

## **Fort Concho Museum Board Minutes**

**June 18, 2024**

### **Officer's Quarters 8**

#### **I. Open Session**

**A. Call to Order** – Board Vice-President Monty Stanley called the meeting to order at 3:29 PM.

*Since someone, who we shall not name at this time, forgot to bring the Board nametags, the Board introduced themselves to Eunice Tibay, Fort Concho Librarian/Archivist.*

**B. Determination of a Quorum** – Site Manager Bob Bluthardt confirmed a quorum was present: Monty Stanley, Lisa Marley, Tracy Simpson, Ewell Loudermilk, Sherley Spears, Penny Roberts, Yukio Kuniyuki, Asher Rogers, Sarah Clemens, and Tommy Earnest. Absent: Don Barnhart, George Balli, Dr. Jason Pierce, Colleen Haddad, and LTC John McAllister. Let it be known that LTC McAllister was the outgoing commander at the Change of Command ceremony for the 344<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion earlier this morning, hosted by Fort Concho.

**C. Approval of excused absences** – Motion made by Yukio Kuniyuki and seconded by Lisa Marley to approve the excused absences. Motion carried.

**D. Introduction of Guests** – No guests

**E. Presentations** – No presentations

**F. Public Comment** – No public comment

#### **II. Consent Agenda**

**1. Consideration of Approving the May 21, 2024 Minutes** – Motion made by Penny Roberts and seconded by Ewell Loudermilk to approve the May 21, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

**2. Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Lisa Marley reported the following: For May 2024, Income up \$16,000 over May 2023, a 33% increase, the best May in 10+ years. Both gift shop and admissions were up. Membership up \$5,600. Rent up \$7,359. Year to date income, overall at \$520,821, maybe the best YTD report ever. Shop, admissions, special events, rent, C@OFC, and membership all up over 2023. Year to date expenses are higher than last year due to full staff and increased expenses. Still near benchmark for the year: 67.1% at 66.7% of fiscal year. Goal remains balance or come very close by end of September. Overall, Total Income/All Sources was \$842,352. Total Operational Expenses was \$881,692. YTD Deficit was -\$39,340, which is still declining from previous month of \$41,000.

The Treasurer's Report was Acknowledged and Approved by the Board.

**3. Site Managers Report** – Bob referred the Board to the Site Manager's Report. Bob asked Sherley Spears to report on the Juneteenth events that the Fort supported. Your Secretary with help from Tracy Simpson, described for the Board this morning's Change of Command Ceremony for the 344<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion. Bob told the Board that the Concho Mail Station project is still alive and our consultant, Michael Bradle, has been working with the Texas Historical Commission. Expect a late summer visit by THC officials.

### **III. Regular Agenda: Public Hearing and Comments**

**4. Briefing on *The Wall That Heals* Proposed at Fort Concho in March 2025** – No news at this time. May have something for August Board meeting.

**5. Nominations Report** – Nothing at this time. Sherley Spears serves until replaced.

**6. Review and Approval of Updated Rules and Guidelines for Use of Materials at Fort Concho Library/Archives** – The Fort Library has been around for at least 55 years. Eunice Tibay took the floor and described the need for the rules and guideline to be updated due to advances in technology. Eunice showed the Board a newly acquired biography of General George B. McClellan (Lincoln's General before Grant). This book was donated by McClellan family descendant. Yukio Kuniyuki asked a question about permission to publish and if the Fort would provide copyright permission or if that would be the author's responsibility. This generated a lot of discussion. Bob stated he would run this by the City Attorney for review. Bob suggested additional research on other similar organizations and how they handle issues such as this. More discussion on this subject in the future, probably brought back at the August meeting.

**7. Review of Barracks 1 – 2 Visitor Center and Future Steps** – No additional comments from the Board.

**8. Fort Concho Logo Committee Update** – The Fort's Hunter Wall researched and provided numerous examples of other logo's out there, which Bob handed out to the Board in a packet. The Committee's preference is to still include something with the buildings such as the Headquarters. Bob will arrange a Logo Committee meeting in August before the regular fort board meeting.

**9. Review of Christmas at Old Fort Concho for 2024** – Don Barnhart received some suggestions from the public. *"Add strolling carolers", "Santa on the parade ground", "Not enough Christmas music", "More lights or lighting", "Not enough vendors who sell Christmasy stuff"*. Some of these points are valid, others not. Per Bob, getting quality vendors is not an easy job. Those making these suggestions will be invited to the steering committee meetings in September. Monty will report back to these folks that their comments and suggestions were heard and discussed at the Board meeting. Also per Monty, these folks are the volunteering types.

**10. Collections Report** – Bob brought a box of goodies for the Board to view from the Gordon Chappell collection. A "piggy bank" that shot a coin into a tree trunk, many 1<sup>st</sup> edition books, pamphlets, banners, magazines. Along with the many other collections in the Fort library, the Chappell collection, with the other recent acquisitions, will enable Fort Concho to be one of best, if not THE best in the area.

**11. Fort Concho Membership Drive Update** – on hold until July. Goal is \$47,000. Currently just shy of \$45,000

**12. Update on Barracks & Mess Halls 3 – 4 Reconstruction Project** – Still getting closer, in the minutia. May do a dry run on the security systems in #3 in July. #4 to follow shortly thereafter.

**13. Fort Concho Foundation Report** – Meets in August

**14. Review of Upcoming Events** – Western Art Show in Quartermaster Building, June 27-August 4. Seventy-one paintings and 2 sculptures from 41 artists from 17 states will be on exhibit.

**15. Staff News** – Nothing at this time.

**16. Future Agenda Items** – National Buffalo Soldiers Day July 28 at the Buffalo Soldier Memorial.

Meeting adjourned at 4:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tommy Earnest, Secretary**

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