into detail with the methods used to include divers. They believe based on historical information there may also have been munitions swept as far as Buckroe.

Interpretive Planning

Ms. Kilpatrick introduced Peter Dajevskis of Interpretive Solutions who will be managing the contract for the consultants on the Interpretive Master Planning Process. Mr. Dajevskis described his outline to give an overview of the interpretive planning project now beginning. He added he wanted to give the group an idea of what Interpretive Solution's approach to the project is, to introduce the team members, and to describe the project milestones and schedule (attached). Mr. Dajevskis concluded by described Interpretive Solutions' current activities: gathering information and preparing for the organizational meeting and kickoff meetings. T kickoff meeting will be October 19th.

Questions/comments: Mr. Nieweg said that he was pleased that Interpretive Solutions had no preconceived notions about Fort Monroe; and that the group seems to be thinking in the same way as the HPAG. He asked Peter to get the dates of all the meetings to the Historic Preservation Advisory Group so they can be engaged. He also asked if Mr. Dajevskis could share the scope of work and timeline; perhaps on Egnyte.

Ms. Krause asked if all the meetings would be open to the public. Mr. Dajevskis stated to be efficient all meetings may not be open to the public, but that there is usually a core group of 10-12 people involved. Ms. Krause also asked if their team would include a financial component in the planning process. Mr. Dajevskis replied yes. Ms. Kilpatrick asked if it would also include recreational and outdoor aspects, and

said that she hoped the Interpretive Master Plan would integrate all of these issues into the plan so that it would help tell where we need to go.

Ms. Gilliam asked if the NPS did a resource study [Special Resource Study] how Interpretive Solutions would incorporate that into the plan. Mr. Dajevskis announced that the planning process would involve synthesizing and including the studies that were already done. Ms. Gilliam stated that she hopes this process would have time for consideration, debate and receiving input. Mr. Nieweg expressed concern with how Interpretive Solutions would integrate information developed before the kickoff meeting. He also expressed concern with how they would recognize the FMFADA committees and groups; and if they are aware of the coalition of museums group. Mr. Dajevskis plans on including all previous information and replied that Interpretive Solutions is looking at what is best for the site; that they have no preconceived notions. Dr. Lee added that she hopes Interpretive Solutions have an opportunity to look at the National Park Service.

With no further questions for Mr. Dajevskis, Ms. Kilpatrick moved on to discuss future HPAG agenda items.

Future Agenda Items

Ms. Kilpatrick detailed the following as future agenda items for the HPAG: possible report from the "Next Steps Committee;" HPAG Annual Report; thoughts on going forward as the FMFADA faces turnover of many Board members with the election, and with the new governance structure; and to think about the MOA with the City of Hampton; that the agreement must allow for continuity. The next meeting will also include reports from the working groups and subcommittees. Mr. Gillespie reminded Ms. Kilpatrick that the April 5th meeting of 2010 falls on Easter Monday.

Public Comment

Steve Corneliussen, representing Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park. Mr. Corneliussen reminded the group that legislation will be required to change the governance structure of the FMFADA Board. He added that the CFFMNP has developed a list of lessons for Fort Monroe, and that it is on the CFFMNP's website.

Mark Perreault, representing CFMNP. Mr. Perreault shared three observations he had on the Ken Burns National Park documentary series recently aired on PBS: 1) the creation of every National Park was difficult, 2) the creation of each National Park took years, and all were initially opposed, 3) National Parks operators do not have to worry as much about economic sustainability; which frees them up to think more about what the public wants, i.e., no more development on Fort Monroe than absolutely necessary.

Christine Gergely, representing United Daughters of the Confederacy. Ms. Gergely stated she would like to see all the presentations on the FMFADA website, and that she is not clear on which of the Interpretive Planning Process meetings are open to the public. Mr. Dajevskis stated there will be two town hall meetings: one at the beginning of the process, and one at the end.

Next scheduled meeting is Monday, December 7th.
The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Joan F. Baker Executive Assistant to the FMFADA.