

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
MARCH 20, 2002
MINUTES

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on March 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, Diane Boyer representing Representative Thomas C. Corrigan; Dr. Andrea F. Fitting; Fran Cleaver representing Senator Edwin G. Holl; Dr. John W. Lawrence; Representative Stephen R. Maitland; Dr. Brian C. Mitchell; Dr. LeRoy Patrick, Senator Allyson Y. Schwartz and Gary D. Wolfe. The following staff was present: Brent D. Glass, Executive Director; Eileen Flinn representing Doreen McCall, Chief Counsel; Donna Williams; Gloria Schleicher; Jean Cutler; Frank Suran; John Wesley; Jack Leighow 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 9:30 a.m. Chairman Klein introduced Eileen Flinn from the Office of General Counsel, representing Doreen McCall, who is attending a conference. Chairman Klein indicated that in addition to the materials that are listed on the handout sheet,

each Commissioner had been provided a copy of announcements, dates through May 22, 2002, and the Statement of Purpose for the Historical Marker Program.

Dr. Cornell announced that he would represent the Commission at the Marianne Moore marker dedication, April 25, 2002, at the Old Cumberland County Courthouse in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Chairman Klein announced that an article was included in WITF's Central PA Magazine featuring Linda Ries, Archivist at the Pennsylvania State Archives.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2002 COMMISSION MEETING

Chairman Klein asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Dr. Patrick noted that on page 11 "retiring" members should read "new" members. Chairman Klein remarked that on page 10, Attachment B listing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places was at everyone's place.

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

Dr. Lawrence moved that we accept the State Museum Mission Statement as amended and include in the minutes (ATTACHMENT A). Dr.

Cornell seconded the motion. State Museum Mission Statement was approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Klein thanked Gloria Schleicher for distributing the discount phone cards provided by NTE.

Chairman Klein indicated that the Commission had been invited to tour the State Records Center after the meeting and that lunch would be provided after the tour. Chairman Klein thanked Brent Glass, Frank Suran and Kathy Smith for their work coordinating the tour.

Chairman Klein announced that she attended the Site Administrators Meeting at Cornwall Iron Furnace in February. She thanked Donna Williams for doing a terrific job coordinating the meeting.

Chairman Klein announced that the next commission meeting would be held at Cornwall Iron Furnace on April 17, 2002. She noted that arrangements would be made for Commissioners and staff to be transported from Harrisburg to attend the meeting.

IV. STAFF REPORTS

Chairman Klein asked Donna Williams if the Admission Fee Policy would be ready for the April meeting. Both Dr. Glass and Ms. Williams agreed that the policy would be on the agenda.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Glass reported that the governor had proposed reducing the allocation to the Keystone Fund by 25% next year and by 50% the following year. This reduction would result in a decrease of around \$600,000 in FY 2002-03 and around \$2 million in FY 2003-04.

The Keystone Fund is not the only fund that is being looked to for sources of funding to close the budget gap. Dr. Patrick asked if the cut would be of great significance. Dr. Glass said yes. The Growing Greener Fund is being cut about \$50 million. The difference is that they are extending the life of the program for six years instead of five. Dr. Lawrence asked if these cuts would be ongoing. Dr. Glass reported that after the two year cut we would go back to the allocation called for in the original legislation. The reduced allocation will require separate legislation because it is amending an existing restricted fund.

Senator Schwartz added that this is a dedicated fund. The original legislation for Keystone Funding required a referendum for approval. On some level, it is reasonable to find funding wherever possible to try to make up for a significant budget deficit. On the other hand, a lot of work went into this program. This is not just a budget shift. There is some negative reaction to doing this.

Dr. Glass remarked that April and May are key months for determining how serious the revenue problem is. The Budget Office is looking to see if the headlines about recovery are real or how strong they will be and whether it will be in time to makeup some of the deficit.

Dr. Glass stated his counterparts around the country are calling him with reports that libraries, museums, parks and historic places around the country are having significant cutbacks.

Dr. Lawrence commented on the \$5.00 a ton levy on garbage being dedicated to the Growing Greener Fund. Dr. Glass remarked that he had heard that a portion of the \$5.00 levy would have funds for the historic home site program.

Dr. Glass reported that he and Jean Cutler had been in Washington, D.C. on March 19 at the National Conference for State Historic Preservation Officers. During the visit, they met with 10 congressional members, many of whom are former members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. They visit with the congressional members every year to find out what issues about historic preservation the members may have in their district and to talk about funding and how federal funding will be spent in Pennsylvania. This year we received about \$1 million in the basic grant received from the National Park Service. Last year we had about \$1.2 million. Next year the proposed federal

budget would reduce our funding by about 13.5%. The federal budget is not acted upon until the fall.

Dr. Glass also reported that he serves on the Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission. The Commission received a briefing from Bob Wilburn, who is the president of the park's foundation. The foundation is raising \$95 million for a new visitor's center. Dr. Glass distributed the sketch drawings of the visitor's center. The foundation is planning a 140,000 square feet facility about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the current visitors center. This will include two new theaters to show the battle in a new format. The cyclorama painting will be restored and rehoused in this new facility. A new gallery space for exhibitions, a gift shop, and a limited food service facility will be provided. At some point, it would be interesting to invite Mr. Wilburn to meet with the Commission to discuss the impact the new visitors center will have on tourism in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Mitchell questioned the breakdown of the \$95 million projected cost for the new facility. Dr. Glass reported that \$34 million is for construction, \$4 million is to purchase the real estate, and \$5.5 million is to restore the cyclorama painting. Dr. Glass said he will make a copy of the budget summary for the commissioners.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

Chairman Klein asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report. No questions were asked and Chairman Klein submitted the Financial Report to file.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Heritage Week 2002

Chairman Klein thanked both Dr. Cornell and Edie Walsh for doing an incredible job with Heritage Week, Charter Day, and all of the programs.

Dr. Cornell thanked all the staff, here and at the sites, for their help with Heritage Week. He felt that this year's program went very well. Dr. Cornell commented on the coverage in the WITF magazine, Central PA, and he remarked that the President and CEO, Kathleen Pavelko, with much enthusiasm at the opening of Charter Day. Dr. Cornell requested that Chairman Klein write a letter of special thanks to Ms. Pavelko for the article in WITF's magazine and for her presentation at the opening ceremony.

Dr. Cornell commented on the transcription of the List of First Purchasers, which is a record of the first 500 persons to buy land from William Penn. He thanked Linda Ries for her work on the transcription.

Dr. Cornell described the Penn Ambassador program as legislators designating citizens as ambassadors for Pennsylvania history. The people who are selected to be ambassadors take this title very seriously.

Ms. Walsh thanked everyone on the Heritage Week 2002 staff committee for producing a fine example of a public observance of the Commonwealth's birthday, with special thanks to Dr. Cornell for inspiring all of us.

Our partnerships with WITF, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the Pennsylvania Federation of Museum and Historical Organizations and the Pennsylvania Heritage Society were very successful in promoting Heritage Week 2002. Some of our own historic sites and museums hosted special programs, with topics ranging from blacksmith demonstrations at Fort Pitt to a living history presentation at Conrad Weiser Homestead, to performances by the Ephrata Cloister Chorus.

This year, with the assistance of John Robinson, Howard Pollman and Gloria Schleicher, the message of Heritage Week 2002 traveled far and wide. Charter Day at the sites attracted over 10,000 people; 113 Penn Ambassadors were appointed; and over 50 students and 12 teachers came to our pilot project of Youth Day. The visitation for the State Museum reached 6,552 for the week, and 706 visitors attended the Charter Chats.

The opening ceremony was wonderful. Maggie McDonald, a Bishop McDevitt High School Sophomore, gave a first-person performance on William Penn. Kathleen Pavelko also gave an inspiring talk on “History: A Lifelong Pleasure.”

The Youth Day pilot project was carefully planned. The students were overwhelmingly positive in their evaluations. Richard Rosen, local teacher and TV host was greeter. Bill Kashatus, Director of Public Programs at the Chester County Historical Society, portrayed William Penn.

Ms. Walsh believed this year’s celebration of Heritage Week had been very successful and looked forward to hearing feedback from the staff as well as those who attended the events.

2. Scholars-in-Residence Committee

Chairman Klein noted that Dr. Cornell chaired the panel for the selection of the Scholars-in-Residence Committee. In everyone’s packet was enclosed a full report on the seven scholars who were selected, along with the two alternates.

Dr. Cornell moved to accept the people chosen by the Scholars-in-Residence Committee. Dr. Lawrence seconded the motion. The Scholars-in-Residence Selections were approved (ATTACHMENT B).

Chairman Klein asked where the money for the Scholars-in-Residence program comes from and if it were possible to receive more money for the program. Dr. Glass reported that the money comes from the Historic Preservation Fund, made up of revenue that we receive from admission revenue, sale of publications, and charge backs to other state agencies for services at the State Records Center. If the revenues increase, we would be able to put more money into the Scholars-in-Residence program.

3. Historic Preservation Board

Chairman Klein announced that Dr. McMurry, Vice-Chairman of the Historic Preservation Board could not attend the meeting so Jean Cutler would give a brief report.

Ms. Cutler reported on the eight nominations that were presented to the board on March 12, noting especially the Wyoming Monument and H. J. Heinz Company. The list was distributed to the Commissioners.

Dr. Patrick questioned whether the size of the H.J. Heinz Company was unusual for National Register properties. Ms. Cutler agreed that this is a large complex that will include 370 units of residential housing. Parking on the first two levels will be included in the complex.

4. Historical Marker Program

Chairman Klein commented that two meetings had been held; one to discuss the actual purpose of the marker program and the second meeting to select the markers for review by the Commission in April.

Representative Maitland commented on the meeting noting that there had been a good discussion about the program. We are continuing a county-by-county inventory of the markers, complete with photographs. The inventory will reveal what markers are missing and the condition each are in.

Representative Maitland asked for approval of the Statement of Purpose for the Historical Marker Program. Dr. Lawrence moved that the Statement of Purpose be approved. Dr. Adovasio seconded the motion. The Statement of Purpose for the Historical Marker Program was approved.

03.02.01 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission approves the following Statement of Purpose for the Historical Marker Program:

The PHMC's historical marker program supports the agency's overall mission by working in partnership with citizens and organizations in Pennsylvania to recognize, interpret, and appropriately promote the history of people, places, and events of statewide or national significance through the installation of historical markers in appropriate locations.

Dr. Cornell commented "The Guide to the State Historical Markers of Pennsylvania". He remarked that there should be a marker in honor of Governor Duff, who initiated the Historical Marker Program in 1946.

Representative Maitland reported that this issue had been discussed and would recommend a policy of approving the historical markers honoring governors once they are no longer living.

Chairman Klein noted that the committee had more discussion on several issues and would table any further discussion regarding historical markers until our next meeting.

4. Budget and Finance

Chairman Klein reported on a conference call including Al Wenger, Dr. Glass, and herself. Chairman Klein notified Representatives Maitland and Corrigan after the call to see if they had any comments on the subject. Prior to the meeting, Dr. Glass had consulted Dr. Lawrence, who was chairing a grants panel at the time of the conference call.

During the conference call, The Preservation Maintenance Plan for 2002-2004 was discussed. The maintenance line item for FY 2002-03 is reduced by \$60,000 from the current fiscal year. The issue of a proposed reduction of the Keystone Fund was also addressed. Dr. Glass estimates the reduction to be as much as \$600,000 next fiscal year.

The committee recognized the fact that we divide the funds from the Keystone Fund between maintenance of PHMC historic properties and preservation of other properties owned by non-profit groups and local

governments. The committee decided that if the budget were reduced, the reduction would be divided in half between each program.

Dr. Glass reported that we would be able to take care of the basic needs of our sites by careful planning. He will report to the Commission during the June meeting on the status of the budget. He recommended that, contingent on the fact that we may have to make some changes in June, the Commission should approve this plan.

Dr. Glass noted that on page 11 of the report is a Priority List of Capitol Projects, which is independent of the Keystone Fund and the Maintenance line item. The Capitol Projects list is included because many projects are also supplemented by Keystone Funds and are maintenance related.

Dr. Cornell commented that we should go on record as stating that the Commission feels that if the economy were to improve, we would pursue an increase in funding for the Keystone Fund Program and for maintenance. Dr. Cornell moved for approval and Dr. Lawrence seconded. Motion carried.

03.02.02 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission agrees that if the economy improves, we will ask for increased funding for the Keystone Fund Program and for maintenance.

Gary Wolfe moved to accept the Preservation Maintenance Plan. Dr. Patrick seconded the motion. The Budget and Finance Plan was approved (ATTACHMENT C).

5. Grants

Chairman Klein reported that a conference call with the Grants Committee had been held the day before. Two funding recommendations were made: the Annual Black History Conference and a proposal from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania for a conference to teach genealogical researchers and college professors how best to evaluate the quality of Internet information.

The committee recommended \$12,500 for the grant to the York County Heritage Trust to sponsor the Annual Black History Conference this year.

Chairman Klein called for approval of the grant to the York County Heritage Trust. Dr. Lawrence moved for approval of the grant, Dr. Patrick seconded. The grant request of \$12,500 to the York County Heritage Trust was approved.

Chairman Klein called for approval of a grant of \$3,000 to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Representative Maitland moved for approval of the grant, and Dr. Fitting seconded. The grant request to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania was approved.

Gloria Schleicher gave a brief report on the Matching Marketing Grant program. The committee, which includes Dr. Fitting, Andrea Bashore, Bruce Bazelon and Ira Smith had met the previous day. Thirteen historic sites and museums had applied for the Matching Marketing Grant.

Chairman Klein thanked Dr. Fitting, Ms. Schleicher and staff for their work on the Matching Marketing Grant program.

Chairman Klein then introduced Shirley McCormick, who is the new comptroller for the Commission. Ms. McCormick thanked the Commission for inviting her to the meeting.

VIII. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Klein called for a motion to approve resolutions for Michael Ripton, Ann Vail, and WITF, Inc. On a motion by Dr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, the following resolutions were approved:

03.02.03 WHEREAS, Michael J. Ripton began his extensive career with the Pennsylvania Historical and Commission in 1966, serving the agency in various capacities for thirty-six years; and,

WHEREAS, Michael J. Ripton is one of the keepers of the institutional memory of the PHMC's historic sites and museums program. He played a key role in developing this program over a number of years. He served in a number of leadership positions: Assistant Director of the Bureau of Museums, Director of Historic Sites and Properties, Director of the Bureau of Historical and Museum Services, and Site Administrator of Ephrata Cloister; and,

WHEREAS, Michael J. Ripton was instrumental in the development of the *US Brig Niagara* sailing program and the Erie Maritime Museum

on the bay front, calling attention to the significance of Pennsylvania's maritime history; and,

WHEREAS, Michael J. Ripton's talents and administrative expertise are widely recognized in the museum and maritime preservation fields, bringing honor to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission throughout his career. In 1995 his prominence in the museum field was recognized by his colleagues and peers when he received the coveted Catherine Coffey Award from the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission acknowledges the extraordinary career of Michael J. Ripton and extends hearty congratulations on the occasion of his retirement on March 22, 2002. Michael J. Ripton has made an immeasurable contribution to the preservation of the Commonwealth's history and left a lasting and indelible mark on the PHMC.

03.02.04 WHEREAS, Ann Vail began her career as a Commonwealth employee on May 29, 1967 as Secretary to the Business Manager at Kutztown University (then Kutztown State College); and,

WHEREAS, Ann Vail continued to work for a variety of Commonwealth departments and agencies throughout her career including the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Welfare, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; and,

WHEREAS, Ann Vail ably served the PHMC in a clerical capacity at Landis Valley Museum for seventeen years, from May 10, 1985 through her retirement on May 31, 2002; and,

WHEREAS, during her tenure at Landis Valley Museum Ann Vail conducted herself as a professional administrative assistant, capably performing all of the administrative and managerial tasks involved in the daily operations of a large and complex facility such as Landis Valley Museum; and,

WHEREAS, Ann Vail proved herself to be an invaluable team player at Landis Valley Museum, often taking on the well being of the internal culture of her own accord by assuming responsibility for circulating cards of condolence, gratitude, concern, happiness, and health to staff and volunteers alike; and,

WHEREAS, Ann Vail cared deeply about the farm program, especially the animals which she visited regularly while performing her duties throughout a large campus,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission expresses gratitude and the highest commendation to Ann Vail upon her 35 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As a public servant committed to bringing the highest level of skill, proficiency and an impeccable work ethic to any job assignment, Ann Vail retires as a model public servant. The Commission extends to Ann Vail its appreciation and best wishes for an enjoyable and well-earned retirement.

03.02.05 WHEREAS, WITF Inc. joined the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in presenting Pennsylvania Heritage Week 2002, March 8 through 17, as a cooperating partner; and

WHEREAS, WITF Inc., through public broadcasting, promoted the awareness of Pennsylvania's birthday, Charter Day, Sunday March 10, 2002; and

WHEREAS, WITF Inc., central Pennsylvania's public multimedia organization, featured the Commonwealth's history on WITF-TV, WITF-FM 89.5, witf.org, and Central PA magazine; and

WHEREAS, WITF Inc. promotion included educational content on the web, television, radio, and in print in addition to WITF President delivering the keynote address at the opening ceremonies of Pennsylvania Heritage Week;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission extends its appreciation for outstanding partnership and promotional support to WITF, Inc., its

President and CEO, Kathleen Pavelko and staff of multimedia professionals.

Dr. Patrick commented on Michael Ripton and his dedicated work with the Flagship *Niagara*/Erie Maritime Museum.

Dr. Lawrence asked Dr. Glass what happens to resolutions after the Commission approves them. Dr. Glass reported that the resolutions are printed on special paper and signed by the Executive Director and Chairman. The Commission seal is affixed and the resolution is enclosed in a blue binder that is imprinted with the seal of the Commission.

Dr. Lawrence believed the Commission should consider other examples for printing and framing the resolutions. Dr. Glass agreed that we could look into this suggestion.

Dr. Cornell recommended the resolution for WITF should read “WITF, Inc., its President and CEO, Kathleen Pavelko.”

IX. STATUS REPORT

Chairman Klein commented on the changes in the State Museum gift shop and thanked Louis Hauser for his work.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Klein asked Frank Suran to give a brief overview of the State Records Center and why the Commission manages the program. Mr. Suran reported that the Commission was put in charge of the program in 1992. Agencies who store records at the center and need to retrieve information usually receive the information within one hour. This program is designed to ensure that records are stored, maintained, and referenced at low cost to the taxpayer.

Dr. Lawrence asked what difference there may be between what is stored at the State Records Center versus the Archives. Mr. Suran reported that documents in a semi-active status that are no longer needed for immediate access by agencies are stored at the State Records Center. Documents stored in the Archives are documents that have permanent, historical value.

Dr. Fitting asked how the records were destroyed. Mr. Suran reported that the paper is shredded and recycled through a contract managed by the Department of General Services.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Klein announced that everyone would soon receive announcements for the Preservation Pennsylvania meeting, the Heritage Tourism meeting in Philadelphia, and the Old House Road Show. Tour of the State Records Center was conducted after announcements were made.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Klein called for adjournment of the meeting. Dr. Lawrence moved, and Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m. after the tour of the State Records Center.