

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION  
MARCH 16, 2005  
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on March 16, 2005, in the Board Room of the State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Wayne S. Spilove, Chairman; Rhonda R. Cohen, Representative Lawrence Curry, Owen Thomas representing Senator Jane Earll, Senator Jim Ferro, Dr. Gordon A. Haaland, Robert A. Janosov (participated by conference call), Cheryl McClenney-Brooker, Kathleen Pavelko and M. Clare Zales. The following staff were present: Barbara Franco, Anita Blackaby, Jane Crawford, Jean Cutler, David Haury, Marilyn Levin, Doreen McCall, Howard Pollman, Wasyl Polischuk, Donna Williams and Robert Weible. Beth Hager and Marcia Gobrecht represented the Pennsylvania Heritage Society.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Spilove called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. He welcomed Senator Jim Ferlo as board member to the Commission.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2004 MEETING**

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the minutes. On motion by Representative Curry, seconded by Representative Maitland, minutes were approved.

**III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Spilove gave a summary on programs/meetings he attended this past quarter:

- Employee Recognition Program on December 13<sup>th</sup> to honor employees of the Commission
- Toured of the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia

- Chairman Spilove was involved in the Tsunami Relief Effort where restaurants in the Philadelphia area participated by donating their net proceeds to the survivors of the Tsunami
- Chairman Spilove and Ms. Franco met with the Secretary of Transportation to discuss the relationship between PHMC and PENNDOT
- He attended a historic marker dedication in honor of Groundhog Day at Gobbler's Nobb and the Groundhog Day celebration in February
- Chairman Spilove attended the Dali' exhibit opening at the Philadelphia Museum of Art
- Mr. Spilove was invited to the lease signing of Memorial Hall at Fairmont Park for the new location of the Please Touch Museum
- On February 17<sup>th</sup>, Chairman Spilove, Ms. Franco, Ms. Levin and Ms. Chagin traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit with Senator Santorum and Senator Specter to discuss the funds for the Civil War Sesquicentennial
- Chairman Spilove was interviewed by the New York Sun regarding the Smarty Jones exhibit
- He visited Cheney University for Black History Month and in celebration of their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Commission prepared a proclamation
- On February 11<sup>th</sup> Chairman Spilove, Ms. Franco, Mr. Polischuk, Ms. Cohen and Ms. Pavelko reviewed all current policies of the Commission
- Chairman Spilove announced that Mary Bomar, Superintendent of the Independence National Park is now the Regional Director of the Northeast Region for the National Park Service
- Chairman Spilove participated in the donation of broadcasting materials from Pennsylvania broadcaster Peter C. Wambach to the Pennsylvania Archives.

Chairman Spilove read the following statement as a thank you to all staff: "I'd like to thank everyone individually, but there are many people to thank for PHMC's success and growth over the past year. It has been over a year since Barbara started with PHMC, and I would really like to thank her for being the catalyst behind the idea of a strategic plan. We are about a year past our first conversations about a strategic plan, and

we have truly succeeded at allowing it to grow with us and implementing it into PHMC's everyday practice. I truly feel that it has made us a more cohesive unit that works together to achieve our goals. Our accomplishments make us so visible to people around the state. I am often the recipient of such kind words of praise about PHMC, and I really thank you all for working so hard to make these once infrequent compliments now common knowledge. We have an outstanding staff from top to bottom, and we should be very proud of the wonderful things that we have accomplished in the past year.”

#### **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

Ms. Franco reported on a number of personnel changes that resulted in reassignments that are helping to further the Commission's strategic goals. She introduced David Haury as Director of the Bureau of Archives and History and announced that the Division of History has been reorganized and staff reassigned to work in various bureaus. Robert Weible is working in the State Museum on ExplorePAHistory.com and other public history program initiatives. Karen James, Linda Shopes and Jean Collins remain in the Bureau of Archives and History and continue to staff the Black History Conference, Underground Railroad projects, Internship and Scholars in Residence programs. Paula Heiman and the PHMC Library also remain in the Bureau of Archives and History. Ken Wolensky has moved to the Bureau of Historic Preservation to work on local history grants, historical markers and geographic names in addition to new assignments associated with research and writing for the Bureau. The historical marker program now will be managed by the Bureau of Historic Preservation Grants Division.

A number of positions have been reassigned to the Executive Office to provide PHMC-wide services and support. John Robinson has agreed to serve as our new web master. Howard Pollman, formerly with the State Museum, now provides marketing expertise for the entire Commission. Beth Hager is serving as liaison to the Pennsylvania Heritage Society and her fundraising and grant writing expertise is already making a difference in the last round of grant deadlines.

Ms. Franco reported on the planning for the sesquicentennial of the Civil War in 2011-2015. We are looking at conserving and digitizing the Pennsylvania Civil War Muster Rolls for public use. These rolls were heavily used up until 1970 for veterans and their families and now increasingly are used for historical research and genealogy. Many of the muster rolls are in fragile condition.

The Commission approached the History Caucus to help us find funding to conserve the rolls and has applied for a "Save America's Treasures" grant. Both Senators Santorum and Specter plan to write letters of support for this initiative. This work is expected to take five years to complete and is the first initiative of the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

The Smarty Jones exhibit will open spring 2005 at the Michener Museum in Doylestown.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State Museum begins in March. As part of the celebration, we are dedicating a new sculpture *Continuum* by Robin Stanaway. *Continuum* is two mobiles with glass 'leaves' that have impressions of artifacts from the museum's botanical and archaeological collections. The work conveys the thread of history using imprints that include a dinosaur print, an 1800 stove plate from the

Cornwall Iron Furnace historic site and Susquehannock pottery shards and beads, among other artifacts.

We continue to work closely with other agencies. Chairman Spilove and I met with Secretary Biehler of PENNDOT to discuss the ongoing relationship of the two agencies.

At this time, Ms. Franco called on Mr. Pollman to give a brief presentation on our joint venture with Department of Community and Economic Development's Tourism Office to develop a series of 26 ads promoting the PHMC sites and museums in the Pennsylvania Travel Planner.

Mr. Pollman thanked sites for their quick response on this project.

## **V. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS**

Ms. Williams reported on the awards recognizing volunteers of the year at all of the historic sites and museums. These awards are presented every year at the Associates Forum. This year the ceremony will be held on May 21st at Cornwall Iron Furnace. This program recognizes volunteers from each site for their outstanding contribution to the site.

The Outstanding Service Award recognizes someone who has made a special contribution in a form of their leadership or advocacy for the site or museum. This year we are nominating Lillian Lloyd at Somerset Historical Center and Joe Meck at Ephrata Cloister.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Volunteers of the Year 2004 Award and Outstanding Service Award. On motion by Senator Ferlo, seconded by Dr.

Haaland the following Volunteers of the Year 2004 Award and Outstanding Service Award was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT A)

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

### **a) Certified Local Government Grants**

Ms. Cutler reported on the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Certified Local Government Applications. A total number of 13 applications received in the amount of \$156,604; 9 of those applications were awarded the recommended award of \$88,974.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Certified Local Government Grants. Senator Ferlo moved that we approve the 9 Certified Local Government Grants, seconded by Dr. Haaland. Motion approved unanimously to approve the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Certified Local Government Applications Fiscal Year 2005. (SEE ATTACHMENT B)

### **b,c) Request for Certification by the Borough of Mechanicsburg and Township of Moon**

Ms. Cutler reported on the request for Certification by the Borough of Mechanicsburg and Township of Moon. The responsibility of the Commission is to certify to the significance of the historic character of the communities. Both communities are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the request for certification by the Borough of Mechanicsburg and Township of Moon. Representative Maitland moved that we approve the request for certification, seconded by Ms. Cohen. Motion approved

unanimously to approve the request for Certification by the Borough of Mechanicsburg and Township of Moon.

**d) Recommendation of Historic Preservation Board Members**

Ms. Cutler reported that the Historic Preservation Board is recommending Jeff Kidder, a Historic Preservation Architect from Erie, Pennsylvania and Scott Standish, a planner from the Lancaster County Planning Commission to serve as Historic Preservation Board Members. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Cohen the Historic Preservation Board recommendations were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT D)

**e) SHRAB Member Nominations**

Mr. Haury said that he is pleased to be working with the Commission and thanked Ms. Franco and senior staff for making his transition to the Commission a smooth one. He has discovered an array of excellent programs and fine staff in which he is privileged to work with. Mr. Haury is looking forward to meeting and working with all the members of the Commission.

Mr. Haury reported that there are eight nominees for appointment to the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB). The six reappointments are necessary to ensure continuity in implementing the Board's Strategic Plan, while the nominees for appointment are to replace SHRAB members Dr. Dennis Downey and Stephen L. Doell.

The SHRAB serves as the central advisory body for historical records planning and seeks to facilitate cooperation among historical records repositories within the state. SHRAB members who are professional archivists also review grant applications submitted to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission from Pennsylvania institutions.

The following names are proposed for approval: Dr. David Moltke-Hansen, Jeffrey Rollison, Pamela C. Whitenack, James M. Beidler, Margaret Jerrido, Leo J. Stout, Annita Andrick and Michael Dabrishus.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the SHRAB appointments. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Senator Ferlo the SHARB appointments were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT E)

**f) Scholars in Residence Recommendations**

Mr. Haury reported on the Scholars in Residence Recommendations, 2005-2006. At the Scholars in Residence meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>, the review panel for the Commission's 2005-2006 Scholars in Residence Program recommended six awards, totaling \$10,125. Review panel members included himself, Susan Hanna, Charlene Mires, Rosalind Remer, Jonathan Stayer and Linda Shopes.

The amount allocated to the 2005-2006 residency programs are less than in previous years - \$10,000, as opposed to \$13,500 for 2004-2005 and approximately \$20,000 for several years previous to that. This has prompted a modest adjustment in the scope of the program. In previous years residencies were of four to twelve weeks duration, this year there is an eight week maximum and no minimum tenure. This allows the Commission to support credible number of residencies. While financial considerations certainly prompted this change, it opens the program to those whose research needs do not require or whose personal circumstance do not allow for a minimum four weeks of residency.

The six scholars recommended for funding are: William J. Campbell, Allen Dieterich-Ward, Venetia M. Guerrasio, Jennifer Manion, Alice Ott, Jonathan White and Ellen Chapman as an alternate.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Scholars in Residence Recommendations, 2005-2006. On motion by Representative Maitland, seconded by Ms. Pavelko the Scholars in Residence Recommendations, 2005-2006 were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT F)

**g) Historic Marker Recommendations**

Mr. Haury reported on the recommendations made by the Historic Marker Review Panel. The panel reviewed 86 nominations for compliance with Commission guidelines. The panel is recommending approval of 27 markers. It is also recommending that four of the nominations should be resubmitted for reconsideration this year and there are 55 nominations that the panel is not recommending for approval.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Historic Marker Recommendations. On motion by Representative Maitland, seconded by Ms. Cohen the Historical Marker Review Panel Recommendations were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT G)

**h) PHMC Mission Statement**

Ms. Pavelko reported that she served as chair of the PHMC Mission and Vision Statement committee which consisted of PHMC Staff and Commissioners. The committee reviewed the existing PHMC Mission and Vision Statement and suggested changes to the statements. The proposed Mission and Vision Statement were distributed to everyone for their review and approval. Ms. Pavelko read the following statements:

Mission:

The PHMC preserves the Commonwealth's memory as a teacher and champion of its heritage for citizens of Pennsylvania and the nation.

Vision:

The PHMC enriches people's lives by helping them to understand Pennsylvania's past, to appreciate the present and to embrace the future.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the proposed PHMC Mission and Vision Statements. On motion by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Representative Curry the proposed PHMC Mission and Vision Statements were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT H)

Due to the legislature going into session, Chairman Spilove asked Representative Maitland to discuss Old Business.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

a) Washington Crossing Capitol Project

Representative Maitland reported that he met with Senator Conti, Representative Petri, Representative Curry, Senator Corrigan and Ms. Franco to discuss Washington Crossing. Senator Conti and Representative Petri would like an opportunity to raise money for a larger project at Washington Crossing than what the Commission currently has planned.

The group decided to hold off on raising money because it would delay current improvements to Washington Crossing. The group will go ahead with what the Commission has planned and work on a new capital plan for Washington Crossing in the future.

Ms. Franco said that the visitor's center is an inhabitable and staff has been moved to another location because of asbestos problems. The asbestos abatement is

Phase I of the visitor's center. There is an architectural plan for the visitor's center Phase II renovation due to go into construction soon.

A public meeting is scheduled for April to discuss the visitor's center design to the community. The Commission is working with Representative Petri and Senator Conti for help in contributing the community.

## **VII. OTHER REPORTS**

### **a) FY2005-2006 Governor's Budget Request**

Mr. Polischuk reviewed the budget for the Commission including the General Government Operation and Museum Assistance Grants. The House Appropriation Hearing was held on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Franco addressed the legislature regarding the budget request and indicated that we will be addressing these reductions based on the elements in the strategic plan.

### **b) Grants Committee Report**

Ms. Cutler introduced Greg Moski as the new Chief of Grants and Planning Division.

Ms. McClenney-Brooker reported that the Grants Committee met with staff on October 26, 2004 to discuss possible changes in the Commission's Grant Programs, and met again on March 10, 2005, to review recommendations that staff prepared based on the first meeting. The proposed changes were guided by the following: increase flexibility and access within the Project grant program, promote excellence through General Operating & Statewide Organization grants; ensure fairness in eligibility requirements and the review process, encourage increased collaboration among regional and local organizations, improve the alignment between the Grant Programs and PHMC

goals and objectives and streamline the process, where possible. A list of recommended changes was distributed to all Commissioners.

Ms. Pavelko said that simplification and speed has been achieved in the recommended changes.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to accept the recommended changes to the Grant Program. On motion by Representative Curry, seconded by Ms. Cohen. Motion approved to accept the recommended changes to the Grant Program. (SEE ATTACHED I)

**c) PHMC Policies Report**

Ms. Franco reported that the Executive Committee met on February 11<sup>th</sup> to review current and proposed policies and to recommend further action to be taken. The strategic plan includes an objective to update existing policies and identify the need for additional policies if necessary. This work will be undertaken by staff with participation of the appropriate committees of the Commission. As policies are redrafted, they will come before the Commission for approval.

**d) Strategic Plan**

Ms. Franco reviewed the quarterly report for the strategic plan reporting that Ms. Hager worked very hard on the Strategic Goal C: Expand and diversify financial resources, including fund raising and revenue generating initiatives to support PHMC's mission. There are six different grants that we have either applied for or are going to be submitted soon on a variety of issues including the Civil War Muster Rolls and Save America's Treasures grant.

Mr. Pollman is currently reviewing our publications and starting to put together a “Branding Committee” which is an outgrowth of the mission and vision committee.

The Commission is working with DGS on a Master Plan for the State Museum and Archives buildings. We will have a final report from our consultants on March 29<sup>th</sup>. We can use the Master Plan as a part of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the State Museum. Mr. Haury reviewed the Archives plans and has been involved in several building projects. In reviewing the costs of renovating the existing Archives building as compared to construction of a new building; it would be a savings of \$10 million dollars to build a new Archives building.

Ms. Franco met with Don Cunningham, Secretary of DGS and presented him with the Master Plan for the State Museum and Archives renovation project. This project was held in the capitol plan because there was some concern whether the investment would get what we needed for the Archives building. One concern for the State Museum project had been basically a \$100 million dollar project that was a renovation project without a big idea and they viewed the State Museum as a regional museum.

We were able to show our draft of the master plan that showed the concept of the State Museum as a “mothership” as a way of serving the whole state...bringing exhibits in, traveling exhibitions. Secretary Cunningham seemed very supportive of this plan.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Franco talked to Mary DeNadai, member of Preservation PA board and former chair of the historic preservation review board, regarding the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PA Historic Preservation Board. Ms. DeNadai would like to promote this occasion. She suggested a luncheon at the Governor’s Mansion in September and inviting former

preservation board members. This event would be used to raise money for a fund for the Preservation Board. Ms. Franco is concerned that the Preservation Board is an advisory board with specific roles and political appointments.

Ms. Franco discussed this with the historic preservation review board last week and the board believes we should have something in the capitol as a way to showcase what has been accomplished over the last 25 years. Ms. Franco spoke with Jean Schmedlen and she is willing to work with us on this event.

Ms. Franco asked the commission for their thoughts on the most appropriate way to mark the anniversary. She recommended something public that involves the legislature and governor. Preservation PA may be interested in doing a fundraising alongside or in conjunction of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and could take the lead on that aspect. James Biddle recently passed away; he was the founding chair of the board. It would be appropriate to do something in honor of him as well.

There was a general consensus for the idea of a public event to promote preservation in Pennsylvania.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Spilove called for a motion for adjournment. On motion by Representative Curry, seconded by Ms. Pavelko, motion approved to adjourn meeting at 11:30 a.m.