

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

HELD
Via Video Conference
September 9, 2022
10:00 a.m.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Members attending:

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

JTHG Team attending:

Bill Sellers
Michelle Burrelli
Katie Smolar
Becky Wilhelm

Other Attendees:

Brent Glass
Katherine Wilkins

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.

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

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

MOTION BY: Chris Wall
SECONDED BY: David Vela
NONE BEING OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Sellers announced that Ms. Wilkins retired from Journey Through Hallowed Ground, effective August 31, 2022. Mr. Sellers expressed how appreciative he was of Ms. Wilkin's work. Chair Ledsinger expressed his gratitude to Ms. Wilkins for all she has done for the Journey over the years.

Financial Discussion

Ms. Wilhelm presented the financials. Mr. Sellers discussed the variance between FY21 and the online program versus FY22 operating a residential program.

Mr. Sellers provided an update on Mrs. Mars' five-year pledge and potential changes on the NPS funding pool as additional National Heritage Areas are approved.

Mr. Campi asked if there are sponsorship opportunities available for National History Academy. Mr. Sellers discussed the states and groups that have sponsored scholarships.

National History Academy

Mr. Sellers provided a report on the National History Academy residential program this past summer. 66 students participated from 26 states, 1 US territory and 5 foreign countries. Mr. Sellers said Ms. Smolar did an exceptional job.

Ms. Smolar reported that National History Academy has achieved American Camp Association Accreditation, which is good for 5 years.

Mr. Sellers stressed how we create an NHA community that helps support students as they return to their communities. He also described the program overall, including site visits and guest speakers.

Mr. McLoughlin asked about lessons learned from this summer. Mr. Sellers discussed the need for scaling and growth. The residential program is most impactful for students, so will be the focus moving forward.

Mr. Wall asked if it is possible to focus on both the residential and online programs. Mr. Sellers noted that many online programs do exist, but noted the unique nature of our potential historyfieldtrips.org program and the need for predictable high quality video tours of historic sites for teachers to use in the classroom. Mr. Sellers also discussed the funding recently awarded from the Reynolds Foundation to create a sizzle reel and proof-of-concept video for History Field Trips.

Mr. Sellers discussed the current strategic planning effort for National History Academy and the draft Case for Support, as well as potential spring break and other shorter programs as we expand programming.

Dr. Glass added his thoughts about potentially partnering with a college or university to offer college credit. He also talked about more formalized relationships with Gilder Lehrman or the National Park Service, as well as the America250 initiative.

Ms. Kilpatrick agrees and thinks the focus on citizenship and scalability are really important as we look toward the 250th Anniversary. Ms. Kilpatrick also suggested the University of Richmond and Ed Ayers as a potential partner.

Mr. Vela added that Rick James, chair of the National Park Foundation, is a supporter, and we have the opportunity to strengthen a strategic partnership with NPF. Ms. Raymond mentioned the opportunity to partner with other National Heritage Areas.

Mr. Williams asked about the student interviews and testimonials. He also said he thinks expanding our reach through the virtual programs is very compelling for our donors and supporters and scaling up.

Dr. Glass also discussed the College Board partnership and the lack of place-based education in the AP curriculum.

Mr. Sellers stated that we had two full and very successful two-week sessions of Extreme Journey Summer Camp.

National Heritage Area

Mr. Sellers and Ms. Burrelli discussed the ongoing UPenn NPS evaluation and changing priorities over the past 15 years since the Journey was originally authorized.

Mr. Sellers mentioned that the Journey will also be hosting the 30th Anniversary of Ron Maxwell's movie "Gettysburg" in October 2023 with a number of local and national partners, including the American Battlefield Trust.

National Scenic Byway

Mr. Sellers discussed the issue with data centers popping up throughout the JTHG NHA. JTHG hosted our third event in Culpeper on September 8 to inform local citizens about the encroaching data centers within historic districts. Mr. Campi said JTHG has been a huge help with these efforts. Ms. Kilpatrick agreed.

Mr. Sellers discussed the Culpeper data center proposals in more detail, and the charm of the JTHG NHA lying in the fact that it is virtually untouched and retains its historic character.

Ms. Merritt thinks the role of JTHG is very important in these efforts, and we have been very effective collaborators with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and others. The advocacy role of JTHG is important to retain the character of the region, and this needs to remain a high priority for the organization.

Ms. Merritt also discussed Route 15, and the fact that the widening of the highway north of Leesburg triggers a required Section 106 review by the Army Corps of Engineer review. Ms. Merritt is in communication with the Army Corps on the matter.

Ms. Raymond added the Gullah Geechee region's conservation advocacy role as an example.

Wayfinding

Mr. Sellers provided a brief update on wayfinding signage for the JTHG NSB in Adams County, PA.

Living Legacy

Mr. Sellers gave an update on the Living Legacy Project and potential opportunities to plant trees in 2023.

Board Development

Mr. Sellers discussed Mr. Miller stepping down from the Treasurer role. There is a need to fill that position, as well as strategically recruit additional board members. Chair Ledsinger said we welcome ideas for additional Trustees.

Other business

- Proposed Upcoming meetings:
 - Annual Meeting - December 9, 2022
 - March 10, 2023 - in person, with the National Park superintendents?
 - June 9, 2023
 - September 8, 2023
 - Annual Meeting - December 8, 2023

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

MOTION BY: Kathleen Kilpatrick

SECONDED BY: David Vela

NONE BEING OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 pm.