

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library Board of Regents**  
**October 30, 2017, 10:00 AM**  
**Minor Board Room, Jepson Alumni Executive Center**  
**University of Mary Washington**

**Regents Present:** G. William Thomas, Jr., Chairman; G. Scott Walker, Vice Chairman; Peter Broadbent; Col. Art Buswell; Justin Logsdon; Charles McDaniel; Helen Marie Taylor; Mary R. Corbin; Patrick McSweeney; Kerry Johnson; James Lucier; Mary Grace Lucier; Troy Paino, President, UMW.

**Regents Absent:** Erma Baker; Fred Rankin, Rector UMW; James Lucier; Mary Grace Lucier; Dr. Porter Blakemore; Rita Thomas.

**Others Present:** Scott Harris, director, JMM; Tracy DeBernard, office and store manager, JMM; Jarod Kearney, curator, JMM; Dr. Daniel Preston, editor, Papers of James Monroe; Marianna Broadbent.

**Welcome and Call to Order 10:20 AM**

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order and invited Mr. Kerry Johnson to offer an opening prayer. Following the invocation, Chairman Thomas welcomed the members and thanked everyone for adjusting their schedule to attend the meeting.

Scott Harris listed the members who were absent, see above, and made note that although notice had been received to the contrary, he was delighted Mrs. Helen Marie Taylor was able to join the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes, Meeting of May 24, 2017 10:23 AM**

Chairman Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2017 meeting with no changes. Col. Buswell moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Mr. McSweeney. The motion carried unanimously.

**UMW President's Report 10:25 AM**

President Paino began his report by stating that there are a lot of good things happening at UMW. He summarized several construction projects that are in the process or in the plans at UMW. These plans include Seacobeck Hall, currently undergoing renovations; the amphitheater project, which is in progress; and the Science Center construction, which is well underway. Following the completion of that, the next plan is to then renovate the Jepson Science Center. Paino noted the other projects in the planning and design phase include the 'quad' of original buildings on campus. Willard Hall followed by Virginia Hall will be the to undergo renovations; with more to follow. The President stated that preserving history and buildings that have historic significance are important to UMW and renovations will continue.

Dr. Paino gave a compact synopsis on the student enrollment numbers at UMW. He stated that recruitment is going well and retention is up. The University is waiting on state appropriations. At this time, there are mixed reports from Richmond about funding.

Mr. McDaniel asked President Paino where The James Monroe Museum falls in the funding for UMW- how is it stacked up? President Paino replied by asking where do you want it? What are the Board of Regents requests? Chairman Thomas said that the Board and UMW have talked about the Museum having a campus presence and has asked previously to build

upon the linkage to James Monroe. Chairman Thomas then asked if there is space in Seacobeck Hall to showcase the Monroe story. President Paino said that there are a lot of needs to be met. His preference is to renovate the library to create space for the collection and? (The Papers of James Monroe.) During the next 18-24 months he will think about how to design and create that space. He added that UMW has a national reputation of programs that highlight The James Monroe Museum and they will continue to invest in that.

The Museum Director, Scott Harris, pointed out that our ties with the Historic Preservation Society at UMW are deep. Museum staff often lectures on campus and we have an internship program for the students. It is a very good working relationship. Mr. Walker added that the program also helps the entire Fredericksburg community. His tour business, Fredericksburg Area Museum, Kenmore, and the Washington Heritage Museums all benefit from UMW's Historic Preservation Society. Chairman Thomas and Col. Buswell both agreed that the people in the room should all help and support UMW. Shortcomings should be addressed by the Board's support. President Paino was in agreement. He asked if we put a James Monroe component in (at UMW) would it be advocated and supported (by the Board)? He added that UMW has put together a very credible package to submit to the state. Paino believes that the committee is nicely divided to get the funding requested.

The discussion then turned to who in legislature would be most helpful in furthering the support and funding. They agreed that a good proponent of higher education is Tommy (?) and they should look to the younger generation of politicians for future support. The members of the Board then briefly deliberated about their position on monuments and statues that are being removed or destroyed on state property. It was decided that UMW and the Board will gladly offer their combined expertise about historic preservation but will not take a stand either way on the topic.

Chairman Thomas thanked the Board for their comments to President Paino. He stated that we stand behind the president and are all on his team. Thomas added that we are all delighted that the president is thinking ahead to incorporating James Monroe in the library and enhancing the historic discipline at UMW. He stated that if there were no more questions for President Paino we would move on to the next item on the agenda.

### **Papers of James Monroe Report 10:45 AM**

Dr. Daniel Preston, Editor of the Papers of James Monroe, greeted the Board. He announced that *Volume 6: The Papers of James Monroe* has been published and the room erupted in applause. He explained that this volume included approximately [redacted] letters and covered the first half of the War of 1812. He told the members that this is an on-going project and believes there will be 10 volumes in total. The next edition, volume 7, is currently in-the-works and should take roughly 3 years to complete. He stated that the work is interesting, fun, and a great learning experience for all involved!

Dr. Preston informed the Board that the Papers of James Monroe received big news in July of this year. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, in the amount of \$300,000 to be apportioned over a three-year period, was rewarded to the Papers. He stated that this is a great recognition of the work being done and very gratifying. He will be working with Zack (?) to seek additional sponsorship for the time remaining to complete the Papers.

Dr. Daniel Preston continued his report speaking of the three interns working with the Papers this semester. They are preparing a digital presentation of the 1818 tour. He hopes it to be completed before next semester. Preston said the presentation will be exhibited in the library (?). The next UMW museum lab course students are going to work on the 1819 tour of James Monroe. He said the Papers are a very significant part of the students' resources. Their participation is important.

Chairman Thomas told Preston that he enjoyed his work, especially artifacts and images in the *Illustrated History* publication. Daniel Preston said that he was very pleased with this great book and it was done through UMW. It is going into its second printing with the royalty checks going to the University. Museum Director Scott Harris added that the book is currently available in the Museum Store.

The Board asked questions of Dr. Preston regarding loans taken out by James Monroe to cover expenses during his time as Secretary of War and President. He responded that eventually James Monroe did receive compensation for using his personal finances for national expenses. He was able to leave his family a nice estate. Other questions were asked that were not relevant to the Papers and Preston directed them to the Museum Director, Scott Harris.

Chairman Thomas then asked if there were any more questions or remarks for the Papers of James Monroe. With no response from the Board, he requested the Museum Directors report.

### **Museum Director's Report 11:05 AM**

Mr. Scott Harris began his report with information on summer and fall activities of the James Monroe Museum. He told the board of the traveling exhibit, *In the Spirit of the People: James Monroe's 1817 Presidential Tour of the Northern States*. The exhibit was designed by UMW museum studies students. It is a joint project of the Museum and the Papers of James Monroe. The exhibit visited 17 venues and has had approximately 8,000 people view the panels. It was a great advertisement for UMW, the Museum, and the students that helped in the design. In addition to the panels, the sites received UMW materials, Museum brochures, and site specific information. The travelling exhibit was funded in part by Friends of James Monroe Museum and cost about \$15,000. Although it went slightly over budget, there was no charge to the venues that hosted the exhibit. Visitation and awareness of The James Monroe Museum and UMW increased due to the excellent media coverage. Mr. Harris hopes to secure more sponsorship for the next exhibit.

Mr. Harris briefly described the 2019 exhibit that will go on tour. He said it will be a tour of the southern states. There will be a smaller scale exhibit of the 2018 tour that will be exclusively online prior to the 2019 southern tour. A great deal was learned during the northern tour and those lessons will make the 2019 tour easier. He added that a possible collaboration with Highland on the next tour would be complementary to both sites.

Director Scott Harris continued with information on the Museum's recent activities. Many public programs associated with the bicentennial and the tour have been ongoing. He commended Lynda Allen, James Monroe Museum public programs coordinator, for her work with social media to tie everything from the exhibit, tour, and bicentennial together. Contests, quizzes, and news feeds on Twitter and Facebook were utilized to promote the tour and exhibit. Ms. Allen also created an online map of the tour for exhibit visitors to view and follow along. Mr. Harris apprized the Board of the many events coordinated by Ms. Allen and hosted by the Museum. These included Elizabeth Monroe's birthday; ceramic throwing in the garden; the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Fredericksburg Welsh Festival; and First Friday activities. Increasing in popularity, First Friday events at the Museum have brought in big crowds for trivia, historic clothing conservation, trivia, wine tastings, and chantey men. Mr. Harris then talked about other things going on that the Museum had a part in: Fox 5 Zip trip to Fredericksburg; a visit to the Museum by vacationing Senator Mark Warner; and our James Monroe's interpreter Jay Harrison's activities. Mr. Harris then related the Museum Stores new products to the Board. He noted that the bicentennial products have been a great complement to the tour. Tracy DeBernard, James Monroe Museum office and store manager, showcased a few of the Museums new products. The Museum Store now offers custom merchandise including: tote bags, face fans, desk calendars, and wine glasses. Mr. Harris informed the Board of the new exhibit *Dynamic Ceramics: Selections from The James Monroe Museum Collection* which opened on October 6. Many types of pottery are on display and it will run through spring 2018. Mr. Harris complemented Jarod Kearney, Curator, who crafted sample pieces to give visitors a hands-on experience for the exhibit. Finishing up with Museum activities, Mr. Harris told the group of the upcoming Monroe descendants reunion being planned for the spring of 2018. The Board members recommended reaching out to Clan Monroe with an invitation and information about the reunion.

Mr. Harris shared the news that he was invited to be a member of the editorial board for the White House Historical Association's (WHHA) History Journal, a quarterly publication. As part of his relationship with WHHA, Monroe will have a bigger presence in the journals. Upcoming issues will include presidential cartoons and Maria Monroe's wedding in the White House. Mr. Harris stated that the relationship between the James Monroe Museum and WHHA is strong and he can only see it getting stronger.

Next, the James Monroe Museum's financial information was presented by Scott Harris. He is happy with the fiscal year 17 numbers; income and Friends memberships both saw an increase from the previous fiscal year. The FY17 earned

income from all sources was \$75,198, an increase of roughly 10% from FY16. (Full financial breakdown is in the attached Museum Director's Report.)

Mr. Harris concluded his report with the upcoming FY18 work plan. His plan is to continue to grow revenue, work on the on-going travelling exhibit project, begin work on the 2018 and 2019 traveling exhibit, secure more sponsorship for exhibits, and develop a series of short educational videos featuring the James Monroe Museum. These videos will utilize the relationship with the UMW historic preservation department and production facilities. They will be about three minutes each and be distributed electronically.

With no additional comments made, Chairman Thomas moved the meeting on to old business.

### **Old Business 11:40 AM**

Chairman G. William Thomas Jr. asked if there was any old business to discuss. Mr. Harris stated that he had not received any information to bring forward. The chairman added that the Board of Regents would be making a donation of \$1000 to the bookplate program at the Museum. He asked Mr. Harris for more information on that. Mr. Harris said it is coming along slow and steady. The Museum has received several donations for the bookplate program. A certificate to recognize donations has been created to send to sponsors.

Chairman Thomas suggested that we publicize this in the Library of Virginia Foundation by showcasing a book and document how donations support (the refurbishment of the book.) Mr. Peter Broadbent made a note to send Tracy DeBernard a copy of a certificate done by the Library of Virginia that he said is very nice.

Mr. McSweeney asked if the Board has a strategic plan in place. Director Harris stated that the strategic plan within UMW has changed. Now that President Paino is in, he may have his own strategic plan. Paino responded by saying the first task is a vision for the future. The current strategic plan was adopted six months prior to his arrival. He wants it to move forward, to be more aspirational. Paino said in the next year, he will get more input from the James Monroe Museum. Mr. Harris added that the arts and culture work plan and performance goals have gotten better and more efficient.

Chairman Thomas asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the Board. None were forthcoming.

### **New Business 11:45 AM**

Chairman G. William Thomas requested Col. Art Buswell to submit the report for the new business item- election of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Col. Buswell replied with the nomination of Mr. Scott Walker as Chairman and G. William Thomas as Vice Chairman. Chairman Thomas motioned for approval and the motion was seconded by Mr. Broadbent. The motion carried unanimously. The new officers were offered congratulations by all.

Chairman Thomas invited Mr. Kerry Johnson to close the meeting in prayer.

### **General Discussion**

Museum Director Scott Harris invited the board of Regents to visit the Museum this afternoon and take a look at the new exhibit *Dynamic Ceramics*.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board of Regents, Chairman Thomas requested a motion for adjournment. Mr. Broadbent so moved, seconded by (?). The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM