

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FRIENDS OF POPLAR HILL MANSION

June 27, 2019

Open Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Board Chair, Ginny Hussey; Treasurer, Sharon Murphy; Board Members: Scott Rall, Carol Smith, David Scheid, Betsy Wolfe, Loudell Insley, and Nancy Robertson; Curator & Recording Secretary, Sarah Meyers

I. Call to Order:

The June Open Board Meeting of the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion was called to order on Wednesday, June 27, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. by Board Chair Ginny Hussey.

II. Approval of Minutes:

The Board Chair asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May 22, 2019 Open Board Meeting Minutes. Hearing none, the May 22, 2019 Open Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

III. Reports:

A.) Chair: Ginny Hussey

- 1.) Ginny said that the Nursery is currently being painted. She invited the Board to go upstairs after the meeting to see the progress. She also mentioned that the City is paying for the repainting and thanked the City.
- 2.) Ginny reported that she, David, Sharon, Jeanne, and Sarah visited the Rackcliffe Plantation in Assateague to see their new exhibit about the enslaved people of Rackcliffe. It was a good exhibit and the Friends can take many of the same ideas and translate that into an exhibit about the enslaved people of PHM. David especially liked the idea of incorporating the names of the enslaved people directly into the exhibit space.
- 3.) Ginny also reported that she, David, and Sarah attended a non-capital grant meeting in Crownsville for the Maryland Historical Trust. This was a mandatory meeting for those interested in applying for the non-capital grants in the next grant cycle. The group went to learn exactly what kind of projects would be eligible for a grant. Ginny suggested that the Friends apply for a grant for research and education to discover more about the enslaved people of PHM, and that the research would eventually lead to a potential publication and exhibit. Carol also mentioned that she would like to see more educational programs developed which would go beyond the theme of slavery. The letter of intent to apply for the grant is due July 12. Betsy made a motion to move forward with the letter of intent to apply for the grant and David seconded. The motion carried.

B.) Treasurer Report: Chair Sharon Murphy

- 1.) See written reports for exact numbers.
- 2.) There is \$5,700.78 in the operating account.
- 3.) Sharon also shared the balance sheet for the Festival and went over income and expenses thus far. She was very clear to mention that not all the expenses are accounted for as some of the invoices have not been received. She also talked about the Pillory event this year and how it made more money this year than last. She suggested that next year, Board members try to raise money for the Pillory rather than the Friends relying on politicians. She said that she raised \$100

the day of the event just for her and that the Board members really should be doing more to try to help raise money.

- 4.) Loudell also suggested that the Friends do a silent auction to help raise money during the Festival. Carol suggested that a better time to do a silent auction would be at the Yuletide Open House. The Board agreed and will try to do a silent auction at that time.

IV. Curator Report: Sarah Meyers

- 1.) Donations/Acquisitions: None
- 2.) Total Guests since last report: 460 guests
- 3.) Additions to the calendar: None.
- 4.) Changes to the calendar: None.
- 5.) Curator Remarks:
 - a.) Sarah reported that most of her time since the last meeting went into the festival. She gave a recap and analysis of the festival, including a SWOT analysis. She listed some of the positive and negative things to come out of this year's festival. The positives were: more revenue from advertisers, more vendors, more revenue from the Locked in the Stocks, and participation from the Salisbury Explorers. The negatives included: more costs, not as many participants for the Locked in the Stocks, and not as much publicity.
 - b.) Sarah also reported about the painting in the Nursery exhibit and that the work should be completed in about two weeks.
 - c.) Sarah also mentioned the visit to Rackcliffe and how the Friends can use their example of an exhibit about the enslaved people to build a similar exhibit at PHM. In addition, she compared and contrasted how an exhibit may look at PHM to what the Rackcliffe exhibit encompasses to show how it would be different. Sarah was also sure to point out that planning an exhibit will take time and money. Also, this is a great project for which to apply for the non-capital grant from MHT to have research done as that is not Sarah's expertise in history.
 - d.) Sarah reported that she had the chance to visit Teackle Mansion in Princess Anne which just did a fashion exhibit. The Friends have discussed doing a fashion exhibit at PHM and Sarah wanted to see what a potential exhibit could look like and also learn where Teackle got their pieces, some of which dated to the early 1800s.
 - e.) Sarah reported that the Children's Tea is set for August 17, 2019 and that this year's theme is a Superhero's Lunch as to encourage boys to attend as well. The menu is being finalized.
- 6.) Discussion Curator Report:
 - a.) None.

V. Committee Reports:

A.) Membership: Tom Truitt

- 1.) None.

B.) Hospitality: Jeanne Mears

- 1.) None.

C.) Publicity: Scott Rall

- 1.) None.

D.) Acquisitions: Carol Smith

- 1.) None.

E.) Mansion Improvements: Betsy Wolfe

- 1.) The committee is trying to arrange for a gentleman to come to the Mansion and take a look at all the furniture that needs to be repaired and get a quote/estimate for repairs.

F.) Garden: David Scheid

- 1.) The irrigation needs to be fixed.
- 2.) The Town and Country Garden Club will be coming out to prune the boxwoods.

G.) Budget & Finance: Sharon Murphy

- 1.) None.

VI. Old Business

A. Festival Recap:

- a. Sarah did a good job in recapping the festival in the Curator's report.
- b. Overall, everyone is pleased with the turnout.
- c. Scott brought up the issue of paying the Royal Marine group that came out to interpret the British side of the War of 1812. He thought it was unfair that the Chesapeake Independent Blues were being paid and not the Marines. The Board was in agreement and Sharon asked that an invoice be provided so she could pay them appropriately. It was also decided that next year the publicity also include more about the Royal Marines.
- d. Loudell suggested that also for next year, the military reenactors make a better use of the pillory to show it off.
- e. The date for next year's festival will be June 20, 2020.

VII. New Business

- A.) None.

VIII. Adjourn:

The Chair asked if there were any further business. Hearing none she called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. David made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Carol. The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sarah Meyers
Curator
Recording Secretary