

**JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND PARTNERSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL MEETING**

**HELD**

Via Video Conference  
December 3, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

Members attending:

Chair Chuck Ledsinger  
Secretary Jim Campi  
Gertraud Hechl  
Kathleen Kilpatrick  
Betsy Merritt  
Chris Wall  
David Williams

JTHG Team attending:

Bill Sellers  
Michelle Burrelli  
Katherine Wilkins  
Penny Williams

Other Attendees:

Brent Glass  
Nicole Hamilton  
Olivia Hutton (YHB)

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 am.

Chair Ledsinger confirmed that a notice of the meeting has been given. Mr. Sellers confirmed a quorum is in attendance.

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the August 4, 2020 Board meeting.

MOTION BY: Chris Wall  
SECONDED BY: Jim Campi  
NONE BEING OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED

**Audit Presentation**

Ms. Hutton presented the Audit Report to the Board and the Audited Financial Statement. Chair Ledsinger asked about the management comment regarding financial controls. Mr. Sellers discussed the changes that will be made to address the comment.

**Nominating and Governance Committee**

**Motion:** To nominate the following slate of officers for 2021:

- Chair: Chuck Ledsinger

- Vice Chair: Kathleen Kilpatrick
- Treasurer: Chris Miller
- Secretary: Jim Campi and Betsy Merritt
  - Assistant Secretary: Michelle Burrelli

Trustees completing their first 3-year term in 2020 (Nominate for second term)

- Elizabeth von Hassell

MOTION BY: David Williams

SECONDED BY: Chris Wall

NONE BEING OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED

Chair Ledsinger and Mr. Sellers discussed the strategic recruitment of new Trustees. Mr. Williams thinks expanding the Board of JTHG nationally is a great idea. Chair Ledsinger stated that he and Mr. Sellers welcome suggestions from all Trustees. Ms. Kilpatrick asked if we are focused on programmatic partnerships or larger governance issues as we recruit Trustees. Chair Ledsinger discussed the importance of both. Mr. Sellers discussed gaps in Board leadership that should be targeted as we diversify the Board. Dr. Glass recommended looking at other Heritage Areas who excel in fundraising.

### **Financial Discussion**

Ms. Williams presented the FY2020 Budget vs. Actual and outlined the variances due to holding National History Academy virtually. The FY2021 Budget is presented with two scenarios depending on whether JTHG is able to hold NHA Residential and Online programs vs. Online only.

Chair Ledsinger recommends the Board approve the budget which also includes a Life, Vision and Dental Insurance package benefit for employees.

**Motion:** To approve the 2021 Budget.

MOTION BY: David Williams

SECONDED BY: Jim Campi

NONE BEING OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Sellers discussed recent staffing changes, including the recent hire of Katie Smolar as the Director of Educational Programs, altering Blaine Horton's role as the Extreme Journey Summer Camp Director, and altering Laura Lake's role from an Admissions and Recruiting Coordinator to a Recruitment and Marketing Manager.

### **JTHG Programs**

## **Route 15**

Mr. Sellers provided a brief update on the Route 15 South of Leesburg initiative. Mr. Williams discussed the historic efforts to preserve the rural character of Route 15 and the inconsistencies in the plan vs. what Loudoun County states they are attempting to accomplish. Ms. Merritt discussed the survey results that state the public's biggest goal is to preserve the scenic nature of the road. Ms. Merritt and Mr. Williams commended JTHG for taking on a strong leadership role in this effort.

## **Wayfinding**

Ms. Burrelli and Mr. Sellers discussed the Wayfinding project. VDOT projects production of signs will begin this month, with installation starting in January of 2021.

## **JTHG website and partner outreach update**

Ms. Lake is contacting all JTHG partners to update site listings on the JTHG website.

## **Living Legacy**

Ms. Wilkins discussed the Virginia Federation of Garden Club plantings that took place in the spring, and the effort to combine all spreadsheets, tag all Living Legacy Trees and ensure trees are tagged with soldier names.

## **National History Academy & NHA Online**

Mr. Sellers presented the [www.HistoryFieldTrips.org](http://www.HistoryFieldTrips.org) virtual field trips initiative. Pilot projects will begin next week with past Academy teachers bringing their classes to JTHG sites virtually. This is an effort to support our partner historic sites while also allowing classrooms from across the country to visit important sites in American history.

Dr. Glass gave an update on a recent conversation with David Rubenstein, who remains interested in growth of the NHA program.

## **Fundraising Report**

Mr. Sellers discussed planning for a future \$5M Capital Campaign. Dr. Glass discussed how the strategy of securing funds to underwrite classroom visits to historic sites could scale up and be a more effective strategy than raising funds for individual scholarships. Mr. Wall suggested developing a 13-week curriculum that can be presented to school districts. Dr. Glass agreed but said we should be considerate of each site's capacity and stated that NHA is in a good position to be a broker between the classrooms and the sites.

Mr. Sellers stated that programmatically there is a lot JTHG can do with this platform. Mr. Sellers highlighted some of the successes of the National History Academy Online program this past summer.

## **Adjourn**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

MOTION BY: Kathleen Kilpatrick  
SECONDED BY: Chris Wall  
NONE BEING OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.