

MINUTES
ONE MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION
Board of Directors Meeting
Cascade American Legion
March 26th, 2008

President Gary Muller opened the meeting at 7pm. Other attendees were Karen Justice, Kim Harbaugh, Jeff Coyle, Tom Rouzer, Nina Rouzer, Jim Bittner, John Miller, Alice Humphrey, Donnie Forrest, Heather Bodnar, Carla Warren, Mary Rae Cantwell, Mary Esta Scruggs, and new member Joan Fry.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jamie Bowders was unable to attend the meeting so Kim gave the Treasurer's report. The OMF checkbook balance is \$1307.38 as of today. This amount includes income from two new memberships. In her report Jamie requested approximately \$110.00 to be split between the OMF and MTHD checking accounts to purchase a new QuickBooks software package. She will utilize this software to keep both the OMF and MTHD books accurate as well as use the database for listing the vendors and members. The Board voted and authorized this purchase.

Committee Reports

In Jamie's absence Kim gave the report that the **Mountaintop Heritage Days** checkbook has a balance of \$2813.60. This amount includes the funds taken in for vendors for MTHD and the dessert/dinner theater.

Alice reported that there are only 4 tickets available for Saturday, April 12th dinner theater. About half of the tickets have been sold for the dessert theater on Friday, April 11th. She asked that everyone try and sell the remaining tickets for Friday night so she can get a count together for the catering. The Record Herald was planning an article about the theater for Thursday 3/27 or Friday 3/28.

In the past few weeks since our last board meeting with Jack Simpson from PMDC, Gary reported he has received several inquiries into the possibility of the museum at Ft. Ritchie. Kim distributed copies of James M. Smith's *The Museum of the Summit at Ft. Ritchie* proposal to all board members. Gary has exchanged emails with Jack from PMDC and a meeting has been planned for Monday, April 7th, at 7pm for PMDC and COPT. Gary would like a few representatives from the OMF Board to attend the meeting and pose questions before the OMF can commit to pursuing the museum project. Gary, Kim, Nina, Tom, Alice, Mary Rae, and Jim have decided to attend this meeting. Karen suggested including Liz Shatto from the Tourism Council Consortium of Frederick County to attend or provide some pertinent questions to ask of PMDC and COPT since the feasibility study did not cover the income portion of the museum. Gary pointed out that a bandstand is still an idea for the parade field to bring bands there and possibility raise money.

John Miller is also working on getting a World War II Re-enactor's unit at Ft. Ritchie for next year's MTHD which could play into the museum concept.

Kim reported for the **Membership and Resource Development Committee** that the membership letters were ready for printing and Jamie had checked into printing prices, which would be about \$500 plus the bulk shipping rates. Alice suggested that we ask NBN to do the printing since they want to stay involved with the community. Alice will contact Penny Manahan at NBN to see if this is possible.

Heather provided a sample homepage of the new website she is designing. She is asking for local photographs to include on the website. She is also asking for suggestions of other pages needed, such as a membership page and committee page. Heather also said the MTHD could have a home page that would

link to OMF and vice versa. Eventually the intention is to have businesses pay to have their advertisements listed on the OMF website. John suggested having an events and schedules page that includes information for the entire community, including churches and other organizations. He also mentioned that we can forward events and schedules to him to include on his Monterey Pass website, which is located at www.emmitsburg.net/montereypass.

However at the moment the OMF does not maintain the domain located at www.onemountainfoundation.org. Dana Burns had maintained this website and Karen said she would discuss with Dana about OMF taking over the website hosting and maintenance.

Jeff Coyle reported the activities of the **MTHD** committee. Jeff, Gary, Jamie, and Jim attended a meeting at the Blue Ridge Summit Fire Hall on March 20th. The meeting was for a bingo proposal/contract with Pat Fleagle at the Fire Hall. The Fire Hall wants to utilize its unique bingo equipment to bring revenue to the Fire Hall and hopefully increase volunteer membership. Jeff proposed a joint super bingo that would be held once a month at the Fire Hall and the Fire Hall and MTHD would share 50/50 of the revenue. It was agreed that the kitchen would be the responsibility of the Fire Hall and they would keep all revenues from the kitchen take. Jeff pointed out that a similar bingo is being held in the Fairfield area and they are making between \$8,000 - \$10,000 for one night. They would use a paid bingo caller, and the cash register system used at the Fire Hall leaves very little room for human error.

Pat Fleagle is working on a contract that would require MTHD to provide 5 volunteers and the Fire Hall would provide 5 volunteers for each bingo. A representative from the Fire Hall and a representative from MTHD would also do the banking at the end of the bingo so all funds could be accounted for. A check would then be made out to MTHD for 50% of the take. Once this is in contract form and is signed, a tentative date of July 18th has been set for the first super bingo night. This will give time to promote the bingo during the MTHD's events and the Blue Ridge Summit Fire Department's carnival. Gary pointed out that there is a stipulation that all volunteers apply to become an associate member of the Fire Department because the bingo will be held in Pennsylvania and uses the Fire Department's small game and chance license. The Fire Department will waive the membership fee for this application. Jeff said this type of bingo can be held for scholarships, special interest benefits, and people of our community in need. The Board voted and approved this venture with the Fire Department, but it was decided that the bingos should be billed as OMF and MTHD with the Fire Hall so the community understands that the MTHD committee is a part of the OMF. Jeff also pointed out that by being able to use the Fire Hall may be beneficial next year if another dessert/dinner theater is planned, since the MTHD is currently paying \$750 per night for the Lakeside Hall at Ft. Ritchie.

Gary and Kim reported on the article that ran in the Record Herald on March 15th, 2008 regarding Ft. Ritchie's Historic District being placed on the list of Preservation Maryland, a non-profit organization. A comment blog attached to the article online was used by the blog participants as a forum to attack COPT, PMDC, and OMF. It was implied in these blog postings that OMF was an extension of COPT and PMDC. The blog became very malicious and Gary spoke to the Record Herald's publisher, who decided to take the blog site down. It became very clear that the OMF must do some publicity campaigning to better educate the community as to what the OMF stands for and that the OMF is not a mere extension of COPT and/or PMDC. The community needs to understand that the OMF does not revolve around Ft. Ritchie, even though a great deal of support is given to the revitalization of the base. Gary spoke to the new editor at the Record Herald and was told a new reporter for our area will be available soon to do an article on the OMF. Gary asked that as many of the board members as possible be available to give the reporter a brief interview for the article. Gary will let Kim know when the reporter plans to meet and Kim can contact the board members.

Kim reported that Joan Knott contacted her and said she had been in contact with Steve Harbaugh, who owns part of the land where the Mason Dixon marker is located on Pennersville Road. He said he would be happy to talk to Jeff about the clean-up project.

Gary spoke again to Melody Anderson-Smith at the Blue Ridge Summit Library regarding the landscaping project. They agreed this would be a Fall project. She requested a proposal of the intended landscaping to share with the board. This could be a project the garden club could be involved in as well.

Carla mentioned the article in the Record Herald about the library losing between \$10,000 - \$15,000 this year from their budget. OMF/MTHD could possibly help out with a benefit bingo or other fundraising event to help the library.

Carla also said she is still requesting pictures of local churches for inclusion in next year's calendar. She hasn't received many responses.

Alice suggested an OMF/MTHD community bulletin board for use at the library or the post office.

The next OMF Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 23rd, 2008, at 7pm, at the Cascade American Legion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.