

**Board of Regents of the James Monroe Law Office -
Museum and Memorial Library**

July 2, 2012, 12:00 p.m.
University of Mary Washington, Lee Hall, Room 412

Meeting Minutes

Lunch was served at 12:00 p.m. UMW Rector Steen called the meeting of the Board of Regents of the James Monroe Law Office - Museum and Memorial Library to order at 12:23 p.m., following which the members introduced themselves. The following members of the Board were present: Rector Daniel Steen, President Richard Hurley, Mr. G. William Thomas, Colonel Art Buswell, Mr. Peter Broadbent, Jr., Mr. Roger C. Braxton, Jr., Ms. Mary R. Corbin, Ms. Erma Baker, Dr. Porter Blakemore, Dr. Rita Thompson, Ms. Helen Marie Taylor, Dr. James Lucier, Ms. Mary Grace Lucier, Mr. Patrick McSweeney, Mr. Justin Logsdon, and Mr. Kerry Johnson. Others present were Dr. Martin Wilder, Mr. Scott Harris, and Ms. Pamela Verbeck. Absent were Mr. Charles G. McDaniel and Ms. Barbara Micou.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Thomas, President of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation (JMMF), welcomed the group by saying that “The Foundation is more interested in the future than we are in the past. We are poised for a number of great opportunities!” The history of the law office museum was shared. “The future will be much better than the past.” UMW President Hurley agreed and added that UMW is looking forward to working with the Foundation.

Discussion and Approval of Bylaws

Mr. Broadbent noted that what makes these Bylaws unusual is that the chairmanship rotates annually between UMW and the JMMF. Whenever the chairman is from UMW, the vice chairman is from the JMMF, and vice versa.

Rector Steen offered that there is a lot of interest at UMW in promoting the legacy of James Monroe.

On a motion by Mr. McSweeney, seconded by Dr. Blakemore, the Board of Regents gave unanimous approval to adopt the bylaws as presented [Attached hereto as Appendix A].

Election of Officers

Rector Steen opened the floor for election of two positions for calendar year 2012:

- A. Chairman: Dr. Thompson nominated Ms. Corbin, seconded by Dr. Blakemore. The motion was passed unanimously.

- B. Vice Chairman: Mr. Broadbent nominated Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The motion was passed unanimously.
- C. Secretary: By statute, the Secretary of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation functions as the Secretary of the Board of Regents. As a mark of respect, Colonel Buswell was nominated by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Blakemore. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. McSweeney asked that any future items that will be presented for a vote be submitted to the membership at least 10 days prior to meeting, to which Ms. Corbin agreed.

Museum Staff Report

Mr. Harris, Director of the James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library, circulated a report [Attached hereto as Appendix B] with an overview of Museum activities primarily within the last year.

1. Copies of the Museum's "Institutional Effectiveness Report" and "Summary of Artifact Acquisition and Loans" were distributed.
2. Mr. Harris indicated that the 25th Annual James Monroe Lecture will be held on the 24th of September, 2012, in the Woodard Campus Center.
3. The Papers of James Monroe has just published its fourth volume. The staffs of the Museum and the Papers are planning a James Monroe conference for October 2013. The goal is to raise awareness of James Monroe and UMW's role in promoting his legacy.
4. Rector Steen asked about the status of the Friends of the James Monroe Museum. Mr. Harris replied that the current membership is about 180 and that a membership campaign is underway. There are different levels of membership. Mr. Harris will share membership information with all Regents. Ms. Corbin encouraged all members of the Board of Regents to become members of the Friends of the Museum if not already.
5. The budget for the Museum is exactly the same as in past years. The Museum is operating within that amount.

Mrs. Taylor spoke to the importance of the Monroe Doctrine as a cornerstone of American foreign policy. She emphasized the importance of the Museum in preserving and promoting that legacy.

Mr. Thomas asked about the estimated cost of the Monroe conference and suggested that the JMMF could help support the conference. Mr. Harris replied that he does not yet have the cost data, but would share it by the next Board of Regents meeting.

Mr. McSweeney referenced Article V of the Bylaws covering the areas on which the Board of Regents advises the Board of Visitors. He asked Mr. Harris what he saw as the main priorities of the Museum. Mr. Harris replied that the Museum will be conducting the American Association for State and Local History's STEPS (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations) to help determine priorities. He would like the Museum to be more involved with area school systems. The Museum is always looking to expand resources. Rector Steen stressed the importance of highlighting James Monroe and introducing UMW students to the Museum.

Mr. Thomas said that the James Monroe Memorial Foundation would like to utilize copies of the exhibit panels created by the Monroe Museum to create outdoor educational exhibits to be placed along a nature trail at the Monroe Birthplace. He would like to explore adapting the James Monroe Museum's exhibit panels for use on the trail. President Hurley approved, with Scott Harris cautioning that some copyrighted materials were used from other sources, and those will require source approval for other use.

Mr. Thomas recommended that the Board of Regents adopt a resolution to thank retiring director Carolyn Holmes of Ash Lawn-Highland for her 31 years of service. A resolution will be presented at the next meeting of the Board of Regents.

Dr. Lucier noted that an oath of allegiance signed by James Monroe at Valley Forge is at the National Archives, and that he would send a copy of the document to the Museum.

Mr. Broadbent reported that he had circulated the most recent Museum newsletter to the members of the Virginia Bicentennial Commission of the American War of 1812, who were complimentary about the newsletter, and who had authorized the Museum, if it so desired, to use the Commission's logo on its website and to link to the Commission's website. Mr. Broadbent will send the necessary information to Mr. Harris.

Old Business

Mr. Thomas brought up a portrait once thought to be of James Monroe by Frothingham that was given to the museum by Lillian Thomas Pratt. This was determined to be a fake portrait and subsequently had added paint layers taken off to reveal the original portrait underneath. Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Mr. McSweeney, and amended by a friendly amendment by Dr. James Lucier, to recommend to the UMW Board of Visitors that it allow the JMMF to make a photographic copy of the original painting from a transparency so that the fake portrait can be used for educational purposes by the Foundation. The motion was unanimously approved and will be presented to the UMW Board of Visitors with background information from Mr. Harris for consideration. The Foundation would pay for the cost of the reproduction.

New Business

1. Dr. Lucier moved that a resolution of thanks be voted for Daniel Steen for his role in organizing the Board of Regents meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Colonel Buswell recalled a past loan of objects from the James Monroe Museum to the Colonial Beach Museum. He expressed hope that another such loan might be possible. Mr. Harris indicated his willingness to discuss the idea.
3. It was requested that a Board of Regents membership list, complete with contact information, be shared.

Set Date for Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be set after a new Rector is elected.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Chairman Corbin adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:15 p.m.