

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### Call to Order

The regular meeting of the **Education Committee** was called to order on Thursday, **October 27, 2011** at 8:33 AM. Voting members present: Joanne Williams, Chair; Sterling Webster, RIC Chair; Eddy Browning (late arrival); Angel Khoury; Elmer Midgett; Perry White; and Earl Willis. Non-voting members present: Kermit Skinner, Manager-Town of Manteo. Commission members present: Malcolm Fearing (late arrival). Also present: Glenna Shelton Browning, Plymouth, NC resident (late arrival); Debbie Gibbs, Friends of *Elizabeth II*, Inc. Operations Director; and Dwight Gregory, Friends of *Elizabeth II*, Inc. Board Treasurer. Staff members present: Kim Sawyer, Executive Director; Andrea Hanganu, Administrative Assistant; Kathleen McLean, Education and Interpretation Manager; and Robbie Putnam, *Elizabeth II* Captain.

### Welcome

Chairman Joanne Williams welcomed all in attendance and introduced new committee members Perry White and Earl Willis.

### Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

### Approval of Minutes

On motion by Elmer Midgett, the committee minutes of April 28, 2011 were approved by consensus. On motion by Elmer Midgett, the committee minutes of July 22, 2011 were approved by consensus.

### Old Business

Roanoke Island  
Maritime Museum

RIFP Executive Director Kim Sawyer provided an update regarding prior discussion with Town of Manteo Mayor Jamie Daniels concerning the Roanoke Island Maritime Museum (RIMM), with the following being noted:

- Budget discussion included RIFP no longer staffing the RIMM.
- RIC Chairman Sterling Webster and she met with Mayor Daniels (prior to Hurricane Irene); consensus was to end the agreement between the Town and RIC.
- Attorney General's Office advised to have a *Joint Rescission of Memorandum of Agreement*, if RIC chose to end its agreement with the Town of Manteo regarding the partnership.
- RIMM has been unable to re-open due to hurricane damage; Town continues to work on that.

RIC Chairman Webster provided additional comments regarding the meeting, noting the following:

- Meeting disposition was positive.
- Beneficial to RIFP if the Town takes over the RIMM due to the budget situation.

Discussion followed regarding the Roanoke Island Maritime Museum, with the following noted:

- Boathouse is Town property; opportunity for growth; Mayor Daniels did not offer RIFP funding (Sawyer).
- Potential impact at staffing level; discussion needed regarding boats and RIC property at RIMM (Sawyer).
- RIC assets: sailboats are on an existing list (Williams).
- *Ella View* on loan to RIC (Williams); from Newport News Maritime Museum in Virginia (Sawyer).
- Question whether to enter a new, limited agreement instead of rescinding the present agreement; whether to amend the existing agreement (Khoury).
- Verification that the Town would potentially contract with someone to do the sailing program (Skinner).
- Issue of what to potentially do with the sail boats; boat construction and ownership.
- Potential timeframe required for action.
- Will contact Capt. Frank Silver, who is interested in talking to the Town about continuing to run the sailing program; Town will likely receive calls from others interested in running the program (Sawyer).
- Requests the opportunity to review the asset list; option is on the table that RIC boats could be used but insurance issues must be worked out; boat issue will be resolved, but not today (Sawyer).

### Motion

Perry White made a motion that the committee send the Joint Rescission of the Memorandum of Agreement to the full Commission tomorrow and send the Rescission Agreement to the Town, if the Commission approves it; and that the effective date be December 31, 2011.

Detailed discussion followed regarding clarification of the motion, with the following being noted:

- Potential need for a protective clause regarding how to work the assets (Williams).

- Original agreement did not include assets (Sawyer).
- Concern regarding voting on something she has not read (Khoury); document is a draft (Sawyer).
- Town would have interest in and concerns about other assets, especially the power tools (including machinery) in order to maintain a functioning boathouse (Skinner).
  - Numerous tools were donated by volunteers (Gregory).
- Need time to review the assets and have discussion (Sawyer).
- Question whether gutting the RIMM is the desired outcome (Khoury).
- Request to add: pending satisfactory disposition of the assets be resolved by agreement of both parties, the Town and the RIC (Midgett).
- FOEII should be at this table for discussion to help move this along (Khoury).

\* Eddy Browning joined the meeting at 9:13 AM. \*

*Motion Amended*

Following discussion, Perry White clarified that his motion is to send to the full Commission the Joint Rescission of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Manteo and the Roanoke Island Commission pertaining to the operation of the Roanoke Island Maritime Museum; and the disposition of the assets involved be jointly agreed to by a committee consisting of the RIC Executive Director and the Town Manager. Elmer Midgett seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

*Vote*

Members agreed that the goal of this committee is that the RIMM continue its operations.

\* Glenna Shelton Browning joined the meeting at 9:16 AM. \*

Angel Khoury thanked Capt. Robbie Putnam for his work at the RIMM.

Kim Sawyer agreed to provide copies of the two documents discussed (draft document and signed agreement) at the Commission meeting the next day.

**New Business**

No *New Business* was presented.

**Staff Updates**

*Kim Sawyer*

Kim Sawyer provided a brief staff update, noting the following:

- RIFP Education and Interpretation Manager Kathleen McLean is examining programs and assessing whether things can be done better.
- Examining staffing areas: staff placement, RIFP outreach, and acquiring new people to work with staff.

*Kathleen McLean*

Kathleen McLean provided the following RIFP Education Department staff update:

- Damage in back from Hurricane Irene.
- Summer school tours continue: most from NC Piedmont region.
- Fall school tours decreased slightly.
- 2011 Adult group tours increased slightly—June: 13; July: 7; August: 2; September: 8; October: 6.
- Fall 2011: included visitation from Dare County schools; brainstorming ways to reach NC teachers.
  - Found website with emails and contact information for all NC principals.
- Prior weekend *Elizabeth II* was away: special pirate presentation and pirate flags by former staff.
- Summer 2011 RIMM programs by NC Coastal Foundation and Auxiliary Flotilla of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.
- Work with Boy and Girl Scouts continues.
  - Girl Scout Council of the Colonial Coast (Chesapeake, Virginia); Explore Roanoke Island Park patch program.
  - Potential area Girl Scout special event in 2012: *The Year of the Girl*; Girl Scouts 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
  - Boy Scout Tidewater Council (Virginia Beach, Virginia); Explore Festival Park metal working merit badge.
  - Successful experimental overnight program in May 2011 with educational programs.
  - RIFP approved by Girl Scout Colonial Council as a camping ground; awaiting official word for Boy Scouts.
  - Reviewed 2011 badge book; stringent Boy Scout badge requirements limits RIFP in doing them.

\* Malcolm Fearing joined the meeting at 9:29 AM. \*

- Scouting budget projection for this FY was \$4,300.00 (Sawyer); overnights projected at \$30.00 per person.
- Can provide a contact for the Boy and Girl Scout Council in Raleigh, NC (Webster).
- Agreement to find out if the Girl Scout Coastal Council badge can become a national badge (Sawyer).

- Current departmental staff (8 total): 5 interpreters—rotate in back venues; 1 staff—Art Gallery and Adventure Museum; 1 staff—ship maintenance and interpretation; 1 staff—organization/participation of school tours.

Upon request by Angel Khoury, Kim Sawyer agreed to provide the committee a list of special programs RIFP is already doing that can be given to the RIFP Communications Manager to promote for free as special marketing. Ms. Khoury requested that this committee be given an assignment to develop special seasonal program ideas for people to anticipate in order to increase RIFP paid visitation. Ms. Khoury noted that FOEII Operations Director Debbie Gibbs had suggested a potential ghost tour on the ship at yesterday's (10/26/11) Friends meeting.

*Robbie Putnam*

*Elizabeth II* Captain Robbie Putnam provided the following staff update:

- 3-day volunteer training sail with the *Elizabeth II* completed this past weekend (October 22-24, 2011).
  - Focus: how to sail a square rigger; safety training: fire safety, abandon ship, man overboard drill.
  - Three days of good weather and water; sailed eastern half of Albemarle Sound; 16 crew members.
  - Coast Guard was training with their helicopter and C-130 airplane simultaneously as the *Ell* man overboard drill.
    - Staff are following up for a newspaper story (Sawyer).

Kim Sawyer reminded members of her email previously sent regarding the documentary sponsored by DCR and others called *Birth of a Colony: North Carolina*. Horizon Productions filmed in Manteo. The film premiered October 24, 2011 and will re-air November 24, 2011. UNC-TV website has behind-the-scenes shots.

Perry White requested to get sufficient RIFP information out in November 2011 to the Village Associations and homeowners to address that anticipated large audience. Ms. Sawyer reported that the RIFP Communications Manager is currently working on a release for that. Ms. Sawyer agreed to provide RIC members the broadcast times of the documentary.

**Commission  
Recommendations**

One Commission recommendation was previously noted.

**Announcements**

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be Friday, January 27, 2012 at 8:30 AM pending approval of the 2012 RIC schedule at the October 28, 2011 RIC meeting.

Kim Sawyer reminded members of tonight's offsite RIC reception from 6-8 PM.

Angel Khoury requested clarification regarding the discussion about volunteer groups, noting her hope that RIFP is working with the FOEII and its volunteer program already in place. Kim Sawyer verified that she is working with Debbie Gibbs, who has need of Gift Store volunteers and will be included in the overall orientation along with the volunteer crew. RIC Chairman Webster and Angel Khoury agreed to meet to ensure whatever volunteer orientation is done is efficient and seamless.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, and on motion by Elmer Midgett and second by Perry White, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Andrea Hanganu, Administrative Assistant

Upon a vote by the Education Committee, approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Joanne Williams, Chair, Education Committee