

# DRAFT

## COUNTY OF OSWEGO Tourism Advisory Council

06/20/2023

Fort Ontario State Historic Site, 1 E. Fourth St., Oswego

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b> Jim Hotchkiss, Chairman Eva Corradino, Paul Lear, Linda Middleton, Kelly Morrisette, Mercedes Niess.	<b>STAFF:</b> Daniel Breitweg, Jen Longley, Raven Ahart, Lisa Gray, Kelly Jordal.
<b>GUESTS:</b> David Granoff, Josh Ludden, Mary Kay Stone.	
<b>EXCUSED:</b> Thomas Brown, Hon. Mary Ellen Chesbro, Kristi Eck, Dan Harrington, Tim Stahl, David Owens, Savannah Wyckoff.	
<b>MEDIA:</b>	

Chairman Jim Hotchkiss called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

### **1. Welcome and Introductions:**

2. **Host Presentation:** Paul Lear welcomed TAC members to Fort Ontario. He also gave a brief update on some of the construction projects the Fort has been working on. Paul introduced Dave McLean, the tin smith who worked on a variety of projects for Fort Ontario. Paul gave an update on upcoming events at the Fort. Women's weekend will be held on 6/24-6/25. Paul said the Fort is continuing to build their artifact collection.

3. **Approval of Minutes from May 17, 2023**

**Motion to approve minutes:** Eva Coradino

**Second:** Mercedes Niess

**Vote:** Unanimous, motion carried

4. **Old Business**

A. **Advertising Opportunities for the updated F&H Guide:** Raven said the tourism office has begun to solicit ads for the new edition of the fishing and hunting guide. She passed around an insertion order and advertising letter. She noted if members are interested in placing an ad to please email the tourism email, [tourism@oswegocounty.com](mailto:tourism@oswegocounty.com), an insertion order along with their content.

B. **TAC ideas: Themes/Hosts:** Jim suggested TAC could meet at the Tin Shop in Mexico. He would like to show the preserved historical bank in Mexico. Eva suggested that someone could present to TAC on micron and available opportunities. Josh, from senator Mannion's office, said he could get the details from his office regarding opportunities related to Micron and send it over to TAC members. Eva mentioned that there is a subcommittee on tourism that is run by Sarah Broadwell, Chair, and Dan B. Vice Chair. Jim asked if Sarah B. could come speak to TAC members. Dan B. said he will ask her. Eva asked about what is happening with the eclipse. Jen L. said she will have an update on the eclipse plans for the next TAC meeting. Mercedes said she watched the port authority board meeting. During this meeting, helicopter rides were approved during Harborfest, flying off the west pier. Mercedes was confirming this information with TAC members. Members were not aware. Mercedes will contact Dan at Harborfest.

5. **New Business**

A. **Blog Solicitation:** Daniel B. explained the Oswego County tourism website is getting a huge overhaul. The tourism staff meets with the development team on a weekly basis, but the projected finish date isn't until fall. Dan explained they are looking for TAC members to write short blog posts about topics they are experts in. For example, Paul could write a short blog on the history of Fort Ontario. The goal of the blog is to have creative historical content that would convince tourists to visit Oswego County. The blog would live on the home page of the new tourism website.

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**B. County Fair:** The county fair is 6/30-7/2. Lisa sent around forms for TAC members who might be interested in setting up a table for display in the tourism building. Tables should be set up on Thursday the 29th, members can set their displays up between noon and 3 p.m. Lisa also passed around a volunteer sheet and encouraged members sign up. Paul asked to confirm the dates of the County Fair. He noted that the fourth of July parade is on 7/2 this year and could cause conflict. Harold Smith, Oswego County fair coordinator, spoke about the history of the county fair. He said the dates were changed to coordinate with the ride vendor. They have three main events this year, a corn hole tournament, truck pulls, and antique tractor pulls, along with rides and animals. Harold noted the county fair is free admission and free parking. Harold invited all TAC members and their families to attend!

## 6. Member and Guest Communications:

1. David G. said he has been working on his website, [www.discoverupstateny.com](http://www.discoverupstateny.com), and he created a map to locate all electronic vehicle charging stations in New York State. He explained that you can search for charging stations on his website by city and the maps are updated regularly.
2. Mercedes said the lighthouse boat tours open Friday and Saturday, 6/23 & 6/24. Restoration team has been sanding floors at the lighthouse. July and August the museum will be adding Thursdays to the boat tours schedule. Paddlefest is coming up, 7/15. Mercedes asked members if they are interested in participating to sign up via their website. Mercedes said they are partnering with the Erie Canal to host a Beers, Bikes and Barges event on 6/22. She said Greg Mills, owner of Murdock's, will be leading the tour along the canal starting at the H. Lee. White Maritime Museum ending at Gibby's Irish Pub. Mercedes also said B-24 "Getaway Gertie" event will be held at Breitbeck park, 6/24, 11 a.m. Rain location is the McCrobie building.
3. Mary Kay said Richardson Bates Museum will be hosting a concert Saturday, 9/2, at Fort Ontario. She also said they will be displaying Dr. Mary Walker's congressional medal of honor, 8/26.
4. Eva said the Oswego Historical Society will be hosting yoga on the lawn, Saturday, 6/24, 1 p.m. The river side cemetery guided tour is Sunday, 6/25, 11 a.m. The historical society is suggesting a \$10 donation. Eva said the city is planning a family fun day in August. Eva also requested members to send over any items they wish to display at the Visitor Center. The center is currently open Thursday-Friday, 3-7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. She also said she has been working with the county to staff the visitor center during lunch time.
5. Paul talked about a few upcoming events for the Fort. Symphoria is coming to the Fort on 6/7, 7 p.m. It is free open to the public. He mentioned lantern tours will begin July & August. Paul said 8/5-8/6 reenactments will be held at Montcalm Park, Oswego. Paul talked about a living history event that will be held 8/26-8/27 at Fort Ontario. Lastly Paul mentioned in ghost hunts will be scheduled for 10/14.

## 7. Adjournment: Tour of Fort Ontario State Historic Site

Chairman Jim Hotchkiss adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Next meeting will be held **Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 10 a.m. & Selkirk Shores State Park.**