

**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, Secretary; 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; 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 noted that although notice had been received to the contrary, he was delighted Mrs. Taylor was able to join the meeting.

#### **Approval of Minutes, Meeting of May 24, 2017**

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

#### **UMW President's Report**

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 expansion of the Jepson Science Center and renovation of the Amphitheatre. Dr. Paino noted the other renovation projects in the planning and design phase include Seacobeck Hall and the two original dormitories on campus, Willard Hall and Virginia Hall. The President stated that preserving history and buildings that have historic significance are important to UMW.

Dr. Paino gave a brief synopsis of student enrollment numbers at UMW. He stated that recruitment is going well, and retention is up. The University is waiting on state appropriations; 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 Museum 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 in historic preservation and museum studies that collaborate with the Museum and they will continue to invest in sustaining that reputation.

Director Harris pointed out that our ties with the historic preservation program at UMW are deep. Museum staff often lecture on campus and the Bowley Scholars provide valuable help while learning practical skills. It is a very good working relationship. Mr. Walker added that the program also helps the entire Fredericksburg community. His tour business, the Fredericksburg Area Museum, Kenmore, and the Washington Heritage Museums all benefit from UMW's historic preservation program. Chairman Thomas and Col. Buswell both agreed that the people in the room should all help and support UMW. Shortcomings should be addressed with the Board's support. President Paino agreed.

General discussion followed on various key members of the General Assembly who figure in support and funding of higher education. Mr. Broadbent reviewed the chairman of relevant committees and noted that as the older generation of legislators retires, rising leaders should be cultivated for support.

The Board then briefly deliberated about the University's position on monuments and statues on state property that are being removed or destroyed. President Paino noted that UMW faculty and staff members are advising on such matters in Fredericksburg, particularly the slave auction block at the corner of William and Charles streets, but the University will not take a stand on similar matters elsewhere.

Chairman Thomas thanked the Board for their comments to President Paino. He stated that the Board stands behind the President and are all on his team. Mr. Thomas added that Regents are all delighted that the president is thinking ahead to incorporating James Monroe in the library and enhancing historic preservation at UMW.

### **Papers of James Monroe Report**

Dr. Daniel Preston, Editor of the Papers of James Monroe, announced that Volume 6 of the Papers has been published. He explained that this volume includes over 500 documents and covers Monroe's career as secretary of state up to the first half of the War of 1812. Production of Volume 7 is underway, and should take about three years to complete.

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 awarded 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 Hatcher in UMW's Development office to seek additional funding for the Papers.

Dr. Preston noted that three interns are working with the Papers this semester. They are preparing a digital presentation of Monroe's 1818 tour of the Chesapeake Bay region. Next semester, UMW museum lab course students will work on Monroe's 1819 southern states tour. Student work on this project, which is a collaboration between the Papers and the Museum, is another example of experiential learning.

Chairman Thomas told Preston that he enjoyed his work, especially artifacts and images in his book, *James Monroe: An Illustrated History*. Dr. Preston said that he was very pleased with the book, which is going into its second printing with the royalty checks going to the University. Director Harris added that the book is currently available in the Museum Store.

Dr. Lucier asked questions of Dr. Preston regarding loans taken out by James Monroe to cover expenses for preparing the defenses of New Orleans during the War of 1812, and whether this left Monroe in a precarious financial state personally. Dr. Preston explained that the loans, while made in Monroe's name, were not actually personal obligations. Late in his life, Monroe was reimbursed for personal expenses incurred for official business throughout his career. He was thus able to leave his family a nice estate.

Chairman Thomas then asked if there were any more questions or remarks for the Papers of James Monroe. Hearing none, he requested the Museum Director's report.

## Museum Director's Report

Mr. Harris began his report with information on summer and fall activities of the Museum. He then commented on 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, and is a joint project of the Museum and the Papers of James Monroe. The exhibit visited 17 venues in six states and was seen by approximately 8,000 people from May to October of this year. It was a great advertisement for UMW, the Museum and Papers, and the students who helped in the design. In addition to the panels, the sites received UMW recruitment materials and Museum brochures. The travelling exhibit was funded in part by the 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 1819 southern states tour exhibit. 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 from staging the first exhibit, and those lessons will make the 2019 tour easier. He added that a possible collaboration with James Monroe's Highland on the next tour would be beneficial to both sites.

Mr. Harris continued with information on the Museum's recent activities. Many public programs associated with the Monroe Presidential Bicentennial and the tour have been ongoing. He commended Lynda Allen, the Museum's 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 exhibit. UMW geography students and faculty created an online map of the tour for exhibit visitors to view and follow along.

Among the many events coordinated by Ms. Allen and hosted by the Museum were Elizabeth Monroe's birthday; the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Fredericksburg Welsh Festival; and First Friday activities. First Friday events have brought in big crowds for History Trivia, Sketchy History, a wine tasting, tavern night, and lectures on costume conservation and other topics.

Mr. Harris summarized various promotional activities in which the Museum took part, including Fox 5 TV's *Zip Trip* to Fredericksburg, the *American Evolution 2019* commemoration, and James Monroe interpreter Jay Harrison's appearances in various parts of the country. Mr. Harris described the Museum Store's new products, noting that Bicentennial merchandise has been a great complement to the tour exhibit. Office and Store Manager Tracy DeBernard showcased a few of the Museum's new products. The Store now offers custom merchandise including tote bags, Monroe 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 and will run until next fall. Mr. Harris complemented Curator Jarod Kearney, who crafted sample pieces to give visitors a hands-on experience with the exhibit. Finishing up with Museum activities, Mr. Harris told the group of the upcoming Monroe descendants reunion planned for the April 2018. The Board members recommended reaching out to Clan Munro in Scotland 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) quarterly journal, *White House History*. Issues over the next five years will include presidential political cartoons (with an article by Harris) 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.

Turning to the Museum's financial information, Mr. Harris reported that earned income and Friends memberships both saw increases 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 travelling exhibit project, secure more sponsorship for exhibits, and develop a series of short educational videos featuring

the Museum. These videos will utilize the relationship with UMW's history department and digital production facilities. They will be about three minutes each and be distributed electronically.

### **Old Business**

Chairman Thomas 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 donating \$1,000 to the bookplate program at the Museum. He asked Mr. Harris for information on the status of the program. Mr. Harris reported that several donations were received recently, and that a donor certificate has been created. Mr. Broadbent stated that he would send Mr. Harris an example of a similar certificate provided by the Library of Virginia.

Mr. McSweeney asked if the Board has a strategic plan. Director Harris stated that the Museum is mentioned very briefly in the current UMW strategic plan. President Paino stated that the current strategic plan was adopted six months prior to his arrival. He wants to create a new plan for the University that is more aspirational. Dr. Paino said in the next year, he will get more input from the Museum as part of the plan development process. Mr. Harris added that UMW's promotion of Arts and Culture has become more creative and effective.

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

### **New Business**

Chairman Thomas asked Col. Buswell to submit his report for the one new business item—election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year. Col. Buswell replied with the nomination of G. Scott Walker as Chairman and G. William Thomas, Jr. as Vice Chairman. Chairman Thomas called for a motion to approve the nominations and elected the new officers. The motion was made by Mr. McSweeney and seconded by Mr. McDaniel, and carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Thomas invited Mr. Johnson to close the meeting in prayer. With no further business to come before the Board of Regents, Mr. Thomas requested a motion for adjournment. Col. Buswell so moved, seconded by Mr. McDaniel. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Director Scott Harris invited the Board of Regents to visit the Museum this afternoon and view the new exhibit *Dynamic Ceramics*.