

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
OCTOBER 9, 2001
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on October 9, 2001, at the Horticultural Center, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Janet S. Klein; Vice Chairman William A. Cornell; Dr. LeRoy Patrick; Ms. Nancy Kolb; Dr. James Adovasio; Dr. John W. Lawrence; Dr. Andrea Fitting; and Mr. Allen Wenger. Absent were Representative Thomas C. Corrigan; Senator Edwin G. Holl; Representative Stephen Maitland; Dr. Brian Mitchell; Senator Allyson Y. Schwartz and Mr. Gary D. Wolfe. The following staff were present: Brent D. Glass, Executive Director; Doreen McCall, Chief Counsel; Donna Williams, Gloria Schleicher, Bob Weible; Jean Cutler; Anita Blackaby; Edith Walsh; Marcia Gobrecht; Jennifer Staub; Autumn Cooper and John Robinson. Deborah Filipi represented the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Klein called the meeting to order at 11:00AM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2001 COMMISSION MEETING

Chairman Klein called for corrections or additions to the minutes. Dr. Lawrence remarked that it would be appropriate for Commissioners to review text

of markers the time the Commission meets to approve marker nominations. If there is a discrepancy, it can be questioned and possibly changed before it is officially approved. Dr. Lawrence noted that section on page ten of the minutes should be changed to reflect his opinion. Dr. Glass noted that this change would be made.

Dr. Cornell noted that the History Code says specifically that the commission approves the design, content and proposed location of markers. Dr. Cornell also noted that he supports Dr. Lawrence on the issue. Chairman Klein said that she will speak with Representative Maitland who is not here today and ask him to design a process that will make it feasible for the commissioners to review the text early enough that it can be revised if necessary. Chairman Klein asked if there were any other comments, additions or corrections to the minutes.

Dr. Patrick made the following comments: on page three the word “conscience” should be “conscious.” On page seven, the third paragraph should read “There is also property transfer legislation that would transfer eight properties to local entities and authorize the Commission to receive three properties.” On page eight, “hirer” should be spelled “hire.”

Chairman Klein asked Dr. Cornell if he had any corrections. Dr. Cornell mentioned that some of the corrections he requested when reviewing the draft of the minutes were not made but asked that we approve the minutes and that those

changes would be made at a later time. Dr. Cornell noted that on the first page it should read “Jennifer Black representing Senator Allyson Y. Schwartz” and “Gary Wolfe representing Secretary Zogby”. On page four the words “General Assembly” should be capitalized.

Dr. Cornell moved that the minutes be approved with those changes; seconded by Ms. Kolb.

III. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Klein read a letter from Governor Ridge to the Commission.

“Throughout my tenure as Governor I have relied on your efforts to help my administration serve the best interests of all Pennsylvanians. Governor Schweiker will depend on your leadership and expertise as he continues our work to make Pennsylvania a leader among states and a competitor among nations. It is my sincere hope, that you will continue to serve the Schweiker administration with the same dedication.” Chairman Klein asked the Commissioner’s to continue as governor requested.

Dr. Cornell moved that we send a letter to Governor Ridge thanking him for his support of the Commission’s programs during his tenure; Ms. Kolb seconded. Chairman Klein will send letters on behalf of the Commission to Governor Ridge and to Governor Schweiker as well.

Chairman Klein briefly reviewed today's schedule and mentioned that John Carr, Director of the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust and Teresa Stuhlman, Historian for Fairmount Park will lead us on a tour of Fairmount Park. After the tour we will visit Lemon Hill Mansion for rest and refreshments. The Commission will then meet in Memorial Hall for the lecture and the Commonwealth Treasure designation and a buffet reception.

F. Eugene Dixon, president of the Fairmount Park Commission, has invited the commissioners from the Fairmount Park Commission and the Fairmount Park Executive Director, Bill Mifflin, along with the PHMC Commissioners, Dr. Glass and Ms. Walsh to dinner as his guests following the program. Chairman Klein thanked Edith Walsh for all of her hard work in coordinating today's events.

Chairman Klein announced that Dr. Adovasio received the 2001 John Mather Award at Drake Well Museum. Dr. James Adovasio mentioned that the research involved reexamining all the literature on whether or not Native Americans were really the first people to extract oil and when that activity may have occurred. The process to find out that information was to secure timbers from an excavation that was conducted in the 1970s and submit them to the radiocarbon dating facility at the University of California at Riverside. Dr. Adovasio said that this was the most extensive piece of dating that has ever been done on a single historic artifact because they took one sample out of every tree ring in the piece of

wood. This research demonstrated that in fact the Native Americans were extracting oil in 1400 – 1500A.D., well before the Europeans arrived.

Chairman Klein mentioned that she had received thank you letters from the following organizations for grants that they received: The Great Valley Nature Center, Tyler Arboretum, Thomas T. Taber Museum of the Lycoming County Historical Society, the American Swedish Museum, the Pittsburgh Children's Museum and the Frick Art and Historical Center.

Chairman Klein noted that she would like to update our policy manual. She had received a letter from Donald Kocher regarding a historical marker at 3rd and Arch Streets in Philadelphia that is missing. Mr. Kocher wanted to know what the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's policy is about replacing missing markers. Chairman Klein read a response letter from Mr. Weible. The letter mentioned that the PHMC is willing to supply half the funds needed for the replacement.

Chairman Klein added that the Historical Commission in Philadelphia was asked by Mr. Weible to check the status of the marker and no one claims responsibility for having removed the missing marker. Dr. Lawrence asked if anyone in the PHMC claimed responsibility. Dr. Glass mentioned that sometimes the Philadelphia Streets Department will inadvertently remove a marker

temporarily and it is their responsibility to put the marker back. Usually they will notify the PHMC. In this case we did not have any record of that happening.

Ms. Nancy Kolb asked if the commission treats markers that are lost, stolen or damaged as we treat new ones, which is we will pay for up to half? Ms. Kolb asked if this was a new policy. Dr. Glass said that it was not a new policy and it has just been our practice. If there is an insurance claim, then usually the insurance company will pay for the entire replacement of the marker. In terms of paying for markers we have been on a matching basis for quite a while.

Ms. Nancy Kolb mentioned about a delay from the time the markers were reported missing until we actually replaced them because sometimes they reappear. Obviously there needs to be some delay in replacing a marker to make sure that the markers do not show up again.

On the question of maintenance, Dr. Glass said that we have come up with a tag, which was distributed at an earlier meeting, which says that the marker has been removed for maintenance. This has drastically reduced the number of calls to the Commission. Getting back to the question Chairman Klein raised about who pays for the replacement, Dr. Glass said that it is a financial issue and there are so many markers we can put up in a year. Ms. Kolb asked how many markers are lost in a year? Mr. Weible said that the commission has lost approximately ten percent total and about five are reported missing each year.

Chairman Klein questioned whether we all agree that our policy in instances like this is to treat the marker as “approved but uninstalled” as described by Mr. Weible and provide a grant to cover half the manufacturing costs to a non-profit sponsor. Ms. Kolb asked how much the marker is to replace. Mr. Weible said that is costs \$1100 for a city marker and \$1300-\$1400 for a roadside marker. Ms. Kolb said that with a \$34 million budget we should be able to afford to replace an \$1100 marker that was already approved and installed by the Commonwealth. Maybe we would set aside some type of fund for the replacement of damaged or missing markers. Dr. Glass said this issue will be discussed with the marker committee.

Dr. Cornell would like us to look at all the policies we have about the markers and include them in the policy book. Dr. Cornell suggested that we ask the marker committee to submit all the policies we have concerning the markers. Chairman Klein agreed and will have Representative Maitland report back to the Commission with their recommendations and we can have further discussion at that time.

Chairman Klein asked the Commissioner’s for their consensus for the grants committee on the selection of panel chairs for the next round of grants reviews. On occasion, staff has not been able to schedule commissioners to chair the various panels. The staff suggested to Chairman Klein that if staff cannot get a commissioner to chair a panel, they have approval to request members of the

Historic Preservation Board or the members of the HARB/CLG committee to serve as chairs. Members of both groups have already been approved by the Commission. Dr. Lawrence asked who was making the request. Chairman Klein said that Ira Smith and the other staff members who put together the panels to review the grant applications.

Ms. Fitting asked if the recommendation could be in effect only if the Commissioners are asked first and if staff cannot get a commissioner to chair the panel that they will be able to go to those people mentioned by Mrs. Klein. Dr. Lawrence felt that the panel should be chaired by one of the commissioners. Mr. Wenger agreed that in an emergency the request could be made to members of other designated groups. Chairman Klein thanked everyone for their comments and that she will speak with Ira Smith and discuss the issue at the next grants committee meeting.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

At this time Chairman Klein adjusted the agenda to accommodate commissioners' schedules and discussed the Annual Work Plan for FY 2001.

Chairman Klein asked Dr. Glass, Dr. Patrick and Dr. Lawrence to offer their comments regarding the Annual Work Plan. Dr. Glass said that we are combining last year's work plan with this year's work plan and noting which objectives are either discontinued, completed, continuing or new. Dr. Glass noted that this is not

an encyclopedic view of everything the commission is doing but more of the highlights. The day to day activities of PHMC staff are not generally listed in the Annual Work Plan.

Dr. Patrick said that this Annual Work Plan is friendlier but noted that on page 8 item 19 we talk about observing Heritage Week and we do not mention Charter Day. Dr. Patrick suggested that we could get the governor to issue his Charter Day proclamation early so we could send a copy and a facsimile of the charter to various organizations and suggest that they take part of this celebration of Charter Day.

Dr. Lawrence commented that he also agrees with Dr. Patrick that this is a far superior Annual Work Plan than what we dealt with last year. Dr. Lawrence moved that we approve the Annual Work Plan with the proviso that we identify items 17 through 24 on page three as “New” objectives. Dr. Lawrence would like to discuss at a later time the issue of the Day-to-Day responsibilities vs. the Annual Work Plan.

Ms. Kolb asked if there were an initiative on the money that was proposed for the State Museum. For clarity, executive summaries on the Commission’s major priorities should be included. Dr. Lawrence will amend his motion to include an executive summary supplement. Ms. Kolb seconded the motion.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT (continued)

Chairman Klein received a letter from Rowland Bergner requesting that we name the natural science collection in The State Museum in memory of Albert Mehring who was head of the museum's natural science section. Dr. Glass had responded to this request in a letter stating the commission has not adopted a policy in naming facilities for individuals; we are reviewing various ideas and proposals. Chairman Klein asked for comments on how the commissioners feel about naming our facilities in honor or memory of any people.

Ms. Kolb stated that since we are trying to raise more private funding, some sort of donor recognition is a part of the package we should consider. Naming rights and donor recognition are some of the basic tools. If we are going to be serious about private fundraising we have to get our act together and not proceed on a case by case basis. At this time Ms. Kolb volunteered to serve on a committee to discuss naming rights and donor recognition. Ms. Fitting and Mr. Wenger agreed to serve on the committee and Ms. McCall will serve as an advisor.

At this time, Chairman Klein announced a short break so that Mr. Robinson could photograph the commissioners for the annual report.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Chairman Klein asked for comments or questions regarding the staff reports. Dr. Patrick noted John Wesley's report states the Commission has been asked to present its plan to other agencies as a model for integrating the ERP project. Dr.

Patrick asked Ms. Blackaby where the Carousel will be housed. Ms. Blackaby said that we are working with Vitetta Group on that project and they will be doing a feasibility study on three locations: the Plaza Level, the corner of Third and Forster Streets, or the corner of Third and North Streets.

Dr. Lawrence asked Ms. Blackaby about the staffing at the museum shop. He mentioned that he was surprised about the lack of variety items for sale at the State Capitol. Ms. Blackaby said that the office is currently doing an evaluation on this issue and have hired a consultant, Mr. Tom Aageson, who will give recommendations to her office. Mr. Wenger added that the review from the consultant should be shared with museum shops at other PHMC sites.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Glass commented that he is going to combine items V and IX on the agenda. He mentioned that we will mail the Financial Report for September and October in the package for the November 28th meeting because of the brief span of time between meetings.

Dr. Glass gave an overview of the proposed state budget reserved by Governor Ridge due to our economic slowdown. Out of the \$200 million placed in reserve the Historical and Museum Commission contribution is \$140,000; \$100,000 has been put in budget reserve from one of our program revision requests

for the relocation of collections and \$40,000 has been reserved from our maintenance line item.

By December 1, 2001 the Vitetta Group will have a bid package prepared for the ground floor renovations in the public areas of the State Museum of Pennsylvania. The biggest change that is proposed is to create a new entrance to the museum off Third Street between North and Forster streets. Construction should start in late Spring 2002 and finish by December, 2002. This work will also include a new location for the Curiosity Corner, a new student orientation space and a digital map of Pennsylvania. Dr. Glass has talked with Chairman Klein about having the architect make a presentation to the Commission.

We discovered PCB contamination in four of our locomotives at the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum. This has been reported to the Environmental Protection Agency and we have obtained outside counsel to advise us on the procedure for preparing a health and safety plan. At this point we believe the PCBs have been contained and there is no threat of additional leakage.

Our office was notified that the National Park Service is developing a plan to create a memorial at the Somerset County crash site for United Flight 93. PHMC staff is cooperating with this effort.

Pennsbury Manor received \$121,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a General Operating Support Grant. WITF, the public

broadcasting station taking the lead in developing www.Explorepahistory.com, also received \$621,000 from the Federal Department of Education for summer institutes for teachers.

With regard to the transition to a new administration, two issues that are important to the Commission are the disposition of the Governor Ridge's papers and major capital projects especially the Museum and Archives renovations. .

VII. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Klein asked if there were any courtesy resolutions. Dr. Glass replied that we did not have any at this time but suggested that we do one for The Fairmount Park Commission, thanking them for their hospitality. Dr. Lawrence moved and Dr. Patrick seconded the motion.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Klein asked Dr. Cornell if he had an update on Heritage Week. Dr. Cornell asked about the status of the invitation to Prince Charles. Chairman Klein reported that she heard nothing from the Governor's Office.

Ms. Walsh reported that Heritage Week planning is moving along fairly well. We have not decided on a topic for opening day. We have met with the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, they have offered three speakers for us to use. Deborah Filipi has also joined the Heritage Week committee.

Chairman Klein congratulated Ms. Filipi on her new Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Klein asked Jean Cutler to report about the Commission's consultations with other state agencies regarding historic preservation.

Ms. Cutler reported that other state agencies are asked to consult with the Commission's Bureau for Historic Preservation if there are any projects that would have ground disturbing activities or that would impact a historic resource. In the past we have worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Department of Community and Economic Development, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board and the Department of Agriculture. We need to work closely with the Department of General Services since they have oversight of all state buildings including the State System of Higher Education and all state hospitals.

Our goals and objectives are to expand education for state agencies and to share with them what we can do as a consultant to help them comply with the History Code. Ms. Cutler mentioned that Ms. McCall suggested that we share our

educational program with state agency attorneys so that they are more aware of the program.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Klein announced that the Commission will meet on November 28, 2001, 9:30 A.M. in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. There will be no meeting in December or January. Chairman Klein asked if there were any other announcements.

Dr. Lawrence mentioned that he would like to propose that our counsel see if “Art of The State” can be trademarked. Ms. McCall agreed to follow up on this suggestion.

Mrs. Klein adjourned the meeting at 12:50 P.M.