

Board of Trustees - Museum Division (Monday, July 7, 2025)

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Establish Quorum (8:30 a.m.)
- B. Moment of Silence
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call

- Members Present: Caitlyn Socrates, Kathy Bailey, Conner Wolfe, Michelle Reloba, Catherine Bowes, Michael Blackwell
- Members Absent: Valmora Lewis, Jared Loller, Daniel Kerns, Michael Brown, Lynn Fitrell
- For County: Karen Stone, Ray Bivens, Gary Whipple, Ben Clark

B. Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2025 Meeting

- Kathy Bailey moves to approve
- Michael Brown seconds
- Approved (with one correction) unanimously

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. St. Mary's County Department of Public Works Presentation on St. Clement's Island Museum New Building (Gary Whipple presenting)

- Opened bids on June 11th; upon review, the low bidder was non-responsive; the other bids were all similar in amount
- At the moment, the budget is underfunded, and additional sources of funded are being explored and are available to make the award
- July 22 is scheduled for contract approval by commissioners. After that, a letter to proceed will be sent. Work should begin about Labor Day
- A contract analysis was done, revealing typical sources of overrun.
- The apparent low bidder is Wayne Davis, who has done lots of good work in the county
- A construction period of about 18 months is expected
- A groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled, which will include a ground blessing by the Piscataway
- The exhibit installations will be handled by a subcontractor recommended by the Museum Division; the subcontractors will visit a museum board meeting to provide an update on the concept

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. St. Mary's County Museum Division & Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums Updates

May

- The Division participated in 3 events this month and held 3 Open House Days:
 - MarylandFest at Historic St. Mary's City
 - Sotterley Heritage Festival
 - Potomac River Clean-up at SCIM
 - Mothers' Day, Armed Forces Day & Memorial Day
- The federally funded water taxi is moving forward with the purchase of a customizable existing vessel; it is currently in Solomons having some work done, including new motors and permanent deck seating, including ADA accommodations; possession should be about September. It will be called *St. Clements Explorer*.
- Hired two Museum Assistants
- Museum Tech retired; recruiting has begun
- Fine Art inventory list was updated for the LGIT Insurance policy renewal

June

- The Division participated in 8 events this month and held a number Open House Days:
 - Drayden African American Schoolhouse and the USCT Interpretive Center were open for Juneteenth
 - Museums were open free for fathers on Father's Day
 - Piney Point Lighthouse Museum was open late for the Summer Solstice
 - UCAC Juneteenth at the Fairgrounds
 - Blue & Grey Days at Point Lookout
 - Flag Day
 - Crab Festival

- o UCAC Juneteenth event at Interpretive Center
 - o Equity in History Teachers Institute
 - o Lexington Park Business Association CCC event
 - o SOMD/KY Families History & Genealogy Conference
- The federally funded water taxi has arrived and is being customized and painted
- Held interviews for the Museum Tech position; candidate was selected; waiting on HR
- Division Manager gave a lecture at the Leonardtown Library
- Submitted grants:
 - o MD 250th Commission in support of Rebels & Redcoats (April 2026)
 - o SOMD National Heritage Area in support of Augmented Reality program at USCT Int. Center

B. St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks Update

- Very pleased that the water taxi is being finished so that the grant does not have to be rescinded, under budget
- In contract talks with DNR to extend lease for 30 years for the property at St. Clement's Island Museum, including new land (the Huesman House)
- The existing water taxi will eventually be sold
- A representative from the department is on Potomac Heritage committee to promote work on the Three Notch Trail
- An overview of the Department Strategic Plan was presented, with a short discussion of goals accomplished and being worked on.

5. ADJOURN

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: September 8, 2025

B. Upcoming Events

July

10-13: Potomac Jazz Festival 25th Shades of Silver Anniversary Weekend
 19: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House | 11AM to 2PM
 22, 23, 24: St. Clement's Island Museum Art Kids (SCIMAK) | 12PM to 3PM
 28-31: Junior Historian at Piney Point | 9AM to 12PM

August

1: Leonardtown First Friday | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 7PM
 2: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House | 11AM to 2PM
 2 - 3: National Lighthouse Weekend at SCIM & PPLM | 10AM to 5PM
 3: Dinner & a Cruise: What Lies Beneath the Potomac | 4PM to 8PM
 5, 6, 7: St. Clement's Island Museum Art Kids (SCIMAK) | 12PM to 3PM
 9: Second Saturday: Paint with Water from the Potomac | SCIM, 9AM to 11AM
 16: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House | 11AM to 2PM
 16: Children's Day at St. Clement's Island Museum | 11AM to 2PM

September

1: Labor Day | Museums open 10AM to 5PM
 5: Leonardtown First Friday | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 7PM
 6: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House | 11AM to 2PM
 7: Dinner & a Cruise: WWII in the Potomac | 4PM to 8PM
 13: FamilyFest on the Potomac | 10AM to 4PM

C. Adjournment

- Motion by Kathy Bailey
- Second by Michelle Reloba
- Adjournment at 9:22 a.m.