



Fort Monroe Foundation Report for the
Fort Monroe Board of Trustees Meeting
Bay Breeze Conference Center
October 15, 2015

The fundraising efforts of the Fort Monroe Foundation (FMF) continue to be a positive resource for the Fort Monroe Authority and the National Park Service. The FMF completed another successful summer of Music by the Bay Sponsors Receptions at the FMA house. The donations associated with these receptions provide the resources to the FMF to cover expenses associated with many FMA activities such as the Fourth of July, entertainment programs such as the Ghost Walk and the Mistletoe Tours, and the FMA/NPS Volunteer picnic. As we prepare for the annual fall activities and events at Fort Monroe, the FMF is testing a new program this year by hosting an interpretive dinner with the Marquis de Lafayette. The success of this program will lead to additional opportunities for the FMF, such as establishing an annual membership program.

FMF Finances

The FMF cash balance at the close of business on October 7, 2015 was \$118,545.55.

Fort Monroe Legacy Projects

As part of the visioning process for the 2019 commemoration activities, the FMF is proposing several "Legacy Projects." These projects could provide significant benefits to the 2019 commemorative activities and they would become lasting components of the interpretive resources at Fort Monroe. The first of these projects would be the implementation of a large section of the Waterfront Park at Fort Monroe. As an example, a section of the park could be identified as "Arrival Park" and the infrastructure could be installed to host a large outdoor commemorative activity such as a concert or arrival ceremony. After the 2019 ceremonies, the Park becomes a site for both annual commemorative events as well as other activities such as concerts, outdoor plays, or simply large open green space. A second project could be the renovation of the Post Library into the Fort Monroe Welcome Center. This building could be opened prior to the 2019 commemorative activities and remain afterwards to provide interpretation of both the arrival story as well as the Contraband Decision that took place at Fort Monroe. Finally, the renovation of the Post Theater provides a unique opportunity to modify this building for a multitude of interpretive and revenue generating opportunities.

The Waterfront Park Project and 7 mile Trail

FMA staff and the Waterfront Park Design Team paused the design of the park to explore the opportunity to integrate the Post Library and the Post Theater into the overall interpretation of the property at Fort Monroe. The future role of these buildings and the connectivity of the Fortress to the Waterfront Park has become important features for the Design Team to explore. After a presentation to the FMA Board of Trustees, the Waterfront Park Design Team will host a public meeting to discuss the components of the Waterfront Park. As stated in previous reports, 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 Sponsor's Receptions at the FMA house concluded on August 27. The receptions hosted hundreds of people over the course of the summer and raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Fort Monroe Foundation.

Virginia Symphony Concert at Fort Monroe

The Fort Monroe Foundation Executive Director and the Virginia Symphony are continuing to discuss the opportunity to bring the symphony back to Fort Monroe in 2016.

Volunteer Picnic for the FMA and NPS

The Fort Monroe Foundation graciously provided the resources again this year to pay for the majority of expenses associated with the Volunteer Picnic jointly hosted by the FMA staff and the NPS.

2019 Preparations

The opportunity to host events associated with the commemorative activities planned for 2019 continue to provide a significant opportunity for 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 FMF Executive Director met with the new Executive Director of the 2019 Commission and they remain in communication regarding potential planning activities. The FMF provides an excellent vehicle for the use of private funds that could be used to implement "Legacy Projects" that support 2019 events at Fort Monroe.

Fall Activities

The FMF is in the final days of selling tickets for the upcoming dinner *Lafayette Returns!* This effort represents the first attempt at a fundraising dinner and will provide the basis for the Fort Monroe Foundation annual campaign. Additional fall activities include the Ghost Walk tours Where History Meets Mystery and the Mistletoe Holiday Home Tours. The season concludes with the annual holiday concert performance by the Hampton Roads Philharmonic Symphony in the Post Theater followed by the tree lighting ceremony in Cannon Park.

Tour and Presentation to the Virginia Press Association

The Executive Director has the unique opportunity to host the annual meeting of the Virginia Press Association Board of Directors for an evening event at Fort Monroe. The evening will begin with a tour of the newly renovated Post Office as well as a visit to the Casemate Museum. During the dinner meeting at the Chamberlin, the Executive Director will present the history of Fort Monroe and discuss the unique opportunity to commemorate 400 year anniversary of the first arrival of Africans to Point Comfort in 2019. This is an unprecedented opportunity to present the story of Fort Monroe to a statewide audience of media leaders.

Foundation Board Membership

The Executive Director and the FMA Chairman remain in discussions regarding membership in the Fort Monroe Foundation Board of Directors.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Fort Monroe Foundation is Thursday November 5. 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.