

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

Kentucky Military History Museum (KMHM)
Committee Meeting
December 1, 2009
Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History
Frankfort, KY

Minutes

Members present: Mike Sutton, Evan Miller, Steve Bullard, Clyde Green, Bobby Hazen, Marty Pinkston, Connie Freeman, Jim Turpin and Kent Whitworth. Marilyn Zoidis, Bill Bright, Tony Curtis, Lindsay Merritt and Donna Neary represented the Kentucky Historical Society. Jim Wallace represented the Kentucky Historical Society Foundation. John Trowbridge, Steve Bolton and Roger Stapleton were guests of the committee.

Marty Pinkston called the meeting to order.

Marty reported that Brynes Fairchild had fallen and broken both hands, had surgery and General Fairchild was unable to be present for the meeting. A card wishing Brynes a speedy recovery was signed by all present.

Marty also reported that following our board meeting, we would tour the Kentucky Military Treasures exhibit and see the presentation of Theater of War – Unresolved Conflict of Vietnam.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the September 2009 meeting as written, with one exception – delete next to the last paragraph on second page (Fairchild set aside thirty minutes to Arsenal updates at the Kentucky Military History Museum board meeting in December) – that was accomplished in September.

Status of Arsenal Restoration Projects

Bill Bright reported that there were three major projects that needed to be completed prior to the Arsenal opening on November 14th. Floor needed to be cleaned, plaster repair to the walls and painting needed to be done.

A contract for the floor had already been obtained, a quote had been received for the plaster repair and we had not received any information on the painting. Since that time the floor has been completed. Concrete in the back room turned out to be great, the floor in the lobby area was ground down and refinished. Both areas have been sealed and finished. A wax coat will have to be applied to the front area as necessary. The concrete floor is sealed and should only require dusting. The Martina Brothers did a superb job. It was discovered during the cleaning process that the concrete floor had smoke damage and was in place at the time of the 1933 fire.

A contract was cut for the plaster repair work on the first and second floor. Contract was accepted for the first floor. Julius Schnurr & Sons of Louisville came in and did the plaster work and did a wonderful job. Walls have sharp edges on them and we can see things we had never seen before. A last bit of work was to get the building painted and that was pushing the envelope prior to opening on Nov 14th. The Capital City Painters came in and did the work. They did a remarkable job for the time they were given. When you enter the arsenal you see the original floor, an older floor at least, walls repaired and painted white. The columns were painted green to match the original color from our research. For a solid week we had folks over here from the Guard dusting floors, cleaning windows, mowing the grass, and fixing repairs to the fence. I cannot say enough about the support we got to have the building open on the 14th.

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

Status of Request for Qualifications

The next phase will be working on the planning for the first floor and getting some ideas about what kind of programmatic pieces are in there and where Military Records will be located and such. The first thing we have to do is put together a request for qualification. In that regard Lt Sloan has been in contact with me and he had drafted a fairly nice draft of those recommendations and we were able to comment on those from our side. It is my understanding that the draft will go before Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (SRM) Committee. I don't think the SRM Committee has met. Once the draft has been approved or modified by the SRM Committee it will be sent to Finance and incorporated in a document called the Request for Qualifications. They will pull three (3) candidates that are qualified and they will submit to them a request for proposal. We're just getting to the point of the planning stage. Colonel King is planning a meeting for Dec 10th. We're waiting for the status of the draft and we'll see where that goes. There is no plan for the layout of the first and second floor. That will be decided at a later time.

Report on Exhibitions

Kentucky Military Treasures Gallery Show

Marilyn Zoidis said the Kentucky Military Treasures Exhibition soft opening was held on Nov 11th. She congratulated those involved for an excellent job and stated the exhibition was being well received. The soft opening was held on Veteran's Day and about 40 visitors attended. The formal opening was on Nov 12th and along with the Candlelight Celebration. General Tonini, General Fairchild and Commissioner Lucas from the Department of Veterans Affairs were guest of honor. Also, General Tonini announced the National Guard's committee to the on going renovation of the State Arsenal that night. Also present that night was our special guest Martha Davis who is part of our signature story about the Vietnam Conflict. Martha's Mother and Sister were also present. The family found that the Vietnam exhibit and play was a healing experience. Taylor Pace, the young girl from Winchester was present selling her TayTay bears to help comfort the children of our soldiers being deployed. Over 1100 people visited the center that evening to see the exhibition and share in the festivities.

Arsenal Soft Opening

The State Arsenal was opened on Nov 14th after a two year labor of love. The last couple of weeks were busy for Bill, the contractors with the plaster work and painting, and the National Guard folks. When you enter you see it's a gem of a historic building and for the first time people are actually coming into the building and being able to look out the windows, understanding why the building was located where it is with it's positing on the river and with the railroad. There is such a historic story on the role of the building during the Civil War. The Franklin County Jr. ROTC raised the colors, and we had a bugler from the National Guard 202nd Army Band. General Fairchild gave the remarks and noted those who worked for many years on the National Guard partnership with the Kentucky Historic Society - General Frymire, Tom Fugate, and John Trowbridge. We have about 50 visitors that day. The museum-to-go program is there as well as the on-line exhibition. The building is opened on Saturdays for visitors to tour the building and land. Marilyn commended Bill Bright and the National Guard for their dedicated work.

Recognition of Outgoing Committee Members

Kent Whitworth recognized those whose terms will expire on December 31, 2009 - Col Steve Bullard, Capt (Ret) Clyde Green, Col Judy Greene-Baker, LTC (Ret) Evan Miller and Major (Ret) Marty Pinkston. Members had been appointed by the Governor to the committee in coordination with the Dept of Military Affairs or the Kentucky Historic Society. Kent thanked them for their service and contributions they made during their tenure. He asked that they continue to serve on the board until such time as new members are appointed to the committee.

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

Kent also announced that Marilyn had accepted a position at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. She will be Director of Historical Resources at the Henry Ford. She will be the public history voice for that prestigious organization. Kent said he was very proud of her being selected for her new position. She has served with the Ky Historical Society for just over three years and her contributions have been remarkable. Marty said there was a deep gratitude and appreciate for her service to the committee and we are indebted for her service.

Date and Location of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the KMHM Committee will be held at the **Arsenal on March 9th, at 1:00 p.m.**

The purpose of the board being met, the meeting was adjourned.

Note: Connie Freeman brought a delicious cake which was enjoyed prior to members touring the Military Treasure exhibit and the presentation of the Unresolved Conflict of Vietnam play.