

Friends of Fort Fremont Statement of Activities for Annual Meeting June 2015

During the past year, the board and members have worked on the following projects and activities:

Educational

- Webpage development is on-going: It will include video for self-guided tours (free to the public) and in partnership with the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce. FFF Webmaster: Cyndi Follich.
- Conducted tours of Ft. Fremont: Native Plant Society, groups, and local school children
- Maintained rack cards in motels, Chamber of Commerce, and Visitors Centers in Beaufort and Point South. Anne Kennedy
- Taught USCB OLLI classes on Fort Fremont: presented by Dr. Ray Rollings.
- Scheduled to teach USCB OLLI class in Fall 2015 on the Diorama and Fort Fremont: presented by Dr. Ray Rollings and Dennis Cannady.
- Presentation to Rotary Club on Fort Fremont and the Diorama, scheduled for the Fall 2015: Dr. Ray Rollings and Steve Linn.

Infrastructure

- Worked with Beaufort County on plans for a potential future Interpretive Center at Fort Fremont.
- Removal of graffiti on Fort Fremont structures: Dr. Dawn Ashlock, Ian Hill, and Mark Roseneau. The County Crew worked collaboratively to develop techniques to solve this major problem at the Fort. Exterior graffiti damage has been repaired. Interior remains to be done yet.
- Supported historical signage development: Drs. Ray and Marian Rollings provided research work and display posters from the 2012 Verdier House Exhibit for Ft. Fremont signage development by Beaufort County and their contractor, *The History Workshop* of Charleston, SC
- Commissioned master modeler Dennis Cannady to create a scale model (diorama) of the historic 1904 Fort Fremont. This diorama will include the batteries, buildings, other structures, and guns present when the fort was in full operation. The model will be displayed in the Interpretive Center when it opens.
- Appointed Interpretive Center Committee Co-Chairs to develop and implement displays for the Interpretive Center. Drs. Ray and Marian Rollings to chair the committee.
 - Creating a graphic design for the Interpretive Center and its contents.
- Appointed Memorial Plaque Committee to recommend type of memorial plaque(s) for Adoption of Buildings from Diorama: Bonnie Wright to chair this committee.
- Appointed Committee for Beach Erosion Project- Partner with SCORE, DNR and County: Steve Linn to chair this committee.

Fund Raising

- Fund Raisers for 2014-15: Janelle Proctor, Wendy Wilson
 1. Diorama Lecture and Adoption of Buildings Fund Raiser: Partnering with Port Royal Historical Society, (Joe Lee) this lecture and fundraiser was held at the historic Union Church in Port Royal. The lecture (by Dennis Cannady) explained the diorama construction techniques and presented plans for all structures to be

modeled. All 48 structures in the diorama were adopted by friends and members in order to pay for the project. The diorama will be the centerpiece of the future Interpretive Center.

2. Annual Oyster Roast: Partner with Native Plant society
 3. First Annual Wine Social at Saltus Restaurant, with special recognition to Rob Mondavi for his generous donation of wine.
- Developed a Public Relations Plan for the opening of the Interpretive Center and wrote an ATAX grant proposal that brought us \$12,000 for publicity of the Fort and the grand opening of the Interpretive Center.

Administrative

- Conducted monthly meetings at the St. Helena Library. Also held meetings with key people at the Beaufort County Planning Department, as needed.
- Membership in Beaufort Chamber of Commerce: includes paid linkage to the Chamber of Commerce website and *Facebook*, and *TripAdvisor*; this provides access to greater tourism audience.
- Recipient of Historic Beaufort Foundation Award 2014: recognition for the Rollings, Friends of Fort Fremont and Beaufort County for work on and about Fort Fremont (the 2012 *Fort Fremont: Homeland Security 1898* Exhibit at the HBF Verdier House)
- Historian Appointed: Dennis Adams, former Beaufort county librarian
- Developed partnership with the St. Helena Branch of the Beaufort Public Library. The library provides meeting space, technical support, and use of media labs, as well as displaying information on Fort Fremont. Maria Benac, Library Director, St. Helena Branch, and her team have been invaluable.
- Appointed Committee on Archeology: Chairs Dawn and Phillip Ashlock, archeologists
- Development of synergistic partnerships: with Port Royal Historical Society, Historic Beaufort Foundation, Beaufort Historical Society, Dataw Island Historical Society, Beaufort Schools, Beaufort Public Library, Penn Center, National Organizations, Clemson Alumni and more to come
- Annual Membership Meeting 9 June 2015: speaker Robb Wells from Chamber of Commerce discussing Public Relations and Fort Fremont

Remember the quote from Ms Spearman: "None of us is as smart as all of us"