

FORT MONROE
FEDERAL AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
September 20, 2007 ~ Meeting Minutes

The Fort Monroe Federal Area Development Authority (FMFADA) meeting, held at the Bay Breeze Community Center on Fort Monroe was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Roll Call

Present:

Viola Baskerville, Alvin Bryant, Mark Follmer representing Robert Crouch, Tom Gear, Catharine Gilliam, Lynette Hammond representing Patrick Gottschalk, Robert Harper, Kanata Jackson, Wayne Lett, Mamie Locke, Robert Scott, Tommy Thompson, David Von Moll representing Jody Wagner.

Interim Executive Director, Conover Hunt, and Hampton City Council Liaisons, Charlie Sapp, Joe Spencer and Army Liaison Colonel Jason Evans were also present.

Absent:

Preston Bryant, Rex Ellis, Phil Hamilton, John Quarstein, Marty Williams.

Vice Chairperson Tommy Thompson conducted the meeting in Chairman Preston Bryant's absence.

B. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Thompson called for a motion for the approval of the minutes and asked if there was any discussion. Conover Hunt advised that the copy of the minutes in each Board member's packets had some proposed changes that were called in printed in red for the Board members to review.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Vice Chairman Thompson asked if there were any additional corrections or additions to the minutes. Hearing none, he called for approval. Tommy Thompson moved to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and approved.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chairman Thompson stated the Authority would hear comments from the public (See Appendix I).

III. REPORTS & BRIEFINGS

A. Remarks by Interim Executive Director Conover Hunt

A. Financial Report – Ms. Hunt gave a financial report to the Board (see Appendix II). She stated that she had met with both the city and the state about working out the variations between the chart of accounts. Basically, all the account titles will be translated into something that everyone can read. She also added that the financial report shows few expenses for June and July because many of those month's payables were actually part of September's expenses. She ended her financial report by saying we had adequate funds.

B. Additional Remarks – Ms. Hunt also stated that the FMFADA's headquarters is up and running and thanked the army for their help with that. The FMFADA website will be available on line soon at www.FMFADA.com. She stated that we are still looking for an alternative location for the December 14, 2007 meeting. The National Park Service Recon Grant is being reviewed by OEA. She said that once the grant is approved there is a fast turnaround as far as getting the money. Ms. Hunt then went right into her presentation on FMFADA Cultural Resource Management. (see Appendix II)

Ms. Hunt also added that there have been reports in the media recently that have been made without any FMFADA contact. She reminded everyone that all decisions are made by the entire board. She stated that the groundwork for the restoration of Fort Monroe was not in the initial Draft Reuse Plan.

Catharine Gilliam asked about the status of the Historic Preservation Advisory Group appointments. Ms. Hunt answered that the four appointments to be named by the governor were in the hands of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Those announcements will be made before the FMFADA makes its appointments.

Vice Chairman Thompson then introduced Dr. Charles Cureton Chief, Museums and Historical Properties, TRADOC.

C. Army Military History at Fort Monroe

Dr. Charles Cureton gave his Army Museums Overview and explained how it might relate to Fort Monroe. (See Appendix II). During his presentation he stated that establishing partnerships and setting up a museum complex would enhance the mission of attracting a great number of people to the museum. TRADOC's partnership will not always have to be on army installations. He stated that the army would require a partnership with a credible and steady entity.

Dr. Lett told Mr. Cureton and the Board that he had heard rumors that when the Army leaves Fort Monroe in 2011 that they would take all the artifacts with them. He also asked if Mr. Cureton thought there would be an opportunity for a partnership with the FMFADA. Mr. Cureton replied that at this point no organization has contacted the Museum to ask what their intentions were and that the FMFADA would have to come up with a viable program to arrange an attempt to partner. Delegate Gear asked how much it would cost and how much would it bring in. Dr. Cureton replied that the Casemate has an estimated 50,000 visitors per year. He added that the Casemate is a small museum and to think of what a larger museum complex could bring in, especially with an open gate. This could mean a national destination at Fort Monroe. Colonel Evans asked what the time line would be to do a study on setting up a museum complex and when the army departs what would be the consequences. Mr. Cureton replied the army museum is doing a study on museum complexes that is due in June 2008. Vice Chairman Thompson asked if there were any more questions. Hearing none, he introduced the next speaker.

D. Confederate Military and Social History at Fort Monroe: Potentials within the Museum of the Confederacy Museum System

Vice Chairman Thompson then introduced Mr. Waite Rawls, President and CEO, Museum of the Confederacy. Mr. Rawls began his talk by saying a large part of his job was the challenge of educating people about what the Museum of the Confederacy really was. He agreed with Mr. Cureton that it takes multiple sides together to tell a full story. In this case to tell the North, the South and the African American part of the story. He stated there are many preconceived notions as to what the demographics of the MOC's customer is. He said most of their visitors are older, better educated and like to travel. He added "They usually stay longer, buy more, spend more and then go home. In general they are history buffs." He also emphasized that the MOC is not a celebration of the Confederacy, but a study of the Confederacy. He then began his power point presentation. (See Appendix II). Mr. Rawl's presentation detailed the MOC's desire to restructure their museum to a system with museums located in Richmond, Chancellorsville and Appomattox. The MOC would strongly consider Fort Monroe as an ideal location to have a collection. Ms. Hunt asked what kind of time frame the MOC was looking at. Mr. Rawls replied that the MOC is in the planning mode right now with the other locations opening up perhaps, 2008, 2009 maybe 2010. Vice Chairman Thompson thanked Mr. Rawls for his presentation and asked if there were any questions before we moved on to the next presentation.

E. The Need for Balance and Careful Planning Recommendations

Vice Chairman Thompson once again introduced Ms. Hunt who gave her final presentation. In this presentation she emphasized the need for balance and that Fort Monroe could have the presence of a partnership of museums. The MOC and the Casemate Museums have distinctive plans set up. The FMFADA is still working on their plan. With a partnership of museums each aspect of the story could be told, the Union side, the Confederate and the African American side. She reminded the board that the Contraband story is one of the greatest untold stories in history. In the past weeks she has conferred with Professor Ervin Jordan, UVA Research Archivist, who proposed that we confer with professors and experts and that, in his opinion, we need a partnership on Fort Monroe to tell all three stories. He advised Ms. Hunt that the scholars need to be brought in on this to distance public education decisions from the political process. These stories involve three different cultures and could be controversial. Professor Jordan

recommended the FMFADA organize a symposium bringing together the best minds to tell the story of the North, the South and the Blacks. Ms. Hunt agreed that this would be the best way to decide if and how to tell this compelling story. Her final points to the Board were 1) that the Board approve discussion with potential partners and 2) the Board agree to sponsor a symposium. Secretary Baskerville asked Ms. Hunt when she thought the symposium would take place. Ms. Hunt replied it would need to be done within six months. Ms. Baskerville made a motion to support the idea of the FMFADA entering discussions with the Casemate Museum, MOC and other potential partners and for the FMFADA to sponsor a symposium of scholars on the Civil War. Dr. Wayne Lett seconded the motion. Ms. Catharine Gilliam did not object to the motions but expressed concerns that Fort Monroe is a very complex project and we need to look at many other potential partners and have any decisions on interpretation be part of a larger, overall planning process. The FMFADA might want to wait on this as the National Park Service is going to do a study and we do not want to preclude any future arrangement with the Park Service or other partners.

Mr. Harper added that the City of Hampton would also have to be involved since although Fort Monroe was a destination for the contraband slaves; much of what happened took place in the city of Hampton. Ms. Hunt replied that Hampton is a partner and that the city of Hampton would be a major player. Secretary Baskerville agreed that we need to go forward cautiously. Vice Chairman Thompson added that we need to develop a program and then the Board can modify it. On that Chairman Thompson asked Dr. Mamie Locke to conduct a roll call vote to support the idea of entering discussions with potential partners and for the FMFADA to hold a symposium with experts in African American history, Union History and Confederate History. The vote was unanimous to enter discussions with potential partners of Fort Monroe, and to conduct a symposium within 6 months. Ms. Hunt concluded her presentation by thanking the board. Dr. Kanata Jackson applauded Ms. Hunt for her ideas and suggested the board take the same approach of open mindedness when it came to tourism.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Report of the Consultant Subcommittee

Mr. Tom Gear reported on a meeting of the Consultant Subcommittee held on September 5, 2007 (see Appendix III). The subcommittee voted unanimously for the Executive Director to negotiate contracts with Dover Kohl Associates, Blount Hunter, and Kimley-Horn. The subcommittee also voted unanimously to recommend the FMFADA conduct a professional tourism study to determine its potential economic impact on Fort Monroe.

Mr. Gear added that the committee kept in mind that they really needed to listen to the public. They realize many were not happy with Dover Kohl's initial Draft Reuse Plan since it concentrated mostly on housing. With more information the subcommittee felt that Dover Kohl could do a good job and were satisfied that Dover Kohl had no hidden agenda.

Ms. Hunt stated that she had received information from Alisa Bailey, President of Virginia Tourism Corporation, with a list of consultants that the Board could use to find a tourism specialist. Tom Gear motioned that based on the information from the Consultants Subcommittee meeting that the Board allow the Executive Director to negotiate contracts within the budgets provided with Dover Kohl, Blount Hunter and Kimley Horn. Dr. Lett seconded. Dr. Bryant added that he had concerns with using Dover Kohl in that they need more specific guidance or that the subcommittee needs to come up with another group. He stated that the paranoia of how the public perceives Dover Kohl is ongoing and the Board needs to be very specific as to what it expects from Dover Kohl so they don't have to go back to that issue again.

Mr. Harper stated whatever Reuse Plan the Executive Director comes forward with would ultimately have to be approved by the Board. Ms. Hunt stated that she would work with Dover Kohl so they could get more of a sense of what the Board wants. Initially they did not have information from the National Park Service, marina study, etc. A roll call vote was taken unanimously approving the following:

The Executive Director would negotiate contracts with Dover Kohl Associates for Form Based Code and Draft Plan Revisions; Blount Hunter for Economic Analysis and Kimley Horn for Infrastructure Analysis. The fourth part of this is for the FMFADA to conduct a professional tourism study on the economic impact on Fort Monroe.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Vice Chairman Thompson stated that the Authority needed to go into Executive Session for a personnel item. Therefore, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711, he called for a motion to go into Executive Session. It was moved, seconded and passed to go into Executive Session.

Vice Chairman Thompson announced that it was determined that the item to be discussed was an open session item and the authority reconvened in open session.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE: Mr. Harper suggested that the Authority look over the job description. (See Appendix III) Deputy Secretary Lyn Hammond made a motion to add a Masters in Public Administration. Delegate Gear seconded the motion. Mr. Robert Scott asked why the job description emphasized managing complex real estate projects when the Draft Reuse Plan is not a real-estate project. Mr. Robert Harper stated that the person would need a real estate background and breadth of experience in that Fort Monroe is made up of real estate holdings whether it is a park, part of a quadrangle, etc. Ms. Gilliam also added that since the Executive Director position is a long term position, the position description was drafted to reflect the qualifications needed in both the short and long term. Dr. Kanata Jackson stated that she would like the job description to not be too specific as far as specifying individual advanced degree requirements, and that we should make sure the person has a solid undergraduate degree so as not to rule out many other qualified candidates. Mr. Robert Harper added that Korn Ferry just listed examples of degrees, and that the job description wasn't limiting. Dr. Jackson stated that perhaps the description should list applicable advanced degrees. Dr. Wayne Lett also added that references to real estate should be listed under "Personal Characteristics" not "Education." After much discussion Dr. Jackson made a motion to move the real estate reference to Personal Characteristics and change the education requirements in the job description to read:

Undergraduate degree required; applicable advanced degree preferred.

Mr. Robert Harper seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted by Dr. Locke, and passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Delegate Gear asked why flyers were not being circulated to the public at the meeting. Ms. Hunt stated that the FMFADA has been briefed by the army and that that passing out flyers to the public on military property was a violation of Army regulations. Ms. Catharine Gilliam requested in future meetings she would like to hear more on the progress with the Section 106. Ms. Hunt replied that Kathleen Kilpatrick has a presentation for the next meeting that wasn't ready for this meeting. She also added that the Director of the Presidio would make a presentation next month.

VII. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice Chairman called for any additional public comments based on what has been said today. (See Appendix I)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Thompson asked if there were any remaining comments. Vice Chairman Thompson thanked the Authority members for their time and adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

The Honorable Mamie E. Locke
Secretary/Treasurer

MEL/jfb

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX I – PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Cornelliussen – Representing: Self

Mr. Cornelliussen began his comment by saying that he had talked with Dr. Lett and was impressed with the spirit of openness that the FMFADA had. He also announced that WHRO was presenting a program on Fort Monroe on October 24th and added that he was glad to see Waite Rawls of the MOC on the agenda. He ended his comments by announcing that Fort Monroe could be the 4th part of a historic quadrangle.

Louis Guy – Representing Norfolk Historical Society

Mr. Guy stated that he was not prepared to speak but agreed with Mr. Cornelliussen on the importance of Fort Monroe.

Col. I Neill McInnis, Jr. – Representing: Hampton History Museum

Col. McInnis stated that we are being held up by money, and that we must find a way to get the money from the National Park Service.

Public Comment (continued)

Gerri L. Holland – Representing: Contraband Historical Society

Ms. Holland stated that the City of Hampton must be involved in Fort Monroe as the City was where all the contraband slaves actually lived and settled. In order to make sure the total contraband story is told and the City of Hampton must play an important role.

Christine Gergely – Representing: United Daughters of the Confederacy and Self

Ms. Gergely stated that Fort Monroe needs to include not only the Civil War, but WWI and WWII. She stated that she supported Ms. Hunt's idea of setting up a museum partnership.

Dr. H.O. Malone – Representing Citizens for Fort Monroe National Park

Dr. Malone announced that Craig Middleton, the Director of the Presidio will be at the next FMFADA Board meeting and invited everyone to look at the Presidio's website to serve as a model for Fort Monroe.

Sam Martin – Representing: Self

Mr. Martin advised the Authority to look for at least four financial resources. He added to bring in the best and brightest experts and to think broadly. He told the Board to go back and look at the elements that make up the planning process.

APPENDIX II – BRIEFINGS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Executive Director's Report

2. Briefing by Dr. Charles Cureton

3. Briefing by Mr. Waite Rawls

4. Report of Consultant Subcommittee

5. Executive Search Job Description