

## **Fort Concho Museum Board Minutes**

**October 15, 2024**

### **Barracks 6**

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

**A. Call to Order** – Board President Don Barnhart called the meeting to order at 3:39 PM

**B. Determination of a Quorum** – Site Manager Bob Bluthardt confirmed a quorum was present: Don Barnhart, Monty Stanley, Lt Col Raymond Kuderka, Dr. Jason Pierce, Lisa Marley, Colleen Haddad, Ewell Loudermilk, Sarah Clemens, and Tommy Earnest. Absent: Tracy Simpson, Sherley Spears, Yukio Kuniyuki, George Balli, Asher Rogers, and Penny Roberts.

**C. Approval of Excused Absences** – Motion made to excuse the absences by Dr. Jason Pierce and seconded by Sarah Clemens. Motion carried.

**D. Introduction of Guests** – Lt Col Kuderka introduced himself and expounded upon how grateful he and his family are to be in San Angelo/Goodfellow AFB and being on the Museum Board. Dr. Jason Pierce introduced Dr. Michael Powers as his potential replacement (another bearded historian). Dr. Powers is Professor of History at Angelo State University and on the Railway Museum of San Angelo Board.

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

**8. Collections Report** – Fort Concho Curator Cory Robinson told the Board of a possible acquisition of a roll top desk that was owned by John G. Murphy, who established the San Angelo (SA) Standard newspaper in 1884. This desk would come from the Murphy family. In addition, the Fort may also acquire the desk of Houston Harte who purchased the paper from Murphy in 1922. Per Cory, acquiring a newspaper man's desk is akin to getting a military uniform that's tied to the Fort. The Fort already has the original printing press of the SA Standard. Next, Cory told of an 1872 Pattern Officers' dress helmet used by Mason Maxon, a First Lieutenant in the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry stationed at Fort Concho from 1872 to the 1880s. Our man in Tucson, Dr. John Langellier, came across the auction of the helmet and procured the item. It will be on "loan" to the Fort for the time being. Cory is working on getting the helmet in time for a display during C@OFC. Cory always brings to the Board meetings news of very interesting items.

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

**E. Presentations** – No presentations

**F. Public Comment** – Site Manager Bob Bluthardt told the Board of new Public Comment rules that will be followed at the Council meetings and those rules will filter down to the various Boards and Commissions.

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

**1. Consideration of Approving the September 17, 2024 Minutes** – the Minutes were Acknowledged and Accepted by the Board.

**2. Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Lisa Marley reported that September marks the end of the fiscal year and final numbers will not be known until the end of year audit by the City Finance department and the total expenses are completely processed. Information that can be reported at this time includes:

\*Overall, the Fort earned and received about \$1,262,769 in FY 2023-24. This is about \$30,000 more than last fiscal year and just over \$6,100 over budget.

\*The Gift Shop was up and attendance slightly up over last year.

\*Special events (thanks to upcoming Halloween events booked in September) were way up over last year.

\*Christmas is up almost \$10,000 over last year.

\*Membership revenue had the best year in last ten years.

\*Interest was up due to higher fund balance and higher interest rates.

\*Rent was down a little; and will be watched carefully next year.

Bob took the floor and stated that when the books are closed for this fiscal year, that if the Fort is within \$20K of budget, that would be acceptable given special expenses that arose this past year. Monies from the Fund Balance will make up for any shortfall.

No action was taken on the Treasurer's Report.

**3. Site Manager's Report** – Bob referred the Board to the Report in the Board packet. Big shoutout to Sarah Thieme who coordinated the activities for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Red River Wars events.

**4. Update on The Wall That Heals Proposed at Fort Concho in March 2025** – Nothing new at this time.

**5. Nominations Report** – All Board members who were eligible to continue serving have expressed their desire to continue on the Board. Sherley Spears still working on a replacement.

**6. Fort Concho Logo Committee Update** – No news, but ad agency is working on some prototypes.

**7. Update on Christmas at Old Fort Concho 2024** – No discussion

**9. Fort Concho Membership Drive Update** – Up almost \$2,500. Will look at updates in early '25 on benefits, etc. Had a 10% increase.

*Bob and Don told of the upcoming event at the Fort, "A Murder At Fort Concho", which is based on the board game "Clue". Brendalee Brown is heading this event.*

**10. Update on Barracks & Mess Halls 3 & 4 Reconstruction Project** – Static book shelves in B3 installed. Rolling shelves in B4 installed. Upon adjourning, the Board will have a tour of the facilities. Certificate of Occupancy still pending. Small items still be worked on.

**11. Fort Concho Foundation Report** – will meet in November

**12. Review of Upcoming Events** – National Mule Day on Saturday October 26, Fort Concho Volunteer Party on November 12<sup>th</sup> in OQ8.

**13. Staff News** – Daisy Herr is again the Fort’s ASU Student Honors Program Intern. Good to have her back.

**14. Briefing on National 2026 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration and Fort Concho Centennial 2027** – to be determined, the Fort will be supportive but not in the lead on the 250th. Bob will test the waters with contacts at City Hall. Lt Col Kuderka interjected that 2025 is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US Army. The Army Ball will be in the Stables June 2025.

**15. Future Agenda Items** – Nothing noted.

Motion to Adjourn made by Colleen Haddad and seconded by Ewell Loudermilk. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 4:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted.

Tommy Earnest, Secretary

/s/ *Tommy Earnest*