

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE (formerly the Maritime History Committee)

### Call to Order

The regular meeting of the **Education Committee** (formerly the Maritime History Committee) was called to order on Thursday, **April 28, 2011** at 8:35 AM. Voting members present: Joanne Williams, Chair; Rolf Blizzard, RIC Chair (late arrival); Moncie “Punk” Daniels; and Elmer Midgett. Non-voting members present: Kermit Skinner, Manager-Town of Manteo. Commission members present: Malcolm Fearing and Fountain Odom. Also present: Dwight Gregory, Friends of *Elizabeth II*, Inc. Board Treasurer. Staff members present: Kim Sawyer, Executive Director; Andrea Hanganu, Administrative Assistant; and Kathleen McLean, Education and Interpretation Manager. Absent: Walter Daniels; Norma Houston; and Angel Khoury.

### Welcome

Chairman Joanne Williams welcomed all in attendance.

### Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

### Approval of Minutes

On motion by Elmer Midgett and second by Punk Daniels, the committee minutes of February 4, 2011 were approved by consensus.

### Old Business OBX Sailing Academy

RIFP Executive Director Kim Sawyer provided an update regarding the Outer Banks Sailing Academy, noting the following:

- Review of discussion from February 4, 2011 committee meeting.
- Town of Manteo Manager Kermit Skinner had reported his Board agreed for Capt. Frank Silver of the Outer Banks Sailing Academy to finish out the sailing program through mid-August 2011.
- OBX Sailing Academy website reports sailing program will run June 13 through August 12.
- Capt. Silver is working to get instructors certified; interested local person was referred to Capt. Silver.
- Outstanding issue: Capt. Silver wants to complete adult sailing programs through early November 2011.

Discussion was held regarding the OBX Sailing Academy, with the following being noted:

- Details of how adult lessons are conducted (Sawyer).
- Clarification that the Friends of *Elizabeth II*, Inc. (FOEII) and Capt. Silver had spoken but found no resolution in terms of an agreement (Sawyer).
- Clarification that sailing program will be held through the final training session on August 8-12, 2011 unless Capt. Silver informed Ms. Sawyer he was unable to get certified instructor (Sawyer).
- Question regarding time required for certification (Williams).
- Capt. Silver indicated he may be unable to put as much effort into 2011 Regatta as in the past (Sawyer).
- Regatta typically held last Saturday in July (Gregory).
- Kim Sawyer agreed to verify with Capt. Silver the date of the 2011 Regatta and report to the committee.
- *Elizabeth II* Capt. Robbie Putnam to continue Community Sail program Tuesday evenings (Sawyer).

### New Business

No *New Business* was presented.

### Staff Updates Kim Sawyer

Kim Sawyer reported that *Education is the heart of soul of RIFP*, and efforts are being redoubled in Educational programming.

### Kathleen McLean

RIFP Education and Interpretation Manager Kathleen McLean provided the following staff update:

- School groups: 12 in March 2011 (1,480 students/teachers); 77 by end of April 2011 (5,704 students/teachers); expect 42 groups (2,000 total people) in May 2011 mostly from Piedmont; some from mountains; small percentage from coast.
- Summer camps: two half-day camps ages 5-6; two weeks of full-day camps, one week ages 7-9, and one week ages 10-13.
- 4-H partnerships: contacted Ms. Sara Phelps (Columbia) and Ms. Katherine Irby (Dare County); Ms. Irby will contact RIFP in May 2011 to bring students for summer camp programs.
- Boy and Girl Scouts of America partnerships: May 2011 onsite overnight program with Cub Scout Pack 116 (Kill Devil Hills); Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast (Virginia) Program Manager visited RIFP and provided documents on new 2012 badge program and partnership program.

- One-hour RIMM summer programs: contacted Lt. Joe Raymond with Coast Guard Station Hatteras Inlet; 30-minute presentations on navigational basics as well as search and rescue stories; details TBD.

Kim Sawyer and Kathleen McLean provided details regarding the Outer Banks Trail Badge incorporated by Virginia Boy and Girl Scout Councils, which includes an option for activities on Roanoke Island. Benefits of the RIFP site for scouting activities were noted.

*Robbie Putnam*

No report.

**Commission  
Recommendations**

No Commission recommendations were noted.

Kim Sawyer encouraged all present to attend the 2:30 PM meeting of the RIC Facilities and Land Committee, which will include a presentation by the new exhibit company addressing wayfinding, the Adventure Museum, and the Visitor Center.

Elmer Midgett expressed pleasure with the school group numbers provided in the Education report. Discussion followed regarding the RIFP school group tours, with the following being noted:

- Approximately 10K will visit by end of May 2011 (McLean).
- Students come to RIFP from all over North Carolina, not just Northeast NC (Sawyer).
- Small percentage from Coastal region; most are from the NC Piedmont and Mountain regions (McLean).
- Interest in knowing how many are visiting OBX for the first time (Williams).
- Details of how tours are conducted (McLean); explanation of process of booking tours (Sawyer).

Chairman Williams initiated discussion regarding volunteers potentially building a new floating dock if the Town of Manteo would provide the materials. The following was noted in discussion:

- Question whether item needed to be official (Williams).
- Preference to work things out directly with FOEII Board Treasurer Dwight Gregory (Skinner).
- Request to be included in the procedure (Sawyer).

\* RIC Chairman Rolf Blizzard joined the meeting at 8:56 AM. \*

- Unknown whether the Town of Manteo will pay for materials (Skinner).
- Dwight Gregory agreed to have volunteers build the floating dock if provided the materials.
- Kermit Skinner agreed, unofficially, to try to work out providing building materials to Mr. Gregory.

Chairman Williams welcomed RIC Chairman Blizzard to the meeting.

Malcolm Fearing commented on the current budget situation as follows:

- Significance of proposed financial constraints and need for thought at every level of RIC.
- Kathleen McLean thanked for her work with school group tours.
- Committee encouraged to measure economic impact of school group visitation and be prepared to disclose information to NC General Assembly.

Discussion followed in response to Malcolm Fearing's statement to potentially measure economic impact of school group visitation for the NC General Assembly, with the following being noted:

- Agreement with the idea but question of how to get the information to the legislature (Midgett).
- Request for assistance from Fountain Odom as a former legislator (Fearing).
- Question of how to get the information to people voting on the issues (Midgett).
- Suggestion that discussion be held in RIC Finance Committee regarding a game plan (Sawyer).
- Agreement and request for assistance with numbers for examination by RIC Finance Committee (Fearing).
- Need for idea to be kept up front and heard again (Midgett).
- Importance of staff recognition for *all* staff involved in team effort bringing in school groups (Sawyer).

Punk Daniels provided a personal example of the significance of RIFP and Roanoke Island to older

citizens, noting a recent 3-day reunion of four couples from his 1955 pilot training class and the impression made on them as OBX visitors. Fountain Odom noted the economic impact of such visits.

**(Proposed  
Special  
Provision)**

With the regular committee agenda completed, RIC Chairman Blizzard requested to add discussion regarding the proposed Special Provision by the NC House General Government Subcommittee. Chairman Williams agreed. RIC Chairman Blizzard provided a detailed report of events leading up to receipt of the provision. He stated that he presumed the items seen in the provision are in reaction to what he had laid out for consideration in meetings he had been called to attend with legislators and their staff. RIC Chairman Blizzard added that members should proceed with any questions, thoughts, or personal contacts in the legislature to try to turn things around. He stated that he is doing the best job that he can on behalf of the RIC and RIFP.

RIC Chairman Blizzard reported that he has been advised that Valerie Bateman will no longer provide legal counsel to the RIC. In her absence, RIC member Grayson Kelley will address all legal counsel questions. Mr. Kelley has mentioned uncertainty regarding the future of positions due to severe budget cuts. RIC Chairman Blizzard stated that the RIC will hopefully receive new legal counsel. Members wishing to discuss the item further were respectfully requested to approach RIC Chairman Blizzard confidentially due to involvement of personnel issues.

Discussion followed regarding RIC Chairman Blizzard's report, with the following being noted:

- RIC Chairman Blizzard sincerely thanked for all his hard work advocating with the legislature as well as for his abilities used and time taken in his efforts (Daniels, Fearing, Midgett, Skinner, and Williams).
- Upon Elmer Midgett's request, RIC Chairman Blizzard agreed to share the proposed Special Provision information in the RIC Roanoke Voyages Corridor Committee meeting to follow.
- Question of next steps to assist in the process; i.e., who to write letters to (Skinner).
- Resolution distributed yesterday (04/27/11) for RIC consideration opposes the provision and requests RIC be treated like other historic sites (Blizzard).
- Potential demise of this type of program without obtaining public support (Daniels).
- Serious questions need to be answered in full RIC; need for financial impact of RIFP from *families*; Department of Commerce can measure economic impact of RIFP on state and Dare County economies; provision is nonsensical and incorrect; question of why Corridor Committee would be eliminated; request for opportunity to find out what is going on behind the scenes; question of why RIC lost its legal counsel; need for factual presentation showing RIC is viable and part of OBX economic engine; cuts received should be fair compared to others and structured over time; personally drafted potential items for consideration; need to prepare for 50% cut in 2011 (Odom).
- Need to get things on the table and have discussions; survival and continued operation of RIFP now most important (Fearing); and jobs of its employees (Sawyer).
- Awareness of timetable: 50% cut July 1, 2011; 100% cut July 1, 2012 (14 months from now) (Fearing).
- Suggestion that members with concerns participate in plan development (Fearing).
- Time for RIC to rally support for its Chairman (Daniels, Fearing, Midgett, and Williams).

**Announcements**

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be Friday, July 22, 2011 at 8:30 AM.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, and upon motion by Elmer Midgett and second by Punk Daniels, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Andrea Hanganu, Administrative Assistant

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