

Manassas Historic Resources Board
March 5, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting
Manassas Museum

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Rob Fisher at 7:04 p.m.

Determination of a Quorum:

A majority of the board is present.

Board Members in Attendance: Lyshawn Dean (joined at 7:27 p.m.), Rob Fisher, Connie Gilman, Robert Keller, Mark Olsen, Jill Pascale, Don Wilson

Honorary Board Members in Attendance: Sue Parker

Board Members Absent: Connie Gilman, Joseph Hanlin, Dave Button

City Council Member Liaison: Michelle Davis-Younger, Council Member

Museum Staff in Attendance: Kisha Wilson-Sogunro, Parks, Culture & Recreation Manger, Mary Helen Dellinger, Curator

Community Development Staff: Lisa Sievel-Otten, Communications Coordinator

Approval of Minutes of February 6, 2019:

Don Wilson requested changing the minutes to reflect that he was absent from the meeting. Bob Keller moved to approve the minutes with this correction, and Jill Pascale seconded the motion. The chairman opened the floor for discussion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Comments:

Rob Fisher reported that he recently enjoyed a visit to the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company Museum and encouraged everyone to visit. He also commended the recent Black History Month program on the World War I Ebony Doughboys, and the Osbourn art exhibit opening, which many students, families and friends attended.

Council Comments: Michelle Davis-Younger

Ms. Davis-Younger also commented on the number of those attending the Osbourn art exhibit opening.

Parks & Recreation Committee Liaison: Bob Keller

Bob Keller reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee voted to approve the Annaburg Manor resolution previously approved by the MHRB. He also thanked Council Member Michelle Davis-Younger for making remarks at the Osbourn art exhibit opening.

Manager's Report: Kisha Wilson-Sogunro

- Kisha Wilson-Sogunro reported progress on the Jennie Dean Memorial Update project. Visitor Services Aide Ellie Hill made a presentation to the Bull Run Rotary Club; Ms. Wilson-Sogunro visited Indivisible NoVa West, and spoke with leadership from the Bethlehem Baptist Church, the First African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Gainesville. She hopes to be part of a Martin Luther King program at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington in April and thinks more support can be found in D.C. She noted an uptick in interest in the project.
- The Museum Associates were helping to judge an essay contest and will make a presentation to winners at a School Board meeting.
- *Echoes*, the Museum Store has new items for spring.
- Curator Mary Helen Dellinger presented a report on the upcoming *Bridging Cultures* exhibit to the Prince William County Chamber's Hispanic Council, and found much support for the exhibit.

Collection Committee Report: Mary Helen Dellinger

- Mary Helen Dellinger invited everyone to the *Bridging Cultures: The Latino Community in Manassas* exhibit opening reception on April 11 at 6 p.m., and reported that Mariachi's will cater food, and that a singer has been booked. A representative of the state-wide Hispanic Council of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce is expected to attend, and Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, has been invited.
- She explained that the Collections Committee meets as necessary when considering donations or deaccessions, and that although she makes recommendations, the committee makes the decisions. Of the four donations presented, two were accepted. The Charles Norris daguerreotype is one of several donation from Norris' family, and will likely be loaned to the National Park Service because Norris' Civil War coat is on display at the Manassas National Battlefield. She thanked Honorary Board Member Sue Parker for researching the historic coverlet also accepted for donation. She noted that a dish from a Brentsville hotel offered to the Museum was donated to Prince William County.
- The committee also voted to deaccession 43 books that were unremarkable, in poor condition, and unrelated to the collection.

Bob Keller motioned to accept the donations and to deaccession the items as recommended by the Collections Committee. Mark Olsen seconded the motion. The chairman opened the floor for discussion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: Strategic Plan/CEMAP Report

- Kisha Wilson-Sogunro explained that the goal for the Board is to extract two points from the CEMAP report to discuss at each of the next few meetings. These points will be part of a larger strategic plan discussion with the Parks, Culture & Recreation Committee and staff.
- Members discussed the mission statement included in the report and noted its differences from the 2011 mission statement, and discussed the report's recommendation to adopt a mission statement.

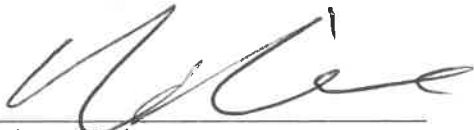
- Mark Olsen suggested gathering comments on the mission statement by email and having those ready for discussion at the next meeting, and Rob Fisher agreed to send the mission statement by email.
- Rob Fisher noted the report's valuable observations on marketing, the curb appeal of the Museum, and signage.
- Members expressed a desire for more of a framework for the strategic plan and for staff to have input.

Close of Business:

Rob Fisher asked for any other business. No further business was brought forward. The next meeting is scheduled for April 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Mark Olsen moved to adjourn the meeting and Bob Keller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 7:57 p.m.



Rob Fisher, Chairman



Date