

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY GROUP**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**December 6th, 2009**

**9:42 A.M. - 12:38 P.M.**

**Attendees:** Kathleen Kilpatrick, chair; Dr. Laurennette Lee; Robert Nieweg; Bill Frazier; Jeanne Zeidler

**Absent:** Dorothy Redford, Eleanor Krause, John Munick, Alisa Bailey

**Others Attending:** John Quarstein, FMFADA Commissioner; Peter Dajevskis, Interpretive Solutions; Wendy Abel-Weiss, Interpretive Solutions; Andy Mink, Interpretive Solutions; Ann Clausen, Interpretive Solutions; Rob Reali, BRAC Environmental Coordinator; Katherine Klepper, JM Waller; Greg Rutledge, Hanbury Evans Wright & Vlattas; Sallie Di-Venuti, Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau; Bill Armbruster, FMFADA; Josh Gillespie, FMFADA; Melissa Farrington, FMFADA; Trudy O'Reilly, O'Reilly Public Relations.

Meeting agenda is attached.

### **Call to Order**

Ms. Kilpatrick called the meeting to order, and called roll. Without discussion, Mayor Zeidler moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Mr. Frazier. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **HPAG Chairperson Report/Discussion**

Ms. Kilpatrick talked about how the transfer of Fort Monroe and the long term picture would lend itself to the annual report and the work of the Next Steps committee. She pointed out that she had marked common issues, concerns, and challenges of the FMFADA. She said the continuity and structure of the FMFADA were important topics to discuss and that speedy appointment of board members is important to maintain momentum. She followed those recommendations by thanking and commending Joan Baker for her service to the committee; and then welcomed Melissa Farrington. Ms. Kilpatrick then welcomed Bill Frazier as a new committee member, briefly stating his biography, with attention to his work with historic resources and community planning. Ms. Kilpatrick then addressed transition issues in regards to the reorganization of the FMFADA. She stated that the board is well fitted to work toward implementation rather than planning. She stated that details need to be established in drafting and that support needs to be drawn for this process.

### **NHL District Amendment and Individual Party Nominations**

Ms. Klepper stated she would be examining four Fort Monroe buildings for her project. She stated that Old Quarters #1 and Quarters #17 reports should be submitted by December 28, 2009. The nominations would take place at the Virginia Historic Resources Review Board on March 18<sup>th</sup>. These reports will be followed with the reports on the Chapel of the Centurion and the eleven segments of the Fort 2010. She reported that reconnaissance level surveying is ongoing and that the overall project deadline is April 30, 2010.

Questions/comments: Ms. Kilpatrick asked whether there will be a large expansion of the historic district narrative. Ms. Klepper stated that there will be a large expansion of the document, citing the fact that the

document is seven pages including information from the Dog Beach area. She said that the narrative justification will cover all potential issues and the major important themes of Fort Monroe. Mr. Nieweg asked Ms. Kilpatrick to expand on the importance of a nomination. Ms. Kilpatrick stated that a nomination shows the full scope of historic resources in designated areas and could lead to rehabilitation tax credit projects.

### **Cultural Landscapes and Viewsheds Study**

Rob Reali stated that treatment of cultural resources will follow the Programmatic Agreement. The reports had been distributed on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and had been posted online. The public presentation of the report will take place at the meeting tomorrow morning. There will be a time period of thirty days to submit comments. There are forty two significant views that lend themselves to add attractability or detract from the integrity of the resource in regards to Fort Monroe. The overall recommendation is to preserve views that have high significance and integrity and to not interrupt views by construction. Mr. Reali stated that there are eight historic landscapes that were reviewed and that the recommendation was to preserve the integrity of these landscapes. Design Standards being developed by FMFADA are expected to establish standards to preserve significant views and to make sure new construction or landscaping will complement the surroundings. These resources will be looked at in significant detail. He stated that archival research of the Contraband Cemetery has been completed. There is no record of contraband dying and being buried at Fort Monroe; although there is research showing that approximately one hundred contraband resided on Fort Monroe. The former post cemetery is the likely spot of the contraband cemetery. Interesting letters were found that resulted from this time period. The sites of both the contraband hospital and quarters have been identified but there will be no investigation those areas which are under and around current quarters.

Ms. Kilpatrick asks Mr. Reali to give an idea of what the resources would have looked like historically. Mr. Reali responded by saying the meeting tomorrow will further examine that question. Mr. Reali stated that the area had sparsely spread out buildings past the Hygeia hotel. Mr. Reali said that during this study they will use three different geophysical techniques: electrical resistance, ground penetrating radar, and magnetic gradiometry. The data will be reviewed daily. Mr. Dajevskis asked whether the GPR process is going to be videotaped. Mr. Reali stated that they had not planned to do so.

The following results are from an intrusive investigation: the area does not lend itself to the preservation of graves, the fill is between two and three feet, crews will need to watch out for unexploded ordinance. There will also be identification issues and it is hoped that artifacts provide good information. The process will take place between January 21<sup>st</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup> and report the findings by June 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. The final report will follow thirty days later. The meeting tomorrow will take place from 10am to 12pm at the Bay Breeze Community Center. Mr. Reali asked if there are any questions.

Questions/ comments: Ms. Kilpatrick said that she noticed that Mr. Reali talked about real estate and stated that landscaping will be tricky and that the restoration of landscaping will be difficult. Mr. Reali gave an example of shrubbery and railings at the Flagstaff Bastion stating that there will be a balance between what looks good now and the historical view. Ms. Kilpatrick suggested that when the research is further along there should be a session with the preservation design committee. Mr. Frazier agreed. Mr. Nieweg spoke about the extreme sensitivity of excavation of human bodies. He also hoped that the

geophysical survey work will collect extensive information. He hoped protocols will be followed when digging human graves. Mr. Reali responded by stating that bodies will be identified and marked in the ground. Mr. Reali stated that historically, all bodies would have been moved to the Hampton National Cemetery. The finding of remains would be a result of an unclean move or graves missed. Mr. Nieweg reiterated that the work is sensitive, stating three reasons: finding people, archival research, and whether there are records at all or just not records that have to do with death. Mr. Reali stated that there are documents that refer to cost, food rations, and the number of contrabands cared for and that they can be reviewed in the posted report. Ms. Kilpatrick asked if there are any names listed other than the last person buried or the first contrabands. Mr. Reali replied that his background is environmental engineering not history and that those questions are better addressed to those educated and familiar with the historical field.

### **Executive Director Report**

Mr. Armbruster introduced Jerry Moore as the Interim Deputy Director of Real Estate. He gave a brief history of his background and credentials. Mr. Armbruster stated that the real estate aspects are significant and that Mr. Moore will begin to pursue a management firm for leasing the housing available on Fort Monroe. Mr. Armbruster began his presentation by describing the storm damage on Fort Monroe. He stated that the storm showed us we are vulnerable, yet the seawall did a great job. However, the bad news is that the sea wall is not completed and part of Wherry Housing had to be evacuated. Many buildings took on water and there are still signs of the storm's damage.

Mr. Armbruster stated that it is very important to engage our community, and mentioned the recent Fort Algoune Conference (sold out) and naturalization ceremonies as examples of FMFADA initiatives.

Under the topic management and staffing Mr. Armbruster discussed the structuring of the FMFADA resulting from the work of RCLCO. The new board configuration will decrease from eighteen to eleven members and the FMFADA will be re-named. The legislation will formally recognize the historic value of Fort Monroe and the property will be retained not sold. Mr. Armbruster continued with updates on other issues. Following questions about the upcoming position of Fort Monroe Historic Preservation Officer, Mr. Armbruster confirmed that the position would report directly to the Executive Director. The Casemate negotiations are ongoing and comments on a draft MOA have been returned. He said that FMFADA worked with the army's Center for Military History to maintain and staff the museum. Ms. Kilpatrick questioned how the staff and museum would include things such as the Lincoln Gun and management of resources. Mr. Armbruster assured Ms. Kilpatrick that the museum will be staffed and Ms. Kilpatrick is in agreement. In reference to Quarters One renovations a pocket door had been discovered and plans are being revised to proceed with work on the alternating wood discovered on the walls after lead paint abatement. The work may be completed by Christmas so meetings, business, and entertainment will resume in this area.

Mr. Armbruster addressed the budget, saying that the FY 2011-12 appropriations request had been submitted to Richmond. There will be a huge jump in the budget in 2012 to \$10.3 million when FMFADA takes control of Fort Monroe. However, the reports out of Richmond have not been favorable. Ms. Kilpatrick asked which portion of the budget are appropriations and Mr. Armbruster stated all of it. Mr. Armbruster briefed the committee about his D.C. trip. He met with congressional delegates and

shared with them the board's decision for a National Park Service presence. Mr. Armbruster traveled with John Reynolds (former regional director and deputy director of the park service), Preston Bryant, and Cheryl Widell. David Dutton and Cara Metz helped to craft the proposed legislative language.

The director delivered the following report of that visit:

*We received positive and enthusiastic responses from individuals we meet with in D.C. We were able to meet with Warner and Webb staffers. We were also able to meet with the staffers from the senate armed service committee and with Congressman Nye, Congressman Scott, and Congressman Whitman. There will be an accelerated resource study to create something that is uniquely Fort Monroe. Many models have been looked at and we will be creative in working with the park service. We do have enthusiastic support from congressional delegation. We are eligible for stimulus money for eight projects. We will pursue three projects which include flood control and waste water.*

He also shared with the congressman the new governance structure. Mr. Armbruster said as a footnote that all changes are contingent upon legislation, and then FMFADA bylaws will be amended.

Questions/comments: Mr. Nieweg encouraged a special resource study (SRS) and mentioned that he had served on the NPS review panel. He noted a handful of cases in which NPS operated successfully without SRS (ex: Flight 93). Ms. Zeidler addressed the accuracy of the recent Daily Press report. Mr. Armbruster stated that he had met with the news reporter and he wished the reporter had stressed in his article more about the National Park Service. Ms. Zeidler also pointed out that the article made it seem as if the NPS would run Fort Monroe. Mr. Armbruster responded by saying that he tried to stress the fact that the Commonwealth would have more authority; and would call the reporter. Ms. Kilpatrick stated that there was a distinction made in the article between economic sustainability and the National Park Service. Mr. Armbruster stated that the linkage is important. Mr. Perreault stated that the resolution made by the NPS review panel said the Commonwealth of Virginia will own the property, unless they give up the property to the NPS. Ms. Zeidler said that the article could mislead the public because it makes events seem farther along than they are in reality.

### **African-American Culture Working Group**

Ms. Lee spoke about her passion for Fort Monroe. She said that many topics will be examined in her project. She spoke about:

- \* Education in the perspective of a white male teacher
- \* Old communities and black migration
- \* Chief Black Hawk's story and historic property management zones
- \* How African American History personal stories and the intertwined lines between blacks and whites will be made evident.
- \* Christopher Newport University students examining the topic of "colored" captivity. This as well as the contraband story such as the location and when these individuals died will be researched.
- \* The examination of partnerships, marriage, and co-habitation papers.
- \* The James River plantations will be overviewed.
- \* Organizations and individuals for projects will be reviewed and funding opportunities will be discussed. Experts such as Dianne Swann-Wright and Robert Watson will be active in this process.
- \* African American history will be reviewed in reference to the Casemate Museum and archeological reports will be reviewed

Ms. Lee concluded by saying: *African American history is vitally important in telling stories and assuring that this history will not be segregated from the narrative of Fort Monroe. These stories will create national emotion because the themes are race, rights, and freedom which will attract a diverse audience.*

Ms. Kilpatrick asked whether Dianne-Swann Wright and Robert Watson had been formalized with the heritage site they will be examining. Ms. Lee responded by stating that these individuals are working for the FMFADA currently and gave their background information. Ms. Kilpatrick questioned whether these individuals are a free standing team or a part of the interpretive master planners' group. Ms. Lee stated that they will fulfill their work in December. She also elaborated on the contraband cemetery and stated that the cemetery research can engage a diverse emerging population and also represents an opportunity to engage interns and graduate students.

Questions/comments: Ms. Kilpatrick said that assuming the HPAG recommended such, that the report would be included in the January board meeting as an educational opportunity. She suggested that the report should be tweaked according to the group's recommendations. Mr. Nieweg commended Ms. Lee for her job well done. He said a formal research plan needs to be developed concentrating on the needs of research and a focus needs to be put on the practical need for implementation in a timely manner since no institution is recognized as the lead on these subjects at this point. Ms. Clausen mentioned that a large part of the IMP involves this type of research. Mr. Guy remarked that the wealth of knowledge Gerri Hollings has on these issues should not be lost because of her illness. Mr. Armbruster assured everyone that information will be made available. Ms. Lee ended her report with the statement that Fort Monroe has many tentacles and that recommendations will be amended in her report. Ms. Kilpatrick stated that action will happen after amendments are made to Dr. Lee's report.

### **Interpretive Planning Update**

Ms. Clausen introduced the members of the IMP team and reported that they are in the fact finding and information gathering part of the process. She spoke about the town hall meeting and said that there will be a new survey posted online every six weeks and that the stakeholder meeting took place on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Interviews for museum partners are taking place. She said that Ms. Abel-Weiss and Mr. Mink are members of the education team and both have extensive experience in the field.

Ms. Abel-Weiss was recognized and spoke on the subject of education. She said she is trying to make assets both engaging & unique. She put forth an idea for four major stories. She said that the audience is the same audience as those attending Colonial Williamsburg and military history buffs. Ms. Abel-Weiss also talked about the importance of having a volunteer staff made up of people such as retirees that want a meaningful way to invest themselves. She wanted to connect colonial history to ongoing history. The site will hold four major stories and will be a moving tour. There will be four characters and electronic devices and people to expand the each story. The setup will be in a way that stories can be added at any point. Since there will be a digital aspect there will be an opportunity for families to hear and participate in stories.

Ms. Zeidler asked what the four stories were and Ms. Abel-Weiss stated that is too early to determine. Multiple stories will allow more visits and the environment will become a living environment rather than

a tourism environment. Many examples were given of successful models using volunteers as workforce (ex: 9/11 memorial). Mr. Nieweg stated that he liked the approach that a historic panel is important to create an opportunity for tourism in a living environment. He said HPAG needed to figure out a way to have insights into the IMP. Ms. Kilpatrick questioned who is on the core team and steering committee. Ms. Clausen pointed out that Ms. Zeidler is the liaison to the committee and a draft of the plan will be circulated to the HPAG. Ms. Kilpatrick reiterated the job of the HPAG is interpretation and public access. She also stated that there should be outdoor recreation sources and that is important for these people in the stories to have names because it gives life to the period. Ms. Clausen said that they are not at that point, but are rather addressing context for the stories. Ms. Kilpatrick asked about an iPhone application and Ms. Di-Venuti commented that it is a very effective tool for the City of Hampton. Mr. Dajevskis said that the group is looking into a full range of options to deliver stories.

Mr. Mink was introduced and he began by saying that both teachers and students will learn facts and the advocates for learning will be the teachers. The context will be identified and there will be an internet component. His recommendation is that there will be a web based companion and technology will come together producing a site that will be useful for teacher training. Mr. Dajevskis stated that many issues have physical manifestations such as labs.

Questions/comments : Ms. O'Reilly commended Ms. Di-Venuti for being generous in helping with the IMP process and Ms. Di-Venuti encouraged the group by having multiple pathways and stated that at the City of Hampton had a fifty percent return rate. Ms. Kilpatrick stated that resources will be made available to engage the local community. Mr. Nieweg made recommendations of different material to use as references. Ms. Clausen said her team will be mindful of future audiences and not just today's audience.

### **Historic Preservation and Design Standards Committee**

Mr. Rutledge stated the main goal of the viewshed study is to maintain, preserve, and enhance the resources at Fort Monroe. He stated that some recommendation need to be incorporated and that he would begin meeting with FMFADA staff and the committee to start the process.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Ms. Kilpatrick began by speaking about the annual report saying that she would work with David Dutton to get the draft. The draft should detail the work of both the subcommittees and committees. The focus at this point should be looking toward the goals for 2010 and the critical actions that will take place. Ms. Kilpatrick's concern was critical deadlines at the end of April. The annual report will be reported to Governor Kaine. Mr. Nieweg asked if the budget is approved, when will the report be presented? Ms. Kilpatrick stated that it would be presented tomorrow. Ms. Zeidler asked who is responsible for the state agreement. Following discussion, Ms. Zeidler asked whether the agreement is a FMFADA or HPAG agreement. Ms. Kilpatrick reported that the Department of Historic Resources would oversee the tasks assigned to the Commonwealth of Virginia with the leadership of the Attorney General. Ms. Kilpatrick stated that time is wasting and that the tasks are due by the end of April. Mr. Armbruster stated that a position description for the HPO was being finalized and it will be out before the end of the calendar year. It is important that the person be a part of the process, not just have historic preservation duties. This person must have a relationship with other deputy directors and will report to the Director of Historic

Preservation. He said the FMFADA will be bringing people on staff by following the RCLCO model approved by the FMFADA board. Ms. Kilpatrick stated that she did not think the job description had been adopted by the board. She hoped the individual would be integrated in all aspects and would be the voice of preservation rather than seeing the issues on the back end. Mr. Armbruster stated that the plan is to have four deputies and a historic preservation officer. Mr. Nieweg commented that the need for an HPO should be the same as the fourth deputy. Ms. Zeidler asked if combining the positions would be too much of a job. Mr. Quarstein questioned whether there is enough staff underneath the position. Ms. Kilpatrick stated that the architect is the preservation officer in the mix. Ms. Zeidler suggested an elevated position with dual report and Ms. Kilpatrick elaborated that the candidate should have the look of a compliance officer. Ms. Zeidler questioned whether there will be too many direct reports and stated that the executive director has the right to organize his staff however he wants after listening to comments. Mr. Nieweg stated that the individual selected is required to have academic and professional experience plus statutory qualifications. The HPAG must be sensitive to the executive director and staffing is his choice, yet it is worth listening to Ms. Kilpatrick's expertise. Mr. Frazier said that if there are detailed guidelines then enough review happens so problems will not result from putting the HPO at the top level. Mr. Armbruster thanked the committee for its input.

### **Next Steps**

Ms. Kilpatrick reported that the next steps committee will report on the MOU and the HPO and the decision making structure for the development process. Mr. Nieweg said that in a subsequent meeting a scenario with FMFADA in place should be fleshed out step by step. Ms. Kilpatrick wants to also discuss thoughts on marketing and outreach. Mr. Armbruster will be present at the next meeting.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Butler, representing Citizens for A Fort Monroe National Park (CFMNP) questioned how the NPS ideas will be recognized with the IMP.

Mr. Dajevskis stated that they are required by the FMFADA contract to be consistent with the standard NPS methodology. Mr. Nieweg pointed out that Bob Kirby is a stake holder [on the IMP team]. Mr. Armbruster stated that they will be working with him closely.

Mr. Perreault, representing CFMNP stated the key success is diversity which includes both natural resources and history. Mr. Armbruster says that the key part of the recommendation is part of their mission.

Next Scheduled meeting is February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, location in Richmond TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Farrington, FMFADA staff