



Fort Monroe Foundation Report for the
Fort Monroe Board of Trustees Meeting
Bay Breeze Conference Center
February 20, 2014

The Fort Monroe Foundation held its quarterly meeting on March 6, 2014. A quorum was present and the minutes for previous meetings were approved.

The Foundation reviewed the financial statements through December 2013 that showed total cash assets at \$95,906. This is a 42% increase over last year's cash assets at the same time. The financial report also included a statement that the Foundation received a clean audit however the auditors made the determination that the Foundation is a sub-set of the FMA due to the appointment of Foundation Board members by the FMA Trustees.

As in past years, the Foundation will leverage activities at Fort Monroe to generate sponsorship opportunities for local businesses and corporations. The activities will allow the sponsor's name recognition associated with advertising events at Fort Monroe and larger donors will be offered an opportunity to enjoy a private reception in the Executive Director's home at Fort Monroe.

Foundation Fundraising Activities:

Music by the Bay Sponsor's Reception: The FMF is planning a Sponsor's Reception at the FMA House at Fort Monroe in late April. This is the annual reception where Sponsors who have pledged to the Foundation are recognized and new attendees are encouraged to participate. The FMF will roll out the lineup for this year's Music by the Bay Concert series. Highlights for this year's activities include a D-Day memorial on June 6th in Continental Park, the second annual Fourth of July Celebration at Fort Monroe with a fireworks display launched from on top of the ramparts, and the annual Virginia Symphony concert on Friday night of Labor Day weekend. Participation in these concert activities is expected to approach 40,000 attendees total.

Foundation Capital Campaign Project:

The Waterfront Park Project and 7 mile Trail: This is an ambitious project to connect all of the green areas at Fort Monroe together into one continuous park design. The primary focus of these green areas is to link the waterfront spaces at Fort Monroe into a contiguous Waterfront Park. Specific features of the Waterfront Park will focus on upgrades to Continental Park, better beach access, boardwalk improvements, and dramatic renovations to the entrance to the property. Landscape architects from around the region recently attended a pre-bid conference at Fort Monroe that included a bike tour around the Waterfront Park. RFQ responses from the Landscape Architects are expected by mid-April. Once funding is secured for the Park design, the selected design team will begin meetings with the FMA staff, our partners on the property, and the public. The final design is expected by the end of the year and will become the basis for a capital campaign that carries the Foundation for many years.

Special Ticketed Events at Fort Monroe:

The Foundation hopes to expand our list of events this year to included ticketed events at Fort Monroe. By incorporating volunteers and FMA staff, the Foundation plans to expand on previous events such as the Fort Monroe Ghost Tours to create a ticketed event for the purpose of generating revenue to the Foundation. Additionally the Foundation is exploring the opportunity to host a Holiday Home Tour at Fort Monroe. Last year the FMA staff visited numerous historic home tour sites in the region from North Carolina to Maryland. Staff believes Fort Monroe can host a holiday home tour and this event can become a revenue producing event for the Foundation. Much work needs to be done to make this happen by next December.

Fort Monroe Foundation Projects:

Kayak Launch: The FMA installed the kayak launch in June and the facility is actively in use by the YMCA day campers and other parties who enjoy water activities in Mill Creek. The Foundation received a grant from Dominion Virginia Power of \$20,000 for this project. The money was recently transferred from the FMF to the FMA to reimburse the FMA for this project. The kayak launch is presently out of the water but will be reinstalled as soon as additional components arrive that increase the size of the floating platform.

Living Shoreline Project: The FMA and the FMF are collaborating to apply for a \$5 million grant to restore approximately one mile of shoreline along Mill Creek. This project is the largest living shoreline project ever attempted on the Chesapeake Bay and maybe on the east coast. The significance of this project is that it will increase the water quality in Mill Creek, provide more habitats for wildlife, and provide access and walking trails for the public as part of the FM 7 mile trail project. Response on the Grant Application is expected in late April.

Casemate Museum Project: The Casemate Museum facility is part of a historic structures report that is underway for the fortress. The result of this report will become the future basis for fundraising activities associated with preserving the fortress.

Fort Monroe Administrative Activities:

Current FMF Board Membership: Regrettably Taylor Reveley has asked to be dismissed from his Board appointment due to recurring conflicts in scheduling. The current status of Foundation membership is 7 members and the Executive Director is actively looking for additional members.

Altru Software Update: The FMA staff is now using the system for some aspects of the work associated with the Foundation.

Annual Membership Program: Planning is underway to evaluate a January 1, 2015 start date to an annual membership program for the Fort Monroe Foundation.