

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

HELD
Via Video Conference
March 11, 2022
10:00 a.m.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Members attending:

Chair Chuck Ledsinger
Co-Vice Chair Chris Wall
Treasurer Chris Miller
Co-Secretary Jim Campi
Co-Secretary Betsy Merrit
Gertraud Hechl
Kathleen Kilpatrick
Hollis McLoughlin
Martha Raymond
David Vela

JTHG Team attending:

Bill Sellers
Michelle Burrelli
Katherine Wilkins
Katie Smolar
Becky Wilhelm
Penny Williams

Other Attendees:

Brent Glass
Katie Durcan – NPS
Randy Mason - UPenn
Kate Levesque - UPenn

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am

Chair Ledsinger confirmed that the Notice of Meeting has been given and that a quorum is in attendance.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 3, 2022 Board meeting.

MOTION BY: Chris Wall
SECONDED BY: Gertraud Hechl
NONE BEING OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED

National Park Service Evaluation

Mr. Mason and Ms. Levesque from the University of Pennsylvania introduced themselves. Ms. Durcan provided background on the NPS evaluation history, and that JTHG has this process written into its founding legislation. Mr. Miller asked if private investment in conservation will be considered. Ms. Durcan and Mr. Mason stated this is common with National Heritage Areas and will be included in the larger impact. Ms. Durcan stated that the National Park Service performs this introduction and then removes themselves from the process.

Financial Discussion

Mr. Miller thanked Ms. Williams for her work over the years, and for all she has done for the Journey Through Hallowed Ground. Ms. Williams thanked the staff and board for their support.

Ms. Wilhelm introduced herself and provided a brief update on the transition. Mr. Sellers gave an update on the financial status. The 990 is nearly ready for submission; there was a delay in a pledge confirmation, which has now been received.

Mr. Sellers also discussed the pending appropriations for the National Park Service and the Employee Retention Credit.

Chair Ledsinger gave his sincere thanks to Ms. Williams for her contributions to the Journey and for the level of professionalism she brought to the role of CFO.

National Scenic Byway

Mr. Sellers and Ms. Wilkins discussed the data center proposed in Culpeper, VA.

National Heritage Area

Mr. Sellers discussed the pending Sunset Extension Legislation which would extend the JTHG NHA from 2023 to 2036. We are currently working with Senator Cardin and Senator Kaine

National History Academy

Ms. Burrelli provided an update on National History Academy. We currently have 63 student applications. Application review and staff interviews are ongoing.

Mr. Sellers discussed the current search for a PR firm to get the word out. Mr. Wall wondered if there were any PR companies that would do this pro bono.

Historyfieldtrips.org

Dr. Glass discussed the potential for growth with HistoryFieldTrips.org and the ability to engage more historic sites and more students across the country with this platform. Standardized videos and a library would allow teachers an opportunity to use them in the classroom. Dr. Glass also discussed Rick James' interest in the program and the doors that may open with the National Park Foundation.

Mr. Sellers discussed the varying quality of films at sites and the fact that this would provide some predictability for teachers.

Dr. Glass discussed fundraising and the America250 initiative. JTHG/NHA is a cohesive, tangible way for school groups to understand the history of America.

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.