

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

HELD

Via Video Conference
December 9, 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
Hollis McLoughlin
Martha Raymond
David Vela

JTHG Team attending:

Bill Sellers
Michelle Burrelli
Katie Smolar

Other Attendees:

Brent Glass
Katie Levesque
Olivia Hutton
Danielle Kerns

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 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 September 9, 2022 Board meeting.

MOTION BY: David Vela
SECONDED BY: Hollis McLoughlin
NONE BEING OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED

Financial Discussion

Olivia Hutton and Danielle Kerns presented the 2022 draft audited financial statement. They enjoyed working with Ms. Wilhelm and it was a smooth transition for them in terms of the JTHG financial staff.

Ms. Raymond stated that the NPS data collection forms are a good partner for the audit and budget because they capture progress that isn't just financial.

Mr. Sellers discussed the 5-year comparison of audited financial statements.

Mr. Sellers discussed the current draft of the FY2023 Budget. Discussion ensued on how the budget should be allocated between the various aspects of the Journey's mission: education, conservation, preservation and tourism.

Nominating and Governance Committee

Motion: To nominate the following slate of officers for 2023:

- Chair: Chuck Ledsinger
- Vice Chair: Kathleen Kilpatrick
- Treasurer: Chris Wall
- Co-Secretaries: Jim Campi and Betsy Merritt
 - Assistant Secretary: Michelle Burrelli

MOTION BY: David Vela

SECONDED BY: Chris Miller

NONE BEING OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED

Motion: To elect Chris Miller to the Executive Committee:

MOTION BY: David Vela

SECONDED BY: Chris Miller

NONE BEING OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED

NPS Evaluation Update

Mr. Sellers provided a brief overview of the NPS Evaluation document. Mr. Miller asked about the number of acres that has been protected, as there are a lot of things being done by partners that isn't reported in this evaluation draft. He believes the report leaves out a lot that is reportable. Mr. Sellers said there are some gaps in the reporting process. Ms. Raymond said we can ask them to correct factual errors.

Katie Levesque, Research Associate of Penn Praxis' Urban Heritage Project at the University of Pennsylvania's Stuart Weitzman School of Design, joined the meeting for an informal discussion about the NPS evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation is to answer questions about the sustainability, funding, and impact of the National Heritage Area.

Mr. Sellers also discussed how by reducing our staff we are leveraging our partnerships more strongly. Specifically with NPS, PEC, National Trust, ABT, SELC, CSG and NPCA.

Mr. Miller asked if there was a best practice in showing the leveraging of partnerships through the evaluation report. Ms. Levesque will consult with the NPS.

National Heritage Area

Mr. Sellers discussed the Sunset Legislation (S. 1942) which is pending, which would extend the JTHG National Heritage Area from 2023 to 2036. The negotiations are ongoing. Mr. Sellers mentioned the possibility of extending the NHA boundaries at some point in the future in WV and PA.

Mr. Sellers also noted the *Gettysburg* 30th Anniversary Celebration – October 13-15, 2023 at the Majestic Theater in Gettysburg, PA.

National Scenic Byway

Ms. Merritt discussed Route 15 between Leesburg and Point of Rocks Bridge, and the engagement of the Army Corps of Engineers to secure a Section 106 review.

Mr. Sellers discussed the data center issues in Prince William, Fauquier, and Culpeper Counties. Mr. Campi discussed the challenge of acquiring land in the region. Ms. Merritt discussed ABT's letter to the National Trust to include Manassas on the 11 Most Endangered list for 2023. Invitations to submit a full proposal will go out next week, and that will be due in early January.

Ms. Merritt said JTHG has been a valuable partner in the coalition, and she appreciates our contributions.

Living Legacy

Mr. Sellers briefly discussed a report due to VDOT by Jan 15th addressing JTHG's plans for the outstanding \$184,000 in LLTPP grant funding and the potential for a JTHG app.

Mr. Miller suggested adding JTHG to the All Trails app.

National History Academy

Mr. Sellers said we will open applications for the 2023 Academy next week. Through Ms. Smolar's efforts, National History Academy received ACA accreditation this past summer.

Historyfieldtrips.org

Mr. Sellers discussed the 2022 grant from the Reynolds Foundation to create a pilot video and sizzle reel of a historic site tour as a resource for teachers and classrooms.

Mr. Sellers also discussed the potential future growth and scaling of our educational programs.

Fundraising update

Dr. Glass said we have the opportunity and platform to expand the National History Academy to other parts of the country. Texas, the Freedom Trail in Boston, and the Henry Ford are other potential partners/locations. Dr. Glass also discussed the strategy of trying to raise scholarship funds for 1-2 students from each state.

Mr. Sellers discussed additional potential for fundraising. Our cash reserves are improving, and we want to create a scholarship endowment.

Ms. Hechl asked if there is a plan to replace Katherine Wilkins' position as Director of Public Outreach. Mr. Sellers said we are considering different options, including expanding our relationship with Brent Glass, LLC in the short term.

Ms. Raymond said to follow up with Motor Cities National Heritage Area if we choose to work with the Henry Ford.

Other business

- 2023 meeting dates:
 - March 10, 2023
 - June 9, 2023
 - September 8, 2023
 - Annual Meeting - December 8, 2023

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

MOTION BY: David Vela
SECONDED BY: Hollis McLoughlin
NONE BEING OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm.