

## **Friends of Fort Davidson Meeting**

### **Fort Davidson State Historic Site**

**March 3, 2012 2 PM**

**Present:** President Terry Cadenbach, Carl & Dawn Warren, Marty Aubuchon, Steve Schulte, and Scott Killan. Fort Davidson Personnel present: Walt Busch, Yvonne Bobbitt, Brick Autry.

Meeting opened at 2pm.

#### **2014 Coin Set**

Discussion was immediately held about the proposed challenge coins and medal for the 2014 re-enactment. All liked the design. Terry advised that there was a deadline for the Chamber of Commerce to make a decision about the design and order the items otherwise Friends may take it from them.

Walt advised that the coins run about \$3 each and the medal runs about \$8. Discussion was made of having 200-400 numbered coins sold as sets and un-numbered ones that can be sold separately. Terry thinks that maybe 1000 coins ought to be numbered.

#### **Re-enactment**

Carl asked what the vendor policy and location of set up will be for the next re-enactment. Walt advised that it will be pretty much the same as last time.

#### **Introduction of Yvonne Bobbitt.**

Walt then introduced Yvonne Bobbitt, who has been working at Dillard Mill SHS for several years as an IRT and is now Walt's assistant park manager. While her main duties stay at Dillard she will be learning management of the fort as well in anticipation of Walt's retirement in 1122 days. Everyone congratulated and welcomed her.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Sandra Walther gave a written report, the essence of which is that Friends has two accounts that currently balance. First State Community Bank has \$4,023.21 and Ozark Federal which has \$3,932.17. For a total of \$7,955.38.

Several gifts from Turner Brigade have been made as memorials for some of their family losses. The biggest expense since last meeting was gifting \$500 to the American Institute for Battlefield Archaeology to assist them in the survey of Shut-In Gap.

Terry presented a gift from MCWRA of \$130 memorializing two of their members .

Carl made a motion to accept the treasurer report subject to audit. Passed by voice vote.

### **Quartermaster Records.**

Terry brought up the quartermaster records that a person is wanting to sell to the Fort but through an auction. All agreed that Friends should help the state acquire these if it is possible.

### **Major James Wilson's Revolver**

Terry asked about Major James Wilson's revolver. Walt provided background information and said that unfortunately it is not verified at present. Probate records would need to be checked. Walt said he would try to do this. The revolver purported to be Wilson's is a Smith & Wesson Model 2 revolver. If it can somehow be verified, Walt would try to get a similar gun for display in the museum.

Walt to send out picture to Friends.

### **Exploding the Fort**

Carl & Marty started into a technical discussion of how they can blow up the fort better. Terry said that the visuals were great in 2010 but there needed to be more of a report. Flash bangs and aerial bombs were discussed. Carl may be going through training to use flash bangs and that could add the extra pow that everyone feels is needed (without breaking glass). Marty suggested speaker to add volume, but Terry said no because they're too prone to failure. Carl want's more pods next time in the moat for the visuals. Terry might visit Sunset Fireworks to see if they have anything available for the concussion.

Walt mentioned that the fort blow-up from 2010 is now a postcard.

### **Bridge**

Terry said a bridge between reenactor parking the main field would be nice. They suggested electric pole timbers or old motorhome supports. [Note: Walt said he would check with DSP engineers. [He checked on 3/6/2012 and because it is a state park we would have to have it designed or a pre-fab to prevent the additional liability issues.]

### **Battlefield Archaeology Project**

Walt gave group an update on the \$500 they gifted to a survey at Shut-in Gap. Part of a Dutch oven was found as were some bullets and a stirrup. The site was apparently a picket area and we will receive a copy of the report.

### **Trail of Tears Sign**

Brick reported that a sign marking the campsite just off park property has been funded by the NPS and is awaiting production.

### **Taum Sauk Fund**

Steve reports that the group has split into two and that this year's money is already spent. We will be ending to put in for re-enactment money this coming year. With prices going up, the sooner we can lock

in certain items (powder, band, etc) the better. Terry recommends no music on Friday night as the reenactors don't participate because they are setting up. Walt thinks we still need some events to help tourism other than just the 2 days of the event. Discussion suggests that small programs will be the best.

### **More of the Re-enactment**

Terry thinks the Chamber of Commerce ought to improve parking.

Terry has a person who will impersonate Sterling Price committed to the event.

Terry advised that Ft Leonard Wood will participate in part of the event.

Dawn said that after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Confederate assault there is a lull in the action where spectators start to leave. Narration over loud speakers would be nice. Walt/Brick to check into Rent-A-Center pricing for 4 wireless stadium loud speakers.

### **For The Good of the Fort**

Carl asked if there is anything that we need help on. Walt advised that volunteers are always welcome to work the visitor center. He also said that right now things look good at the fort, but help would be appreciated for a planned spring burn of the Fort grass. Terry and Steve said they would help depending on scheduling.

Walt reminded everyone the Fort/Elephant Rocks public meeting is March 16.

Scott asked who was on the audit committee. Walt commented that in other groups he works with the audit committee is the board of directors. As a director, Scott said he was afraid that is what the answer would be.

Around 3:30 PM the meeting adjourned.