

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 20, 2002
MINUTES

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on February 20, 2002, in the Board Room of the State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Janet S. Klein; Vice Chairman William A. Cornell; Dr. James Adovasio, Representative Thomas C. Corrigan; Dr. Andrea F. Fitting; Fran Cleaver representing Senator Edwin G. Holl; Ms. Nancy Kolb; Dr. John W. Lawrence; Representative Stephen R. Maitland; Dr. Brian C. Mitchell; Dr. LeRoy Patrick, Jennifer Black representing Senator Allyson Y. Schwartz; Mr. Allen M. Wenger and Gary D. Wolfe. The following staff were present: Brent D. Glass, Executive Director; Doreen McCall, Chief Counsel; Donna Williams; Gloria Schleicher; Jean Cutler; Marcia Gobrecht; Ira Smith; Frank Suran; Anita Blackaby and Tina Long. Mr. Joseph Kelly represented the Pennsylvania Humanities Council; Mr. Hy Myers AIA represented VITETTA Group and Mr. Robert Glenn represented the Department of General Services.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Klein called the meeting to order at 9:30AM. Chairman Klein introduced Mr. Joseph Kelly, Director of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.

II.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2001
COMMISSION MEETING.

Chairman Klein called for correction or additions to the minutes. She referred to page 11, number 8. The subtitle Pennsylvania Heritage Week should follow the paragraph regarding the Pennsylvania Founder's Award Committee.

Mrs. Klein also offered written clarification for page 12, lines 2 through 4 should read: "One idea, discussed in the Heritage Week Staff Committee, was to honor Governor Ridge, in light of the events of September 11, as well as the students, who were the recipients of awards at the State History Day Competition in May, at the Opening Ceremony of Heritage Week. Nothing has been decided as of yet."

Dr. Fitting moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Dr. Lawrence. The minutes were approved with corrections as noted.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Klein thanked Andrea Fitting for her help with the Annual Report as well as staff members John Robinson, Brent Glass, Edith Walsh, Gloria Schleicher, Kimberly Krammes, Diane Reed, Frank Suran, Michael O'Malley, Donald Giles, Donna Williams, Jean Cutler, John Wesley, Marcia Gobrecht for their contribution.

Chairman Klein announced that the Philadelphia Inquirer had an article regarding the PEW Charitable Trust Historic Investment Program, which announced that Pennsbury Manor, Hope Lodge and The Highlands received grants.

Chairman Klein noted that commissioners have been busy with a number of meetings including: Scholars-In-Residence, HARB-CLG Committee, Historical Marker Committee, Brandywine Battlefield Task Force. Future meetings include: Budget Hearings, Donor Recognition Policy Committee, Founder's Award Selection Committee.

Chairman Klein announced that Brian Grove is the Commission liaison with the Governor's Office.

Chairman Klein asked if those who have email addresses received the weekly PHMC Bulletin. Ms. Klein thanked Rod Snyder for his work on the PHMC Bulletin. Dr. Glass said a print-out would be mailed to Dr. Patrick each week.

Dr. Lawrence complimented the Commission on the PHMC Bulletin stating that it was an impressive first step in developing a line of communication with the history community and encourages the Commission to continue to develop this project. Dr. Glass commented that the e-mail Bulletin has a large and growing audience.

IV. STAFF REPORTS

Chairman Klein asked for comments or questions regarding the staff reports. Chairman Klein asked about the transfer of records of Governor Ridge and Governor Schweiker to the Pennsylvania State Archives. Does the Commission receive any type of administration fee or is it absorbed into Commission staff responsibilities?

Dr. Glass commented that in the past the administrative fee has varied depending on the volume of material the Commission receives. In the previous administration the Commission did receive an allocation of funds to hire a part time archivist to catalogue and describe Governor Casey's papers.

Chairman Klein asked if there would be a one-time grant to help cover the costs. Dr. Glass said no grant has been discussed but that we can request it.

Chairman Klein asked Ms. Schleicher if phone cards were available for sale. Ms. Schleicher stated that there are two ways to purchase the phone cards. Anyone interested in obtaining a phone card may contact Ms. Schleicher, National Telephone Exchange or visit any of the Commission sites.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Glass commented that copies of Governor Schweiker's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2002 –2003 has been distributed in Commission packets.

The Commission budget has no substantial increases or decreases. If approved the budget will be close to \$25 million dollars, about \$475,000 will be set aside for a special project that relates to records management; \$265,000 will be distributed for operations at the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Military Museum and Pennsbury Manor; \$94,000 will be used to cover the transfer of the State Bookstore from the Department of General Services to the Commission. The grants line item remains the same, \$4.45 millions dollars; the maintenance line is now \$1,940,000; the non-preferred appropriations are proposed to have a 5% reduction.

On February 26, 2002 the Commission will have a hearing in the House and an appropriations hearing in the Senate on March 4, 2002. At this time Dr. Glass asked if there were any questions to the Governor's proposed budget.

Dr. Lawrence asked if money Governor Ridge allocated originally for renovations of Commission facilities has been affected. Dr. Glass said yes and explained that these projects will be funded as Capital Projects. Dr. Lawrence asked if the state of the present economy would affect the ability to get money eventually out of the capital projects. Dr. Glass said yes, this project is now being proposed as a phased project over five years. At this point the project has not been affected but it is possible that in the future it will.

Dr. Glass commented that the Commission has several upcoming conferences in late April and early May: the Federation of Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Organizations, the Preservation Pennsylvania and the Black History Conference.

Dr. Glass mentioned that a theft occurred recently at the National Archives in Philadelphia. The Commission staff is reviewing its internal procedures for access and control of the collections and archival holdings

Gloria Schleicher has been working on the project to provide a link to the Pennsylvania Trail of History either through the state's website called experiencepa maintained by the Department of Community and Economic Development. This project is a very good opportunity for people who are planning a vacation to Pennsylvania. A package is available for purchase for \$35.00 that will include for one year, free admission to our sites and receive the Pennsylvania Heritage Magazine.

Dr. Glass also mentioned that Ms. Schleicher is the point of contact for the Heritage Tourism Strategic Plan that is being developed by a number of agencies led by the Pennsylvania Hospitality Foundation.

Tonight, the Commission will unveil a historical marker at the 76ers/Golden State Warriors game commemorating Wilt Chamberlin's 100-point scoring record,

which was achieved 40 years ago. The marker will be officially dedicated in Hershey on March 2, 2002.

Dr. Glass offered his congratulations to Chairman Klein and her husband for their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Dr. Cornell asked about the progress of the publication, Pennsylvania History in outline. Dr. Glass commented that the final editing is being done and should be complete in late July.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

Chairman Klein asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Summary Statement, July 1 – January 31. At this time no questions were asked and Chairman Klein submitted the Financial Report to file.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Grants

Chairman Klein thanked Ira Smith for his professionalism in managing the grants program and Stephanie Byrd for assisting with the grants committee.

The recommendations that everyone received for the Certified Local Government Grant apply to funds from the federal government that are allocated to the Bureau for Historic Preservation beginning October 1, 2002. Ten percent of those funds must be passed to the Certified Local Government's in Pennsylvania.

Chairman Klein called for a motion to approve the Grants. Ms. Kolb moved and Dr. Lawrence seconded the motion. The Grants were approved. (Attachment A)

2. Heritage Week/Charter Day

Chairman Klein asked Dr. Cornell to give a report on Heritage Week. Dr. Cornell commented on the poster that includes a Calendar of Events for Heritage Week, March 8 – March 14, 2002. Dr. Cornell noted that the committee has come along way, starting off with Charter Day and having a week of celebration. Dr. Cornell thanked staff members: Edith Walsh, Kathy Alsvary, Robert Bullock, Anna Marie Ickes, Michele Lefevere, Harry Parker, Howard Pollman, Pam Reilly, Linda Ries, John Robinson, Gloria Schleicher, Cheri Trimble and Diane Wallace, Marcia Gobrecht, Deborah Filipi and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council for their help with Heritage Week.

This year we will hold a legislative breakfast for legislators on March 11, 2002 to meet with Penn Ambassadors, Youth Day on March 13, 2002, and the Federation Office will hold a workshop on March 14, 2002 in the Keystone Building.

Chairman Klein thanked Dr. Cornell for his report and noted that Marcia Gobrecht has working very hard with raising funds for the conservation work. Chairman Klein asked Ms. Gobrecht for a report.

Ms. Gobrecht reported that the goal for this year's annual appeal to conserve the first catalogue of purchasers document and two Native American garments has been achieved. A total of \$14,291 has been received. Mr. Huxley from the Haley Foundation located in New Hope, Pennsylvania donated \$3,000. Mr. Huxley has been invited to Philadelphia to view the progress of the actual conservation of the document.

This year we have printed a brochure that is a transcription of the document. This brochure gives biographies of five of the first purchasers as well as the listing of all the people that bought the land. Also two Native American garments will be on display during Heritage Week. His "Commonwealth Speakers" program will focus on Heritage Week themes.

At this time Chairman Klein introduced Joseph Kelly, Executive Director from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.

Mr. Kelly gave a brief presentation on Pennsylvania Humanities Council and the Commission's work on Heritage Week.

3. Historical Markers

Dr. Glass noted that the dedication season starts in March and April. We will get dates for those dedications out to Commissioners as soon as possible.

4. Legislative Updates

Dr. Glass commented on the Historic Homeowner Grants Legislation. Money was appropriated in our budget for this current year that required legislative authorization before we could spend those funds. This was to authorize a grants program for people who own and occupy historic properties. This program was funded at \$500,000. In the January a budget reserve action by Governor Schweiker and the budget office placed the \$500,000 in reserve.

House Bill 2131 will allow the Commission to operate the state bookstore. There is also a provision that will allow us to retain any revenue that may occur from the sale of any of our historic properties.

5. Historic Preservation Board

Chairman Klein commented that the Board met on December 11, 2001. A list was distributed of properties that were recommended for the National Register listing. (Attachment B)

Ms. Cutler reported that the National Historic Preservation Act provides the authorization for a state Historic Preservation Board. Currently we have 15 members of the preservation board. The board meets on a quarterly basis and reviews the National Register nominations. These properties can be sites, districts, houses, barns, etc. Once the board approves the nominations the Bureau forwards them to the Keeper of the National Register that is part of the National Park Service.

VIII. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Klein asked for approval of the resolutions for retiring members of the Black History Advisory Committee. They are Karen Bivins, James Darby, Stephen Patrick, Sala Udin and Jacqueline Wiggins. Ms. Kolb moved and Dr. Patrick seconded the motion. The resolutions were approved.

IX. STATUS REPORT

1. State Museum and Archives Complex

Chairman Klein welcomed Hy Myers and Robert Glenn who are working on the State Museum and Archives Renovation Project. At this time Chairman Klein asked Ms. Blackaby to discuss the renovation project.

Ms. Blackaby reported that Mr. Myers has been working on this project for four months. We are making tremendous progress since last February; we are now ready to go to bid. Bid documents for the Phase I renovations are at the Department of General Services. We also have our Request for Proposal on the Department of General Services website for an exhibit designer and hope to have them on board next August.

Ms. Blackaby remarked that Mr. Myers and his staff have been working very hard on the Phase I project along with the museum, agency and archives staff. At this time Ms. Blackaby turned the presentation over to Mr. Myers.

Mr. Myers gave an overview of the State Museum Renovation Project, Phase I and Phase II. After the presentation, Commissioners complimented Mr. Myers on his presentation and a brief time was spent for comments.

Chairman Klein asked Ms. Blackaby and Dr. Glass if there was any thought about the subject of parking for visitors. The Commission discussed the needs of parking and Dr. Cornell moved that the following resolution be passed:

02.02.01 “The Commission should work with the appropriate authorities to find a resolution to the parking problem for visitor access including alternatives for shuttle buses from remote locations.” Ms. Kolb moved and Dr. Lawrence seconded the motion.

2. Coal Breaker at Eckley Miners’ Village

Chairman Klein asked Dr. Glass to report on the Coal Breaker at Eckley Miners’ Village.

Dr. Glass reported that the Coal Breaker at Eckley Miners’ Village, built by Paramount Pictures for the movie “Molly Maguires” needed to be removed or needed substantial renovation. We are working with the Associate Group and members of the General Assembly to develop a plan. There is a clear expression of interest by local residents to retain as much of the existing breaker as possible. We are moving forward to repair the existing breaker rather than tear it down. A

construction firm in the anthracite region who specializes in breaker construction and repair will work on this project.

3. Landis Valley Agricultural Institute Teachers' Workshop

Dr. Glass reported that Mr. Wenger has been instrumental in coming up with idea for a new program at Landis Valley Museum. The Commission would be able to educate the general public, local regional officials and public school teachers about historical and contemporary agricultural issues. On March 16, 2002 there will be a regional township symposium and later this spring a second program will involve a joint venture with the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit to promote a workshop for teachers on historical and contemporary issues in agriculture.

Mr. Wenger commented that he and Steve Miller from the Landis Valley Museum have been working on a curriculum and expect it to be approved sometime this week.

4. Flight 93 Memorial

Dr. Glass reported that the Somerset Historical Center and the Historical Society of Somerset County have been called upon to manage the collection of memorabilia that are being left at the crash site of Flight 93. Dr. Glass distributed an article written by Charles Fox, Site Administrator for Somerset Historical Center about the Flight 93 collection.

At this point it is not clear what type of memorial will be constructed or who will manage the memorial. There is legislation from the General Assembly to create a memorial commission and we would have a role on that commission.

5. Archaeology Guidelines

Dr. Glass reported that in October 1998 the Commission recommended writing guidelines for evaluating the work of archaeologists. We will have the guidelines ready for review by the Commission in the near future.

Chairman Klein asked if this will led to certification. Dr. Glass said that this would be a process for evaluating the work of archaeological consultants. Through this process we can encourage better work from consultants. We will provide a list of archaeologist who have met the guidelines.

6. Summer 2002 Internship Program

Chairman Klein asked Mr. Suran to give a report on the 2002 Internship Program.

Mr. Suran reported that we are in the beginning process of the 2002 Internship Program. To date we have received a total of 106 applicants for summer positions. We have received a total of 52 requests from staff requesting interns. Linda Shopes of the History Division is working to satisfy all requests for

interns. Selections will be made in March, the hourly rate for the internship positions are \$7.00 per hour.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Klein asked if there is any unfinished business. There was none to discuss.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Klein commented that everyone should have received a list of policies to be rescinded put together by Dr. Glass. Dr. Glass has recommended to the Policy Committee, Dr. Cornell and Dr. Lawrence, that these policies be rescinded.

Dr. Cornell moved that the policies be moved out of the text of the policy book and put into an appendix. Mr. Wenger seconded the motion. (Attachment C)

Chairman Klein commented that everyone should have received Mission Statements for the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Morton Homestead and Governor Printz Park.

Chairman Klein asked if there were any comments to the mission statement for the State Museum of Pennsylvania. Ms. Kolb stated the Historic Sites and Museum Committee reviewed the mission statement. Dr. Cornell made several suggestions and modifications. After discussion Dr. Cornell moved approval of

the mission statement with these changes, Dr. Lawrence seconded. The mission statement for the State Museum of Pennsylvania was approved. (Attachment D)

Chairman Klein thanked the committee for working on the mission statement for the State Museum of Pennsylvania.

Chairman Klein asked if there were any comments on the mission statement for Morton Homestead and Governor Printz Park. Ms. Kolb moved that the mission statements for Morton Homestead and Governor Printz Park be approved, Dr. Lawrence seconded the motion. Mission statements for Morton Homestead and Governor Printz Park were approved. (Attachment E and F)

Chairman Klein asked Mr. Suran to report on the State Historical Records Advisory Board. Mr. Suran asked the commission to approve the reappointment of three members and three new members to the state board.

Ms. Kolb moved that the appointment be approved, Mr. Wenger seconded the motion. State Historical Records Advisory Board Member appointments and reappointments were approved. (Attachment G)

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Klein announced that the next Commission meeting would be held March 20th. The Commission meeting in May is changed from May 15th to May 22nd.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Klein asked for adjournment of the meeting. Dr. Mitchell moved, Dr. Adovasio seconded the motion for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 12:30PM.