



Fort Mill History Museum
2024 Annual Member Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2024

Present: Christia Humburg (Executive Director), David Ward (Chairman), Kevin Toevs, Ashley Taylor (Treasurer), Mary Sue Wolfe, Jason Terrell, Rudy Sanders, Danny Funderburk, Chris Wolfe, Anne Nelson, Rita Carter, Ira Coltharp, Anna Bagwell, Phil Lewis, Philip Blaschke, Lee Ann McDaniel, Carol Case, Karen Jones, and Gary Blount

- Call to order: 3:28 pm with the meeting be held at the Fort Mill Church of God Center for Discipleship Building
- Welcome
 - D. Ward thanked everyone for coming and went through a safety minute. D. Ward explained the quickest exit route and stated in case of an evacuation need, he would be the lead and requested that Danny Funderburk be the last to leave to ensure everyone has safely exited.
- Thanks to Members and Volunteers
 - D. Ward thanked all members and volunteers for all their support and time/efforts.
- Thanks to outgoing Board Members
 - Jenny Parrish – served for 3 years.
 - D. Ward thanked J. Parrish for serving on the board for three years. He highlighted that she works for Olde English District and served as a tourism resource for C. Humburg.
 - Ashley Taylor – served as treasurer for 6 years.
 - D. Ward thanked A. Taylor for serving as the treasurer for 6 years.
- Current Board Members Extending for their 2nd term:
 - D. Ward acknowledged the following board members who agreed to serve their second term:
 - Jan Martin
 - Ginger Williams
- New Board Members Vote (2024-2027)

- The following new board members were presented to the members for their approval:
 - Phil Blaschke – AME, Inc.
 - Ira Coltharp – Coltharp, Inc.
 - Lee Ann McDaniel – Celeros Flow Technology
 - Jason Therrell – Cummins
- Motions for Approval:
 - Chris Wolfe motioned for the presented nominees to be approved as FMHM Board Members for the 2024-2027 term.
 - Kevin Toevs seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- Introduction/Vote of Slate of 2024 Officers
 - The following officer nominations were presented to the members for their approval:
 - Chair: David Ward, Jr.
 - Vice Chair: Jason Therrell
 - Treasurer: Lee Ann McDaniel
 - Secretary: Kelly Keniston
 - Motions for approval:
 - Chris Wolfe motioned for the presented nominations be approved as officers for 2024.
 - Kevin Toevs seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- Treasurers' Report
 - 2023 Financial Highpoints:
 - The museum surpassed its overall budget for 2023. This was due to many things, but here are a few highlights:
 - The Lanterns and Legends Tour surpassed the 2023 budgeted revenue. Ticket sales and private tours generated \$10,942.
 - The second annual Strawberry Soiree also surpassed the 2023 budget amount. After expenses, the Soiree made \$4,942. This is great for a second time event.

- The museum staffed the beer tents at many town events and downtown jams, including the Strawberry Fest. The museum made \$20,080 from these events.
- For the first time since COVID, the museum met its Sponsorship goal. The sponsorship team generated \$49,000 in sponsorships.
- The museum has two contingency savings funds which are 1) six-month museum operations account, and 2) emergency museum maintenance account. Both contingency accounts were increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000 each in 2023.
- 2024 Budget
 - The budget was presented to the board in October 2023. It will be posted online once it's approved in February at the board retreat. There was only one major change from previous years:
 - The museum was able to include an additional staff member in the budget. This position is a part time Museum Services Coordinator and will primarily assist C. Humburg with museum operations.
 - D. Ward and C. Humburg thanked everyone for their contributions big and small, including financial contributions, time, knowledge, & goods/services. They expressed how appreciated everyone's efforts were and how instrumental they were to the success of the museum. D. Ward also encouraged everyone to reach out to their network to continue to get people involved.
- 2023 Accomplishments/Executive Director Update
 - C. Humburg presented the FMHM Annual Membership Meeting Executive Director Reports which is included in Appendix A of this document.
- Chairman Remarks
 - In closing, D. Ward thanked everyone and stated the museum has become more of a brand during his time on the board and thanked C. Humburg for her efforts and leadership. He recognized the improvements the museum has made in research, eliminating the mortgage, and serving as resource for the community.
- Adjournment @ 4:10

Appendix A

FMHM Annual Membership Meeting-Directors Report 1.25.24

Hello everyone, I'm Christia Humburg and the Executive Director of the museum.

Thank you all so much for coming today and all that you give to the museum, your time, your knowledge, and your financial support.

This past year was another full and busy year. Full of events, organizing, meetings, volunteering, advertising, building relationships and full of us continuing to share Fort Mill's story with our

community and visitors from all over the globe. I really felt that this year was a turning point for us. We paid off the mortgage, started new relationships and strengthened the ones that we had, filled all our Team Leader positions, reinforced a solid financial foundation (especially with the help of the FM Atax grant) and was approved to hire another staff member. Overall, we continued to work together, increased our volunteer numbers, events, event attendance, funding, and awareness of the museum.

Our successes for 2023 were many:

- The strategic plan, budget, updated museum reps, and most of the team minutes are either on the website or will be by the end of January.
- Held our annual board retreat and annual member meeting in January. Welcomed new board members Juanita Sanders & Eddie Young.
- Ended our “Let’s Make the Mortgage History” campaign and paid off the mortgage with Mr. Jim Cammann in January 2023.
- Updated our White Gallery to tell more of Fort Mill’s story. This project began in early ’23, and was led by Dr. Ginger Williams, with the help of Jason Heckert (Winthrop graduate). The project was completed in Dec. ’23, an informational session was held for the museum guides and a video was made to provide a teaching tool to the group if needed. Currently the script is being recorded so that the audio tour can get up and going again soon.
- The Newsletter is being dispersed quarterly and continues to receive positive feedback. If you aren’t getting these, they live on the website but please let me know so that I can make sure that you are receiving them. Eblasts are sent out monthly.
- Advertised in SC Living Magazine and on Facebook. We continue to work with Visit York County, the SC Welcome centers, the Olde English District Tourism Commission and SCPRT to increase our tourism attendance. Very excited to say that we were able to get into the Visit York County’s annual Destination Guide, Go Explore Charlotte’s yearly guide and SC’s annual vacation guide. It was the first time for the museum to be in all 3 of these publications.
- We were able to work with a graphic designer to produce several new banners and tabletop signs along with printing more rack cards, walking tour brochures, bookmarks, and membership brochures. Also, advertised through Constant Contact, and Facebook with the help of our Database system.
- All of this advertising, along with operational expenses, tree maintenance and major foundation repair was made possible by the Fort Mill Accommodations Tax grant that was received of \$69,500. This is the 2nd year in a row that we have received such a significant amount.
- Active on Facebook & Instagram, with engagement continuing to increase.
- Carson Cope, our Collections Manager, continues to do a great job with the items that we receive.

- Amanda Baer, our Communications Manager, will be with us 2 years coming up in February. Last year she handled social media, newsletters, the website, eblasts, misc. communication and more. She adopted a baby in April '23 so we have been working to shift her job tasks to better meet our needs as well as hers.
- Birgit Taylor with White Paw Studio is our graphic designer that works on an as needed basis for multiple projects.
- Tony McMehan continues to provide video and audio support where needed.
- The High School Board Representative program completed its 2nd year. A FMSD student from each high school is represented and we welcomed 3 new reps for 2023. They were able to hold their first event which was the Memory Mill of Fort Mill event on 12/1/23. The event was sponsored by AME and was a huge success. All 3 high schools participated in an art, literature, and photography contest. A history trivia challenge was held at Catawba Ridge and a local food pantry benefited with donations. This was led by David Ward.
- Worked with the Town of Fort Mill on the Strawberry Scavenger Hunt, Strawberry Fest & Jam beer sales, and several other beer sales fundraising events.
- Maintained a partnership with Amor Artis and Hobos on multiple downtown events and park events for fundraising for alcohol sales.
- Held the 2nd Annual Strawberry Soiree in April with a silent auction, DJ, dancing, food, wine pull, open bar, and an exhibit on Fort Mill's 150th birthday celebration.
- Saw several groups in the museum such as homeschool groups, Carolina Orchards, and other private groups.
- Joe and Flora Doraski did Pioneer Crafts at the Farmers Market and on the back porch. They worked with Madison Martin and her students at Catawba Ridge on the Scarecrows and so much more.
- Started an Amazon Wishlist that is provided to the public.
- Participated in the annual Christmas parade, the Ag+Art tour, a new Downtown Coop Community dinner fundraiser and the York County Genealogy expo.
- Lanterns & Legends was a huge success, most of the nights sold out, we doubled our private tour number and did 8 private tours. We were able to give our FM Garden club a tour again this year as a thank you for all the work that they do.
- Held 4 Lunch & Learns, a book signing for Bayles Mack, started an FM History 101 Tour that runs from April to Oct., and held a very successful Old-Fashioned Christmas with Mr. & Mrs. Claus. This event was a great partnership with the Town.
- Anne Nelson and Kevin Toevs continue to offer quite a bit of administrative support.
- We have changed the name of our Front Desk Volunteers to Museum Guides, it was confusing for new people.
- Many Museum Guides open the museum daily and the museum could not operate without them.
- Libby Chambers continues to oversee the Museum Guides
- Jake Humburg (volunteer) continues to update the website on an as needed basis.

- Angela Payne was our Database Coordinator but stepped down in October. At this time, Krista Huff took her place and then we started reorganizing the position. A new job description was created and presented to the board and in Oct. it was approved to hire a part time Museum Services Coordinator. The position was advertised on the website, in the newsletter and the eblast. After an interview, Krista Huff was chosen as the Museum Services Coordinator. She began on January 2nd of this year and will handle more of the day-to-day tasks of the museum, such as daily staffing, property issues, operational items, and some communications. This has been a huge blessing for the museum.
- Built a stronger relationship with the County Council and our rep. Debi Cloninger. We received \$10,000 to put towards our building project.
- Attendance in the museum and events continue to rise. See the following numbers below:
 - 2021-1,894
 - 2022-2,631
 - 2023-3,340
- Currently, I want to call attention to the different teams that we have:
- Education Team is led by Madison Martin and has 10 members.
 - The team has worked to revamp the program this summer. We realized that we needed to engage the kids more, so we are trying to do that through Google slides, quick points on FM history, games and a pencil.
 - New fliers were made to be distributed to educators.
 - We met with the new Social Studies representative of the District and is working on building awareness with the teachers.
 - Presented to several elementary schools.
 - Presented to the FMSD an FM101 History walking tour.
 - In Jan.'24, a presentation was given to the school board and the state board.
 - The team worked on the Strawberry Scavenger Hunt, this was a partnership with the town of Fort Mill and a free event for the community.
- Grants Processing Team is led by Rick Dammann and has 5 members:
 - We Received the SCPRT TAG grant and the York County Accommodations Tax grant for marketing. Also, the Fort Mill Accommodations Tax grant covered marketing, operations, and maintenance.
 - The team worked with Winthrop to digitize the George Fish yearbooks. This link is now available on the museum's website.
 - The team is also working with Ann Evans. The Springs family is digitizing the Springs Bulletins with Winthrop, and these will be available in the future. The museum will be provided with a link so that we can link them to our site.
 - The team applied for several grants and had success with Walmart and now the museum will be able to put \$1500 into technology.
- History Research Team is led by Megan Brinton and has 22 members.

- There are 18 topics under the History Topics tab on the website and these are being completed by the research team. Many members of that team have been instrumental in acquiring information that is valuable and a strong resource to the community.
- The team went on several field trips throughout the year.
- Please make it a priority to go out to look at those topics. This tab is being updated continuously. This has increased the value of our organization and our website.
- Property & Facilities Team was led by James Shirey. This team has 10 members.
 - Yard clean up days were held and brought out several volunteers.
 - Roof repair completed.
 - Foundation stabilization phase 1 was completed by Falcone Crawlspace. We are currently in the middle of phase 2 and should be completed in February.
 - The Duke Energy tree and line project which started over a year ago should be completed by spring '24. Just this week they removed 11 trees from our yard. They will continue to grind stumps, top out trees, and bury the power lines over the next few months. Once they are done, we will decide on what we need to do with the 13 trees that are left. We will have to top them out at some point.
 - The Boy scouts will be starting the fence project in the upcoming weeks. A fence will be built on the side and the front of the property as phase 1. Phase 2 of the fence project will be at the back of the property, the alleyway side, and then the rest of the front but won't be started until late '24.
 - Continue to work with the Fort Mill Garden Club to beautify our grounds.
- Sponsorship Team got a new leader, John Pettus and has 7 members.
 - The Team surpassed its goal for '23 and has increased the goal to \$45,000 for '24.
 - Our sponsors are listed on the website, newsletters & the eblasts. Please support our sponsors and let them know how much it is appreciated that we receive their funding,
- Volunteer Coordination Team has recently obtained a new leader, Carol Case and has 10 members.
 - Held a Museum Guide volunteer appreciation breakfast.
 - The group met consistently.
 - Held an annual Museum Guide training session.
 - Started a "Coffee & Donuts" with the Museum Guides to offer a social event and throw in some history for fun.
 - Held a first time Overall Volunteer Appreciation event as a chili cookoff in the backyard. It was very successful and have hopes of increasing the attendance and continuing this as an annual event.
 - Overall, we have 156 volunteers.
- Finance Team is led by Ashley Taylor and has 4 members.

- Meetings are held as needed.
- A goal is to divide up tasks among members so that the work is divided up accordingly.
- You can see the team minutes on the website and if you don't see them, please let me know and I can get them to you. We do have a few holes but are working to update them by the end of January. Other FMHM organizational docs are on the site as well.
- I was unable to complete my 3rd and final year of Marketing college due to sickness but am hoping to do that this year.

More items were accomplished but the above are the highlights of the year.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone that supported me this year, 2023 was a bit easier than 2022, we did move back to our house in Jan. after major construction and living in a hotel for 10 months. My mother's health continues to decline but we just take it one day at a time. I appreciate all those volunteers that offer kind words, a card and support.

For 2024, we are planning several events. We are hoping to do 2-3 major event fundraisers, a few small fundraisers, 6 lunch and learns, more member events, plans to partner with other organizations, more tours and continue growing the organization. We would also like to work towards having some pop-up exhibits around the community to bring awareness to the museum. Also, with the grant money, marketing is a top priority for the museum and the events.

I want to thank everyone for their membership, donations, volunteering their time, and so much more. We could not operate the museum without your dedication and passion for this town and its history. Please continue to view our website, eblasts, newsletter, and social media to see what's happening in 2024. We are looking forward to seeing you all more and having some fun in the upcoming year.

Christia Humburg
Executive Director
1/25/24