

MINUTES
ONE MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION
Board of Directors Meeting
Cascade American Legion
February 27th, 2008

President Gary Muller opened the meeting at 7pm. Other attendees were Jamie Bowders, Kim Harbaugh, Jeff Coyle, Tom Rouzer, Nina Rouzer, Jim Bittner, John Miller, Alice Humphrey, Donna Pryor, Joan Knott, Michelle Gilfus and Jack Simpson from the PMDC Board.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the January meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jamie Bowders presented the Treasurer's report. The checkbook balance is \$1195.38 as of today. There were a few large expenses from the OMF account, which included the Thank You page in the Record Herald and the cost of the new insurance policy. Jamie was able to procure an insurance policy that will cover all of the MTHD events and she still saved \$1100.

Jamie reported that the corporate entity status is now in accordance with the State of Maryland and the IRS as a 501(c)(3). She still has to finish the 2008 paperwork, but should have it completed within a week.

Museum of the Mountain

Gary invited Jack Simpson from the PMDC Board to the meeting to talk about the development of the Museum of the Mountain at Ft. Ritchie. The PMDC Board has set aside \$450,000 and COPT has donated a building at Ft. Ritchie for this endeavor. Jack pointed out that the PMDC Board does not want to develop and run this museum, because this is not in their duties for the development of Ft. Ritchie. He stressed this project should be tackled by someone who is very passionate about the history on the mountain and Ft. Ritchie. PMDC has hired a Baltimore architect to conduct a feasibility study to renovate the house into a museum. James Smith completed a proposal for the museum that estimated the start-up and operating costs. (If anyone would like a copy of this proposal please contact Gary or Kim).

Jack pointed out that once the museum was established a "draw" would be needed to get residents and tourists to come our way to see the museum. Many ideas have been put on the table to direct people towards Ft. Ritchie and the rich history in our area, which includes the Ritchie Boys movie, the Battle of Monterey Gap, Pen Mar Park, the old resort hotels, Camp David and Site R, and the ice production at Ft. Ritchie. Currently there are some mementos of old photos, maps, flags, and ice tongs that could be included in the display. The Board agreed that a great deal of "artifacts" from the local history is buried in attics, garages, and basements.

The PMDC Board will meet with the architect again in March and by April should have an idea of how much it would cost to design, renovate, and open the museum. Gary suggested this could be a project for the Heritage Development Committee and Jack suggested a 5-year plan would be a great start to prove to PMDC and COPT that the museum would be a viable addition to Ft. Ritchie.

Committee Reports

Jamie reported that the **Mountaintop Heritage Days** checkbook has a balance of \$808.49.

Alice reported that the dessert and dinner theater is planned and tickets are now available. Advertising, a press release, and flyers are being created. Now that tickets are available they can be purchased from Alice or Donna Pryor. The theater is scheduled for Friday April 11th and Saturday April 12th. The ticket

price for the dessert theater on Friday is \$30 a person and \$40 for the dinner theater on Saturday. The tickets will also be available for sale at the Legion Dance on 8th. There will be call-in seating for those who wish to sit together in groups. **The next meeting for the Dessert/Dinner Theater will be held at Alice's Spring House on Thursday, March 6th at 7pm for those who wish to attend.**

Jeff Coyle reported the activities of the **MTHD** committee. The vendor/sponsor letters went out for MTHD events and responses are coming back. The committee is currently looking for entertainment to play at the events both weekends. If anyone has suggestions, please contact Jeff Coyle.

Gary and Jeff are working on getting the gaming permits now that the OMF paperwork is in order with the State of Maryland and the IRS.

The next meeting for MTHD will be held Wednesday, March 12th, at 7pm at Monterey Antiques.

Kim, Jamie, and Nina reported on their meeting for the **Membership and Resource Development Committee**. A new membership letter was drafted and information gathered for the new membership drive. A database has been set up for tracking and managing members and dues paid. The Board voted that the membership dues be changed from \$12 for individuals to \$15 annually, and from \$18 to \$20 for families annually. The dues for 10 yr. individuals will remain at \$100 and \$150 for 10 yr. families. The membership period will run from April 1st 2008 – April 1st 2009. There will be no pro-rated dues.

Gary suggested that the Communications and Public Relations Committee and the Membership and Resource Development Committee merge together since their duties sometimes overlap. Heather Bodnar, who is part of the Communications and Public Relations Committee has offered her help in working on the OMF website. The website is currently hosted by Dana Burns. The OMF information needs to be updated on a regular basis, so the plan is to have the website completely re-done and managed by Heather and someone else on the board. Kim, Jamie, and Nina hope to use the website address on their new membership letter so citizens can go to the website and review more information about the goals and accomplishments of the OMF. Also, the website can be used to list the MTHD events and fundraisers. The Monterey Country Club is producing a newsletter that will also list the MTHD events.

Gary reported that the COPT public meeting at Ft. Ritchie on February 4th was informative and he reiterated that COPT and PMDC are committed to funding the fireworks at Ft. Ritchie for years to come.

John Miller offered some suggestions to replace the encampment at the Mountaintop Heritage Days this year since the Civil War re-enactors will be unable to attend. World War II and the Cold War Era were discussed. John will provide contacts and coordinate with Gary.

Revisiting old business from the January meeting, Gary reported that he confirmed that the Blue Ridge Summit Library owns the property in the Plaza where Jeff suggested the landscaping project. Melody Anderson-Smith told Gary she would like to take the idea to the library board and Gary told her it could possibly be a Fall project.

Joan Knott made another suggestion for a project on the mountain. The Mason Dixon line marker on Pennersville Road is in need of repair. This marker is the original line marker and has not been maintained for some time. Jeff and Gary were going to find out who owns the land before any further action is taken.

The next OMF Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 26th, 2008, at 7pm, at the Cascade American Legion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

