



Fort Monroe Authority Board of Trustees  
April 18, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

The Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) Board of Trustees meeting was held on April 18, 2019 at the Paradise Ocean Club and Bay Breeze Conference Center, located at 490 Fenwick Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651.

**Call to Order**

**1. Opening Comments – Jim Moran, Chairman**

Chairman Moran called the meeting to order at 8:38am.

**2. Roll Call – Jessica Turner, Assistant Secretary**

**Present:** Chairman Jim Moran, Dr. Ed Ayers, Mary Bunting, Dr. Rex Ellis, Destry Jarvis, Jay Joseph, John Reynolds.

**Absent:** Vice Chairman Colin Campbell, Dr. Maureen Elgersman Lee, Delegate Gordon Helsel, Senator Mamie Locke.

A quorum is present.

Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources Josh Saks, Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball, and Chief of Staff Clark Mercer were also in attendance.

**3. Approval of Minutes from February 28, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting – Jim Moran, Chairman**

**MOTION:** I move the approval of the February 28, 2019 meeting minutes. (APPENDIX I).

**So moved:** Ms. Bunting.

**Seconded:** Dr. Ayers.

**Discussion:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Unanimously approved.**

**4. Ratify Actions of Executive Committee – Katheryn Surface Burks**

**MOTION:** I move the approval of the resolution as presented (APPENDIX II).

**So moved:** Mr. Jarvis.

**Seconded:** Mr. Reynolds.

**Discussion:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Unanimously approved.**

Dr. Maureen Elgersman Lee arrived at 8:50am.

Chief Mercer delivered the signed deeds for the environmental carve-outs. Chief Mercer also provided an update on funding for the African Landing Memorial. Chief Mercer also read into the record a letter from the Governor of Virginia to the FMA Historic Preservation Officer regarding the Jefferson Davis Arch (APPENDIX III).

**MOTION:** I move that the Board of Trustees acknowledge receipt of Governor Northam's letter.

**So moved:** Dr. Ellis

**Seconded:** Dr. Lee.

**Discussion:** Dr. Ellis commented that the Board's actions must reflect "one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Mr. Jarvis suggested additional actions by the Board regarding the installation of signage and on the question of removal.

**Public Comment:**

A. Christine Gergely, United Daughters of the Confederacy – Ms. Gergely stated that the Arch was erected for the centennial of the Civil War and was a gift to the troops at Fort Monroe, along with other items for the Casemate Museum. These items were accepted by the U.S. Army in good faith.

B. Bill Wiggins, Project 1619 – Mr. Wiggins stated that in his conversations with Jefferson Davis' descendants, those descendants do not want Jefferson Davis monuments displayed.

C. Mark Perreault – Mr. Perreault stated that the Arch speaks to him about the human condition and is saddened to hear of the Governor's request.

**Further Discussion:** Superintendent Terry Brown expressed his appreciation for the Governor's letter and bold action. Superintendent Brown stated that it is appropriate and relevant to tell the Jefferson Davis history in the Museum, and not at the Arch.

**Unanimously approved.**

**MOTION:** Assuming that approval of total removal will take time, I move that the Board of Trustees of the Fort Monroe Authority authorize the staff move forward promptly with the content and placement of interpretive signage explaining the role of Jefferson Davis with the signage being placed as soon as funds are available.

**So moved:** Mr. Jarvis.

**Seconded:** Dr. Ayers

**Discussion:** Mr. Reynolds stated that the decision to place signage has been made and the money is already available. Mr. Reynolds suggested amending the motion to support the FMA and NPS staff decisions. Mr. Jarvis indicated he would accept that amendment.

**MOTION TO AMEND:** I move the amendment of the previous motion to state, "I move that the Board of Trustees support the FMA and NPS staff decision to place and fund interpretive signage at the Jefferson Davis Arch."

**So moved:** Mr. Reynolds

**Seconded:** Mr. Jarvis

**Discussion:** Chairman Moran stated he believes the signage will be no more acceptable to those who support the Arch than removing the Arch. Chairman Moran also stated that it is problematic to ask staff to create signage that would be acceptable to everyone.

Mr. Jarvis withdrew his original motion.

**MOTION:** I move that the Board of Trustees support removal of the Jefferson Davis Arch and the intent of the letter of the Governor as soon as possible and in compliance with all legal requirements.

**So moved:** Mr. Jarvis.

**Seconded:** Dr. Ellis.

**Discussion:** Secretary Ball expressed concerns regarding how quickly the removal can take place and thinks there should be some interpretive signage in the interim. Ms. Bunting suggested removal of the name as an initial, immediate step as the longer Programmatic Agreement process takes place. Furthermore, Ms. Bunting suggested the removal, documentation, and storage of the letters until the Arch can be removed. Deputy Secretary Saks responded that the removal of the letters would need to go through the same process as removal of the Arch itself. However, a temporary covering may be an immediate option.

Executive Director Glenn Oder reported that the FMA staff does have a process to work with the scholars on the Board regarding interpretive language at the Fort Monroe Visitor and Education Center (FMVEC) and could use that same process for the interpretive signage at the Arch.

Dr. Ayers also suggested a temporary sign for the Commemoration Weekend that would explain the Governor's request and the status of the removal process. Dr. Ayers suggested the designation of a Working Group to vet interpretive language prior to the June Board meeting.

Dr. Elgersman Lee suggested that the larger strategy should also include what happens after the Arch is removed, what happens to the space, and whether there is interpretation of the fact that the Arch was there.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Unanimously approved.**

Chairman Moran requested volunteers for the Jefferson Davis Arch Working Group. Dr. Ellis, Dr. Elgersman Lee, Deputy Secretary Saks, Dr. Ayers, and Mr. Reynolds volunteered.

## Reports and Briefings

### 5. Executive Director's Report – Glenn Oder, Executive Director

Director Glenn Oder stipulated that the Executive Director's Report was submitted as a read ahead and is included in the Board packet (APPENDIX IV).

### 6. Financial Report – John Hutcheson, Deputy Executive Director

Mr. Hutcheson stipulated that the Financial Report was submitted as a read ahead and is included in the Board packet (APPENDIX V).

**MOTION:** I move the approval of the financial report.

**So moved:** Mr. Joseph.

**Seconded:** Ms. Bunting.

**Discussion:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Unanimously approved.**

### 7. Chairman's Report – Jim Moran, Chairman

There is no Chairman's report.

**8. Fort Monroe Foundation Progress Update – Mike Westfall, President**

Mr. Westfall reviewed the Fort Monroe Foundation (FMF) Progress Update included in the Board packet (APPENDIX VI).

**Strategic Sessions**

**9. Decision Context for RFPs: A 50-Year Decision – Glenn Oder, John Reynolds**

Mr. Hutcheson provided an update on the status of the Request for Real Estate Proposals (RFREP) to be delivered to the Request for Qualifications respondents and the RFREP timeline generally.

Mr. Reynolds provided an overview of the significance of Fort Monroe and the powers and duties of the FMA as outlined in the FMA Act. Mr. Reynolds explained that the FMA will begin to make decisions in the RFREP process that will impact Fort Monroe for the next 50 years. With that in mind, Mr. Reynolds reviewed the decision context for these decisions as outlined in the Board presentation (APPENDIX VII). This includes the pillars of exemplary stewardship of historic and natural resources, superior visitor experience, economic sustainability for both the FMA and the region.

Mr. Jarvis stated that lodging is a high priority for the future. Mr. Jarvis requested a map showing all existing leases overlaid with the redevelopment areas. Ms. Bunting suggested that lodging is so important to Fort Monroe that the Board should set aside property for that use, if no RFREP respondent includes that in their response.

Mr. Joseph reminded the Board that this will be the first RFREP and that this process will take several rounds in order to put tenants in all of the buildings.

Superintendent Brown asked about the strategy to attract black-owned business. Ms. Bunting responded that the City does have programs to attract and foster minority business and would offer those resources to the FMA. Secretary Ball also asked that the RFREP include a component of involving small-, women-, and minority-owned business (SWaM) in the redevelopment teams. A discussion ensued regarding the best means to include SWaM businesses in the RFREP process.

A discussion ensued regarding the best location on the site for a lodging component.

**10. Fort Monroe: The National Center for Freedom – Glenn Oder, Robin Reed**

Director Oder provided an overview of the evolution of the idea for The National Center for Freedom (NCF).

Director of the Casemate Museum Robin Reed reviewed the objectives, audiences, and pilot programs for the NCF included in the Board presentation (APPENDIX VII).

Ms. Bunting expressed some concern regarding the administrative implementation of this concept, such as whether this requires additional staff, a new building, etc. Mr. Reed responded that this concept will begin with the branding and expansion of current programming already being offered at Fort Monroe, with the potential to grow into a physical location and a larger impact.

Dr. Ayers stated that this effort must also include the years that were not free. The "freedom" language must also include the struggle for freedom and what freedom was won against.

Mr. Reynolds questioned whether the NCFE will include freedom of all peoples or if it will just be for the freedom of blacks in America.

Dr. Ellis encouraged a phased approach to this concept in order to be able to maintain control of the program. Dr. Ellis encouraged a deliberate plan of action.

**11. African Landing Memorial – Glenn Oder, Destry Jarvis**

Director Oder provided an overview of the desire for an African Landing Memorial and the support of the Governor by including initial funding for this effort. Director Oder reviewed the African Landing Memorial site included in the Board presentation (APPENDIX VII).

Mr. Jarvis provided an overview of the artist selection schedule, including the public meeting and hope to announce the artist at the Commemoration Weekend in August. Public engagement will be a significant component of the artist selection process.

Mr. Reynolds encouraged the staff to begin thinking about a public art policy that can guide public art going into the future.

Chairman Moran commented that he would like the Memorial to be a contemplative space with realistic art, rather than anything that would be abstract or modernist.

Mr. Joseph inquired about how the Memorial site was selected and what other areas were considered. Director Oder reviewed the site selection process and stated that the current site was chosen for its views to the water, proximity of parking, and prominent location, among other factors.

**12. Strategic Projects – Glenn Oder**

Director Oder reviewed the FMA's current strategic projects included in the Board presentation (APPENDIX VII). These strategic projects include the main entrance redesign, the 200-year anniversary of the fortress, the Fort Monroe Theatre, Quarters One, the Casemate Museum, and the Commanding General's Residence.

A discussion ensued regarding the need to dredge the moat and the related expense.

Mr. Westfall reported that the FMF will have unallocated funds later in the year that could be applied toward the Theatre master plan. Dr. Ellis stated the Theatre has the best opportunity to provide a return on investment. Ms. Bunting agreed that the Theatre would be her first priority among the projects.

Chairman Moran agreed that the Theatre should be a high priority due to its revenue potential.

**13. General Open Discussion**

There is no additional discussion.

**General Public Comment**

There is no additional public comment.

**13. Next Meeting is June 20, 2019**

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** I move the Board adjourn.

**So moved:** Mr. Joseph.

**Seconded:** Ms. Bunting.

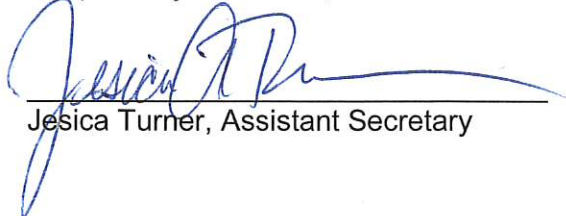
**Discussion:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Unanimously approved.**

Chairman Moran adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Turner, Assistant Secretary