



Fort Monroe Foundation Report for the
Fort Monroe Board of Trustees Meeting
Bay Breeze Community Center
December 15, 2016

The Fort Monroe Foundation (FMF) met on November 28, 2016 in the offices of Patten Wornom, Hatten, and Diamonstein and a quorum was present for the meeting. The Board members welcome the newest member to the Board of Directors, Jane Yerkes, and also made several important and strategic changes to the By-laws. The most dramatic change was a strategic improvements to allow Board members to participate by proxy in the event that they cannot attend the meeting. The amendments were unanimously approved.

The Executive Director provided an update to the Board members regarding the efforts of the consultant who is interviewing present Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) staff involved in the operations and management of the FMF. These fact finding discussions are intended to provide a clear picture of the operations of the FMF and determine the most appropriate model going forward for the FMF to achieve its goals and implement its vision for Fort Monroe. The FMF Board also received an update on the support by the FMF for the preservation, education, and special event programs that were completed this fall at the Fort. Finally, the Board received a review of upcoming winter holiday programs at Fort Monroe.

Finances

The FMF financials through September 30, 2016 are attached.

Fundraising (Largest Donation to Date!)

The Executive Director is pleased to report that the FMF received a \$200,000 donation from the Dominion Foundation to be applied to the exhibits that will be located in the Fort Monroe Visitor Center. This is the largest donation to date and puts the FMF well on its way of raising \$800,000 for the proposed exhibits in the Visitor Center. Upon making the donation, the Dominion Foundation noted they chose the Fort Monroe Visitor Center as a legacy project for the 2019 Commemoration because "Virginia is our corporate home and we want the nation to learn about our history and our path to democracy, diversity, and opportunity." The FMF is to working with the design team to identify additional exhibits and displays that can be presented to additional corporate and philanthropic sponsors for more donations to the Visitor Center Exhibits.

Foundation Board Membership

The addition of the latest member to the Board has successfully established an operational board that is suitable for conducting the business of the Foundation. As the FMF looks to the future, the visionary goals will require the addition of Board members with the ability to receive national recognition to the significant history associated with the site.

2016 Holiday Events at Fort Monroe

The FMF is hosting two holiday concerts and the traditional tree lighting ceremony at Fort Monroe this December. The first concert will be with the Hampton Roads Philharmonic Orchestra on December 11 followed by the tree lighting event in Canon Park. In addition to the holly tree, all of the crape myrtle trees along the Ingalls Road entrance will also be lit for the holiday season. The following weekend, on December 16, the TRADOC Band will return to Fort Monroe for two holiday concerts. The opportunity to host these events and provide the funding to cover the decorating expenses is because of the generous contribution of Kim Maloney and the Maloney Foundation.

Foundation Fundraising Activities

The FMF hosted a first person historic interpretation dinner at the Chamberlin titled, *An Evening with the Madison's*. The event was on October 15, 2016 and included a first person interpretation by both President James Madison and his wife Dolley Madison. The crowd was also treated to a dance presentation by period dressed interpreters. Comments from the crowd continue to encourage the FMF that the event was first class and participants felt both engaged and educated after the performance. Financially, the dinner continues to generate modest positive revenue for the evening and the FMF staff is seeking ways to expand our use of the Altru program to allow sponsors to participate at donation levels suitable for the event. This annual dinner is an aspirational goal of the FMF to host an annual event and we remain excited about the enthusiasm for this activity.

Fort Monroe Foundation Consultants Evaluation

The FMF has hired the services of the consulting firm Stumpf and Associates from Williamsburg, Virginia. The first phase of the consulting services is an in-depth evaluation of the back office operation of the FMF and identify alternatives for increasing the capacity of the operation. This is an imperative first step as the FMF is poised for growth in fundraising, donor solicitation, and expansion of education and preservation support.

Fort Monroe Foundation Projects

With the new Board members on the FMF, the opportunity to engage in visioning, goal setting, and strategic thinking is one of the next steps for the FMF. Fort Monroe is filled with potential projects that could be of great significance to the education and preservation responsibilities at Fort Monroe. Working with the Board, and with the assistance of the consultant's report, the FMF will begin to lay the foundation for funding the exhibits in the Visitor Center as well as bringing new projects, such as the Commanding General's Residence, and others into focus.