**Virginia Archaeology Charitable Trust Board meeting minutes**

**July 17, 2020, 9:30 AM**

**Conference Call**

In attendance: Randy Lichtenberger, Chris McDaid, Crystal O’Connor, Jolene Smith

Call began at 9:36 AM

Website:

* The website works!
* Jolene feels comfortable launching more projects. The plugins are delicate at times, but there is nothing else we can do on our end.
* Submissions may see less than expected because people’s credit cards might expire in the duration.
	+ Recommend making project deadlines short and go for smaller chunks.
* VACT collected 10% of the donations.
* Dave and Thane received the money on their end for their project.
* Jolene will work on the Help Documentation part of the website to make FAQs clear.

Launching other projects:

* Randy would like to see several larger projects online, in part so we have money to pay fees.
	+ Would like to have between three and five projects up online by fall when we have the grand launch, possibly in October to coincide with Archaeology month.
	+ Potential projects include Alexandria’s $10,000 open-ended project; Fairfield’s smaller 3D printer project; and other contenders such as CW, Germanna, and Red Hill.
	+ Randy would like to show people the website and the model works and that we’re not competing with other donors.
	+ Other potential future projects could include Cabellsville Project through the University of South Florida (all projects currently on pause because of the virus); and the Slave Cemetery at Red Hill (Randy never heard back probably because of the virus).
	+ Alexandria, Germanna, and Fairfield would be good to launch then regroup and get some more ideas.
* Jolene asked about soliciting from COVA for projects, but we could do this closer to October so that people have something to look at on the website.
* Randy mentioned about including a direct donation to Threatened Sites through our partnership with ASV.
	+ Jolene said she’ll start this project and will show Randy how to load it so that at least one other person is cross-trained.
* Chris said there is a museum on post [Joint Base Langley-Eustice] but that the museum doesn’t do archaeology. He said the City of Newport News has an archaeologist who has done work around historic house museums.
* Chris recommended putting descriptions about these projects into the Quarterly Newsletter of the ASV.
* Jolene recommended using the website to fund the publication of a new projectile points book.
* Randy said that he would like to get Tom [Cuthberson] to post on social media about the launch.
* Randy asked if we can work with people to get Jolene data she might need, but Jolene said that most of the heavy work is done if people submit their application the normal way.
* Randy said that we will have to figure out the process to approve projects, and the projectile point book might be a good test run.

Threatened sites app to consider:

* Jolene said that JMU created a crowdsourcing app for data collection.
* Crystal said it could work, but we’d need to protect the location.
* Jolene questioned who will maintain it and update it? Who is the audience and future use? One time graphic? Useful for future use?
	+ Randy envisioned this for long term interaction. Updates wouldn’t be mandatory, and it’d be a kind of Wiki type platform where people would update it themselves. He said that it might give us an idea of how best to prioritize Threatened Sites money.
	+ Jolene said that DHR is working on a survey plan to prioritize the money, which might include planning tools for archaeologists to contribute for internal use judgmental areas they’d prioritize for survey. Hard to deal with private property issues.
	+ Decided probably don’t need to pursue this route.

Final thoughts:

* Chris recommended with early launch projects to focus on projects that are fairly simple to explain and articulate the benefit that have short completion times so you get a lot of little wins early.
	+ Jolene thought it might be better to split the Alexandria project into smaller goals.

Next meeting will be early August. Consider potential additional projects in the meantime.

Call adjourned 10:10 AM