

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Minutes

April 06, 2009

9:45 A.M. – 12:35 P.M.

Attendees: Kathleen Kilpatrick, Chair, Dorothy Redford, Dr. Laurant Lee, John Munick, Jeanne Zeidler, Robert Nieweg

Absent: Alisa Bailey, Eleanor Krause and Mary Means

Others Attending: Bill Armbruster, FMFADA Executive Director; Joshua Gillespie, FMFADA Project Manager; Crystal DeAngelis, FMFADA Planning Assistant/Bookkeeper; Trudy O'Reilly, FMFADA Communications Manager; John Quarstein, FMFADA Commissioner; David Dutton, FMFADA Consultant; Greg Rutledge, Hanbury Evans; Bill Brookover, NPS; Richard Lewis, Virginia Tourism Corporation; Terry Moore, NPS (via telephone)

Meeting Agenda is attached.

Call to Order

Ms. Kilpatrick called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and called the roll. Ms. Kilpatrick requested a motion for approval of the February 02, 2009 minutes. Ms. Zeidler motioned for approval of the minutes and Dr. Lee seconded the motion. All were in favor, the minutes were approved.

Ms. Kilpatrick reviewed the meeting agenda noting that guest speaker Professor Robert Eng who was to present on the 2008 Fort Monroe in the Civil War Symposium would not be joining the meeting due to a falling accident on Sunday, April 05, 2009. She reported that Professor Eng was in fine condition but was unable to travel. She stated that it was important to discuss the Symposium to set the stage for the Museum Group presentation and Advisory Group discussion. Ms. Kilpatrick recognized Dr. Lee and Mr. Quarstein as participants in the symposium and asked them to help guide the discussion at the appropriate point in the agenda.

HPAG Chairman Report/Discussion

Ms. Kilpatrick reported that the PA has all signatures with the exception of the Governor due to his travels. The Governor is expected to sign without any problems and then the PA will go to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as the final signatory, following standard procedure. She also said that with all signatures in place, the Army will then begin the process with the consulting parties. She stated that there are several things that need to happen within the next two years prior to the Army turning over the property and that the milestones are upon us.

Ms. Kilpatrick reported on the meeting and tour of Fort Monroe that occurred on March 26, 2009 which included representatives from the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Mr. Nieweg from the National Trust for Historic Preservation also participated. As a result of this meeting, a working group has been formed to assist the FMFADA and the HPAG in assessing the natural and outdoor resources at Fort Monroe and in exploring educational

and recreational opportunities for the public based on those resources. The group was really impressed with what Fort Monroe offers and is excited to assist the FMFADA and HPAG.

Ms. Kilpatrick also reported that she met with Ms. Ann Jennings, the Virginia Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, on Monday, March 30, 2009 and she and her staff are similarly interested in partnership opportunities for the public benefit, including natural resource restoration projects.

FMFADA Executive Director's Report

Mr. Armbruster reported that the General Assembly approved the \$1.6 million for the FMFADA as proposed in the Governor's budget submission. This is approximately half of the \$3.1 million budget proposal that was submitted. The FMFADA is working with the Office of Economic Adjustment in preparation for another grant for supplemental funding for our FY2010 budget. He also stated that the \$1.6 million has doubled from the FY2009 budget.

Mr. Armbruster stated that the General Assembly also included the language in the budget bill that would allow the FMFADA to separate from the Department of Housing and Community Development effective July 01, 2009, and at this time the separation will allow the FMFADA to bring on additional staff. The FMFADA will be able to exercise more of the power and authority of a local political entity as granted in the legislation. He also stated that General Assembly gave the FMFADA the authority to hold electronic board meetings in keeping with other agencies and statewide boards.

Mr. Armbruster stated that of the \$96.5 million request that was submitted, we have not received any stimulus funds as of this week. Two projects are still under consideration; the Flood Project and the Waste Water Project. There was also a separate request submitted to our congressional delegation for infrastructure work as part of the defense appropriations bill that is currently working on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Armbruster stated that the PA has been in the works for 2 ½ years and it is a milestone that has been reached. He gave special recognition and thanks to Ms. Kilpatrick and her staff for their major role in drafting the PA.

Mr. Armbruster stated that the consultant for the Management RFP has been hired. The contract was awarded to Robert Charles Lesser and Company (RCLCO). There will be three functional areas in which RCLCO will assist the FMFADA: Real Estate Development, Preservation Management and Oversight of Public Educational Programs for the General Public. RCLCO has worked on two projects of particular interest to the FMFADA: Governor's Island in New York and Jekyll Island in Georgia. He also said that a report is expected to be presented to the board at the June 2009 meeting.

Mr. Armbruster reported that the RFP for the Interpretive Master Plan has been completed and approved by the FMFADA Chairman to move forward. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Zeidler and the HPAG for the dedication and efforts in getting this document prepared. He also said that there is a RFP out for Special Studies of future security needs as well as emergency fire and emergency rescue.

Mr. Armbruster reported that he is continuing to work with the City of Hampton regarding future partnering for provision of municipal services. He mentioned meeting with VDOT on the road and transportation issues.

Mr. Armbruster stated that progress continues with the Department of the Army on the various environmental issues. The site investigations are underway including conventional and munitions and explosives of concern. The work on the environmental impact statement [EIS] as required by the National Environmental Protection Act [NEPA] continues with the report due later this spring.

Mr. Armbruster mentioned the new walking tour brochure of historic buildings at Fort Monroe. FMFADA collaborated with the Casemate Museum on the brochure and funded the printing.

Ms. Kilpatrick asked if the FMFADA had the opportunity to interact with the Climate Change Commission and the data that they are gathering.

Mr. Armbruster stated that we have not recently been in contact with the Climate Change Commission but early there was contact on the area of sea level rise. There will be contact in the future.

Ms. Zeidler asked how the Natural Resources working group will interface with the FMFADA and HPAG going forward.

Ms. Kilpatrick stated that Dr. Denny Casey and Dr. Jim Beard from the Museum of Natural History were in attendance at the HPAG meeting today and they were key in assisting her in hosting the meeting and tour of Fort Monroe. Dr. Casey and Dr. Beard are also involved with the Museum Group, and that Dr. Casey and Mr. Davey with the Department of Conservation and Recreation had agreed to co-chair the natural resources group.

Ms. Kilpatrick stated that the immediate charge for the Natural Resources Working Group was to:

1. Assess the natural and outdoor resources and help the HPAG and FMFADA understand the full scope of these resources.
2. Identify how those resources may be interpreted and shared with the public.
3. Help guide the FMFADA in understanding the consequences of decisions with regard to natural and outdoor recreation and related opportunities.

Dr. Beard stated that with the group of experts involved in the natural resources working group, they will be able to come up with a good assessment and plan for how the various areas at Fort Monroe can be used, especially the north end of the property from the Wherry Quarter up, in terms of restoring and preserving the natural areas and providing educational programming and access to the public. He said that the working group has a meeting scheduled for April 24, 2009.

In response to a question from Ms. Zeidler, Ms. Kilpatrick stressed that the Natural Resource Working Group's work product, just as with the Museum Group, will provide points of consideration for the FMFADA and a jump start on the Interpretive Master Planning process through which the concepts will be filtered. She stressed that the reports and deliverables are advisory and very helpful as a foundation and due diligence.

Mr. Armbruster noted that Ms. Zeidler was appointed by the Governor as a new member of the FMFADA board, replacing Dr. Rex Ellis.

Briefing and Questions

Mr. Armbruster stated that Professor Engs had asked that we share with the HPAG the brochures that were distributed as a result of the Civil War Symposium as well as the summary of recommendations that Professor Engs prepared (*see attached*). He reiterated that Dr. Lee and Mr. Quarstein could speak on behalf of the Civil War Symposium since they both participated in that event in January 2008.

Dr. Lee said that one of the topics was the need to tell the stories of the various cultures that were at Old Point Comfort so that no one culture is privileged over the other. She also stated that there needed to be broad oversight so that as many people as possible could participate.

Mr. Quarstein said that they looked at a wide variety of interpretive issues from a historical standpoint on Fort Monroe. He stated that the link to African American History at Fort Monroe is one of several really powerful historical aspects that can be found everywhere as you walk around at Fort Monroe. He noted that many of the scholars presented at the symposium agreed on the importance of the Contraband of War decision and that this story has been largely overlooked. He also spoke of the recognition of the military connections from 1609 onward, the architectural significance both from a strictly military stand point as well as the broader sweep of architectural history. The link to Jefferson Davis and his imprisonment and Chief Blackhawk's imprisonment was noted. Together, Monroe/Old Point Comfort has been a fort, a prison, and a resort. Accordingly he noted the importance of covering the different layers of history and enabling the visitor to follow these threads while taking in the other aspects of Fort Monroe and Old Point Comfort.

Dr. Lee stated that personal stories will make a difference because that is what the visitors will connect to.

Mr. Nieweg asked Dr. Lee if she would address the seventh item [*Implement an intense outreach program to incorporate the black community in the planning and development of the museum. A staff position should be created for that specific purpose*] on the summary of recommendations.

Dr. Lee stated that the outreach effort had begun with Ms. Gerri Hollins in regards to the Contraband Society. Ms. Hollins and Ms. Edwards-Ingram have worked on the research for the Contraband at Fort Monroe/Old Point Comfort and that effort is ongoing.

Ms. Kilpatrick asked how Dr. Lee sees the Civil War, the Contraband story and that of African Americans as a part of the continuing story at Fort Monroe as it evolved after the War.

Dr. Lee responded that one of the things she has been researching is how to carry the story forward through the people. Many of the people became the working class at the resorts at Fort Monroe/Old Point Comfort. She declared that part of the museum interpretation will need to include how the working people were integrated into the environment.

Mr. Quarstein noted the depth of the Civil War history, the Contrabands story, and that Old Point Comfort was also a major point of entry for African's Europeans during the 17th century, that it was the launching point for amphibious operations, and that an historical marker near the Engineer's Wharf speaks to the first Africans arriving in North American British Colonies at Old Point Comfort.

Museums at Fort Monroe – Presentation by Dr. Charles Cureton, Chief of Museums and Historic Property, TRADOC Military History Office and Museums Spokesperson (*See Attached*)

Ms. Kilpatrick introduced Dr. Cureton as the spokesperson for a group of museums interested in the concept of a museum campus at Fort Monroe.

Dr. Cureton stated that in his presentation, he would be addressing the following areas of the Fort Monroe Museum Campus Interpretive Plan.

- The Background
- The Mission
- The Facilities
- The Interpretive Themes
- The Visitor Experience
- The Exhibit Concept
- The Museum Governance
- The Economic Impact

Dr. Cureton stated that after exploring the buildings for a location for the museum campus, he was of the opinion that Building 5 would be the most appropriate location for the museum campus. Dr. Cureton's plan calls for partial restoration of Building 5.

Ms. Kilpatrick had a concern about the term "partial restoration" of Building 5. She asked Dr. Cureton if he meant exterior only or something else, stating that "restoration" is a term that has a specific meaning in preservation.

Dr. Cureton stated he meant exterior only.

Ms. Kilpatrick asked to what period the exterior would be "restored."

Dr. Cureton stated that the exterior would be restored to the 1930s period because that is when the building was converted from wood to brick.

Ms. Kilpatrick asked if the idea was to use the building for interpretive purposes given its prominence within the fort, and how this date choice fit in with the interior spaces and the fort as a whole.

Dr. Cureton stated that interpretation of the interior was considered in the plan. He noted that the first floor has a risk of flooding so it would not be the place where artifacts would be. One of the ideas is to use the first floor for temporary exhibits, living history, class rooms, and shops, with one of the areas converted back to its appearance as a barracks.

Ms. Kilpatrick noted that she was speaking about interpretation of the building as a part of the fort, not museum functions, stressing again that we need to be careful about terms and their consequences given the preservation aspects of the challenge.

National Park Service Working Group Report – Presentation by Mr. Robert Nieweg (Mr. Terry Moore joined the meeting via telephone 11:45 a.m.)

Mr. Nieweg noted that the working group has met, adopted a draft plan of work, and that they have begun collecting background information and examples of National Park Service activities. He also said that the group is working on a list of attributes to be presented in the group's report.

Mr. Nieweg stated that the working group plans to have a draft report ready for the HPAG meeting June 1, 2009. After the review and comments from the HPAG and others, the final report is expected to be delivered to the FMFADA Board by mid July 2009.

Mr. Nieweg repeated the working group's charge from Ms. Kilpatrick to identify and fully explore the potential options in order to help decision-making without actually making a decision or recommendation.

Ms. Kilpatrick asked for a review of the draft work plan prior to the June 1st HPAG meeting so feedback could be provided early in the process.

Mr. Nieweg stated that the working group has a work plan completed thanks to Mr. Dutton. He also said that they have a preliminary list of deep and broad experts that they would like to speak to.

Ms. Kilpatrick stated that when the draft work plan is ready, the intention is to post the draft on the FMFADA web site to allow time for public comment and input.

Mr. Quarstein asked if the working group would be looking at other alternatives or if there would be a parallel investigation of a wide variety of ways to operate historic sites, e.g. the state or nonprofit organizations.

Ms. Kilpatrick stated that the charge at this time to the HPAG was to examine the options for relationships with the National Park Service and not all other possible relationships.

Design Standards Discussion – Updated Presentation by Greg Rutledge (*See Attached*)

The following suggestions and/or concerns were made by the HPAG.

Ms. Kilpatrick requested a timeline/work plan for the next year in terms of the different components, especially how the landscape and viewshed studies will feed into the working draft.

Mr. Brookover commended Mr. Rutledge on the great job that he is doing on the Design Standards. He stated that there needs to be an inventory for non-structural site features including the parade ground, the pathways, street patterns, the tree canopies and incredible street trees. All of these things will need to be brought into the Design Standards.

Public Comments

Mr. Mark Perreault commended the HPAG for establishing the Natural Resources Working Group. He stated that this working group has great potential. He also commented that the museums and natural resources components offer multiple points of interests for different people. What caught his attention

was the potential of Fort Monroe as an international destination. He remarked that these different threads are complementary of each other and a NPS presence and do not replace one another. He stressed his belief that Fort Monroe needs to be an NPS unit.

Mr. Scott Butler commented that he also endorsed the Museums Campus concept. He said that the plan is a chance to illuminate the past as well as the future. He also observed that Dr. Cureton mentioned that the last commander is an African American at Fort Monroe and the present Commander In Chief is African American and the White House was built by slaves just as Fort Monroe was. He remarked that this was a nice parallel and that the American democracy had succeeded. He expressed a continuing concern for funding for Fort Monroe.

Mr. Jack Gergely noted that as Dr. Cureton pointed out, museums have to be easy to find and access. He stated that the majority of the visitors will be coming to the area to visit other areas, e.g., Virginia Beach. He commented that casual visitors will not come to Fort Monroe without easy access.

Mr. Louis Guy commended the HPAG for the intellectual process and work it is doing and for including the public in the process. [*He mentioned a conference that was held in Suffolk, VA on civic engagement in this region.*] He also mentioned that the Sea Coast Fortification system was not just Fort Monroe; it was also Fort Calhoun and others. He noted that an option for Building 5 is a Country Inn, e.g., the Alhambra in Granada, Spain.

Broader Discussion

Ms. Kilpatrick noted that the HPAG meetings have been scheduled for every other month on the first Monday of the even months, unless that falls on a holiday; in such case the meetings have been on the Tuesday following the holiday. She reminded the members that the last of the scheduled meetings was soon to arrive, and asked if they wanted to proceed according to the same plan. Hearing that they did, she asked members to block out dates in the next year accordingly and to plan to attend the meetings.

Future Agenda

- Review the NPS Working Group Draft Work Plan and Preliminary List of Experts prior to the June 1st HPAG from the National Park Service Working Group.
- Natural Resources Working Group Report
- An update on the Design Standards

Next scheduled meeting is June 01, 2009 at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Crystal L. DeAngelis, Secretary to the HPAG