



Fort Monroe Authority Board of Trustees
February 17, 2022
DRAFT Meeting Minutes

The Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) Executive Committee meeting was held on February 17, 2022 at the Patrick Henry Building, East Reading Room, 1111 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

Members Present: The Honorable James P. Moran, Chair
Dr. Edward Ayers
Ms. Mary Bunting
Ms. Benita Byas
Mr. Brian Jackson
Mr. Jay Joseph
Ms. Caren Merrick
Mr. John Reynolds
Mr. Andrew Wheeler

Members Absent:
Dr. Rex Ellis, Vice Chair
Mr. Keith Anderson
The Honorable A. C. Cordoza
Mr. Destry Jarvis
The Honorable Mamie E. Locke

Staff Present:
Mr. John Hutcheson, Secretary/Treasurer
Ms. Donna Swiney, Assistant Secretary
Dr. Françoise Bonnell
Mr. David Stroud
Ms. Phyllis Terrell
Mr. Aaron Whittington
Ms. Arlena Cahoon
Ms. Gina Wilborn

Others in Attendance: Ms. Katheryn Surface Burks, Office of the Attorney General
Mr. Braxton Williams, Office of the Attorney General

Eola Dance, Superintendent, Fort Monroe National Monument
Jimmy Gray, President, Fort Monroe Foundation

The Honorable Jim Moran called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Ms. Donna Swiney called the roll and determined that a quorum of the Board of Trustees was not present. A quorum of the Executive Committee was present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Minutes from September 16, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

MOTION: I move that the FMA Executive Committee approve the Minutes from September 16, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

So moved: Mr. Joseph

Seconded: Ms. Mary Bunting

Unanimously approved. Ms. Mary Bunting abstained

Partner Briefings

Fort Monroe Foundation Report

Jimmy Gray, FMF President

- The Underground Kitchen

Michael Sparks, CEO UGK

- Underground Kitchen presented the Foundation with a check for \$13,500.

National Park Service Report

Eola Dance, Superintendent

- Superintendent Eola Dance gave an update on NPS staffing and said that they are ready for the 250th celebration. The NPS is still transitioning and should be back in the office in an administrative capacity by the end of March. Currently working with the Colonial National Park, collaborating across the board due to the shared narrative. The Revolutionary Book Club has been very active and continues to do so. Superintendent Dance discussed the Keep Fort Monroe Beautiful Initiative What the considerations are for North Beach/Area 4 if transferred to the NPS and invited those who were interested to a virtual discussion on the matter

• Ms. Benita Thompson Byas arrived at 1:30 p.m. A quorum is now present.

Minutes from November 18, 2021 Meeting

MOTION: I move that the FMA Board of Trustees approve the Minutes from November 18, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting

So moved: Mr. Reynolds

Seconded: Ms. Bunting

Unanimously approved.

Rules and Regulations

MOTION: I move that the FMA Board of Trustees approve Rules and Regulations

So moved: Mr. Joseph
Seconded: Dr. Ayers
Unanimously approved

Closed Session

In accordance with VA Code 2.23711

- Disposition of Real Property – 2.2711(A)(3)

Reports and Briefings

1. Chairman's Report

James P. Moran, Chair

Chairman Moran thanked Glen Oder and John Hutcheson for all they are doing at/for Fort Monroe regarding the Legislative sessions, Lieutenant Governor Winsome-Sear's visit, and Governor Younkin's visit. Secretary Merrick shared her impressions of her visit to Fort Monroe and believes the Fort is very significant.

2. Executive Director's Report Director

John Hutcheson, Deputy Executive

The Executive Director's Report was included in the Board package. The report included information on Governor Northam December 9th visit to Fort Monroe. The visit has resulted in several follow-up meetings including Dr. Bonnell's meeting with Secretary of Education Guidera. The deed for the Chamberlin was signed in December. The FMA received the annual rent payment in December. The Executive Director held Board orientation sessions with Secretary Merrick and Secretary Wheeler. There is a dedicated focus on MEI programs such as public programming (in person, virtual/broadcast studio), Archives, and Collections. The Heritage Assets department has done project review and design consultations for over 400 projects including archeology. Historic Preservation Officer produced the Annual Report on January 26th. The Annual Meeting will be held on February 23rd. It was announced that this was Donna Swiney's last meeting as she is going to work for Dr. Chris Lee at the College of William & Mary. Gina Wilborn was introduced as the new Assistant Secretary. Mr. Moran thanks Ms. Swiney for her dedicated service to the FMA.

3. Financial Report

John Hutcheson, Secretary/Treasurer

Deputy Executive Director John Hutcheson gave the financial update. The new budget contains \$4M per year in Maintenance Reserve funding. The budget contains language that allows the FMA to use Maintenance Reserve funding for exterior painting projects to encapsulate lead-based paint. The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities were reviewed.

4. National Center for Freedom

Dr. Francoise Bonnell, MEI Director

The National Center for Freedom Report was provided in the Board package (APPENDIX 14). Dr. Francoise Bonnell gave an update on the National Center for Freedom. The NCFE is very busy with 2022 plans. They are currently fully staffed and continuously working with the NPS and Special Events. They will be hosting a Fort Monroe Museum Field Day, with 12 museums already signed up to participate. Fun at the Fort is another event being planned for kid and their parents as well as an event called Educating Educators.

5. National Park Service Report Eola Dance, Superintendent

Superintendent Eola Dance gave an update on NPS staffing and said that they are ready for the 250th celebration. The NPS is still transitioning and should be back in the office in an administrative capacity by the end of March. Currently working with the Colonial National Park, collaborating across the board due to the shared narrative. The Revolutionary Book Club has been very active and continues to do so. Superintendent Dance discussed the Keep Fort Monroe Beautiful Initiative What the considerations are for North Beach/Area 4 if transferred to the NPS and invited those who were interested to a virtual discussion on the matter.

6. Fort Monroe Foundation Report Jimmy Gray, FMF President

The Fort Monroe Foundation Report was provided in the Board package (APPENDIX VIII). Mr. Jimmy Gray, City of Hampton Vice-Mayor, and the Fort Monroe Foundation President, Introduced Michael Sparks, CEO of the Underground Kitchen who then presented the Foundation with a check for \$13,500. Mr. Gray gave an update on the Foundation. Mr. Reynolds thanked FMF for their commitment to Fort Monroe Authority. Mr. Moran thanked Mr. Sparks for his continued effort with the Foundation.

7. Rules and Regulations John Hutcheson, Secretary/Treasurer
Deputy Exec. Director

Deputy Exec. Director John Hutcheson gave background on this item. Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Bunting reviewed them and gave them to the City of Hampton for review. The Office of the Attorney General also reviewed these items. Topics included common areas, no employee permits for activities, 30 days' notice for all activities. Ms. Bunting thanked Mr. Hutcheson and Glen Oder for coordinating with the city of Hampton. Mr. Reynolds thanked Mr. Hutcheson and Glen Oder on the quick process.

8. African Landing Memorial

Contract with Brian Owens is finalized. We are expecting the final design by December 2022. Memorial to be completed by mid-year 2026. Dr. Ayers asked if there were any steps for public review. Mr. Jackson questioned if the process could be expedited for an earlier completion date. It was explained that a lot of the process falls on the artist himself. There will be bronze fabrications but all of the figures will be carved individually so the speed will depend on how fast the artist can work as research on the panels is ongoing. The board did express

concern on the timetable of the projects' completion. Mr. Jackson enthusiastically complemented Fort Monroe Authority Staff on running the Fort.

9. April Board Retreat Update
Director

John Hutcheson, Deputy Executive

The Board Retreat will be on April 20-21, 2022. The Retreat is a time to dive deep into specific programs. The first day will originally going to be a State of the Fort address but that was postponed to June to allow for more time to prepare the Economic Impact Statement. The Retreat will start on Wednesday afternoon with a tour of some spaces for future MEI programs followed by a reception at the Commanding General's Residence and dinner. The second day will be a robust dive into Fort Monroe program with thoughts of using the MEI spaces. Challenge what buildings represent, and discuss branding.

10. Public Comments

Mike Perreault, CFMNP

Mark Perreault arrived at the BOT meeting about 2 pm and after the Public Comment period. He has sent the remarks that he would have given had he arrived earlier

1. We congratulate the FMA on its acquisition of the ownership of the land underlying the Chamberlin, as well as for its strong advocacy for the Army and National Park Service (NPS) moving forward **with urgency** on resolving their disagreements on the remediation necessary in Area 4 at the north end of the Peninsula. It is vital that this land be transferred to the NPS as soon as possible -- this is in the best interest of the overall Fort Monroe project as well as the National Monument.

2. Likewise we commend the FMA for staying the course on transferring the 35 Wherry acres along the Bay to the NPS and look forward to this being accomplished in the near future. It is essential to creating a unified National Monument and, like the Chamberlin and Area 4 properties, creating the ownership footprint best calculated to creating the national treasure we all envision.

3. We noted the discovery of a number of Water Battery stones, buried when that feature was dismantled by the Army years ago, mentioned in the Executive Director's February 17, 2022 report. While we are excited about this discovery, we are concerned about the proposal that these be incorporated into the planned African Landing Memorial. Regardless of any DHR opinion you may have obtained, we think the proper use of these historic stones deserves full and detailed consideration, particularly in light of the possibility more such stones may well be unearthed in future years. Incorporation in an unrelated monument, however desirable that

project may be, is not necessarily the most appropriate use or most consistent with historic preservation.

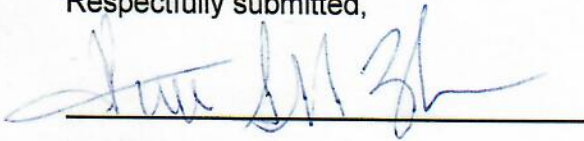
4. Finally we are very pleased to see that we are nearing the construction phase on renovating the off-line houses, mostly if not all, located inside the moat. The restoration of these houses for occupancy is exciting in their own right, as well as for producing additional revenue for the FMA.

Adjournment

Next Meeting is April 20-21, 2022.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Trustees, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gina Wilborn", is written over a solid black horizontal line.

Gina Wilborn