

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
JUNE 15, 2005
MINUTES

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on June 15, 2005, in the Auditorium of the State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Wayne S. Spilove, Chairman; Representative Lawrence Curry, Owen Thomas representing Senator Jane Earll, Senator Jim Ferlo, Laura Fisher, Dr. Gordon A. Haaland, Janet S. Klein, Linda Brothers representing Representative Stephen Maitland, Cheryl McClenney-Brooker (participated by conference call), Dr. Brian Mitchell, 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 Beth Hager. 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 Laura Fisher as board member to the Commission.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2005 MEETING

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

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

- Attended the press announcement at the National Constitution Center regarding the celebration to honor Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday.

The exhibit, "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World," will be shown at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia December through April and will travel throughout the United States and abroad.

- Attended meetings and a press conference regarding Once Upon a Nation. This is an initiative of Historic Philadelphia which brings America's history to life through storytelling, daytime and nighttime activities, and Adventure Tours.
- Site visit to Lazaretto. Lazaretto was used as a quarantine station in the 1790's located south of Philadelphia. Other uses for this site include a private resort, a seaplane base and a marina.
- Attended the 2005 Founder's Award Dinner in Philadelphia. The award focuses on how journalists and editors from and in Philadelphia have shaped and engaged the news in our times.
- Attended the Athenaeum of Philadelphia Annual Meeting and met Stacy Schiff author of A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America
- Met with individuals of the Masonic Temple of Philadelphia, to discuss opening the temple to public visitors.
- At Governor Rendell's request Chairman Spilove met with Bob Green, owner of Philadelphia Park Racetrack to discuss the Smarty Jones exhibit and the possibility of showing the film and displaying objects from the exhibit at the racetrack after leaving the James A. Michener Museum.
- Attended the rededication of the African-American Baseball historic marker in Philadelphia in April.
- Met with Don Smith who is the Executive Director of Christ Church to discuss the Christ Church Preservation Trust and plans for the future.
- Attended the League of Historic Theatres event in Carlisle, PA. Many thanks to Jean Cutler, Edie Walsh, and Brian Van Sweden for putting together this theatre restoration program.
- Attended the Arts and Business Council Awards in Philadelphia at the Convention Center with Barbara Franco and Beth Hager.
- Attended "Spirit: The Seventh Fire" concert honoring Native American Indians in Fairmount Park composed by Peter Buffett son of Warren Buffett. The show is to help people become more aware of American

Indian culture, which honors family life, nature and a spiritual discipline based on responsibility.

- Visited the Atwater Kent Museum. The Atwater Kent Museum occupies the building that first housed the Franklin Institute. Vicki Sands is the new executive director.
- Attended the Ed Bacon and Charlie Peterson Marker Dedication. This is a local marker by the Civic Association recognizing the life and accomplishments of Ed Bacon and Charlie Peterson. The marker is located at the 200 – 300 block of Spruce Street.
- Attended the groundbreaking for the new museum and visitor's center at Gettysburg National Military Park.

Chairman Spilove “thanked everyone for the wonderful work that they do on a daily basis and for making the work that I do for the Commission such a pleasure.” He consistently hears and receives letters from people across the state commending him for the work the Commission does. Chairman Spilove will send all the letters he receives to Harrisburg for everyone to read.

The Chairman thanked everyone who attended the Associates Awards Luncheon at Cornwall Iron Furnace.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Ms. Franco reported that the coordination of the External Affairs Groups is proving very helpful in increasing our ability to promote our programs and get information out in a timely manner. Mr. Pollman is working closely with the Heritage Tourism Office and anticipates that this relationship will continue to expand.

The Master Planning project for the State Museum, under the supervision of DGS, is nearing completion and will be the subject later in the meeting.

The Pennsylvania Heritage Society accepted a \$5,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals to research the career of Karl

Mason, an official with the PA Department of Health. This contribution will help enable The State Museum to develop a model for researching Pennsylvania's conservation leaders and plan to interpret this information in the science galleries.

Ms. Franco met with Nancy Kolb and staff to work on getting the carousel installed in the new Please Touch Museum.

This year's budget presents a challenge for us with more than a 7% reduction in our operating budget; we have had to make some difficult decisions about how to reduce our expenses. The decision has been made to close the Conservation Center as of June 24th and we are looking at ways to handle conservation in the future. The building will be surplus when all collections and programs have been moved to other locations.

V. RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Cutler reported that Greg Ramsey who has worked with the Commission for over 24 years is retiring from the Bureau of Historic Preservation. In addition there are two members of the Historic Preservation Board who will also be retiring from their terms, Candace Dannaker and David Schuyler.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the resolutions for Greg Ramsey, Candace Dannaker and David Schuyler. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Representative Curry the resolutions for Greg Ramsey, Candace Dannaker and David Schuyler were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT A)

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a) Request for Certification

Ms. Cutler reported on the request for Certification by the Township of Oley, Borough of Doylestown and the City of Reading. The responsibility of the Commission is to certify the significance of the historic character of the communities.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the request for certification by the Township of Oley, Borough of Doylestown and the City of Reading. Ms. Klein moved that we approve the request for certification, seconded by Ms. Pavelko. Motion approved unanimously to approve the request for Certification by the Township of Oley, Borough of Doylestown and the City of Reading. (SEE ATTACHMENT B)

b) Approval of Project Grants

Ms. Cutler reviewed reports on Archives and Records Management Grants, Historic Preservation Grants, Local History Grants and Museum Project Grants for fiscal year 2005-2006. Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Historic Preservation Project Grants FY 2005-2006. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Senator Ferlo the Historic Preservation Project Grants FY 2005-2006 were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT C)

Ms. Cutler reviewed the report on General Operating Support Grants. The goal is to fund fifty percent of the amount requested depending on the final allocation. Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the General Operating Support Grants FY 2005-2006. On motion by Dr. Haaland, seconded by Dr. Mitchell the General Operating Support Grants FY 2005-2006 were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT D)

c) Approval of Historic Preservation Board Members

Ms. Cutler reported that the Historic Preservation Board is recommending Ann Greene, Michael Eversmeyer, John Milner, Emanuel Kelly and Ceclia Rusnick for reappointment to serve as Historic Preservation Board Members. Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the reappointments of Ann Greene, Michael Eversmeyer, John Milner, Emanuel Kelly and Ceclia Rusnick as Historic Preservation Board Members. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Senator Ferlo the reappointments of the Historic Preservation Board Members were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT E)

d) National Register Nominations

Ms. Cutler reported that on June 7th, the Historic Preservation Board reviewed 6 nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. There following nominations were approved: Roberts and Mander Stove Company Buildings, Smaltz Building, Feter's Mill Village Historic District, Sunnybrook and Noyen School House. The nomination for Wynnestay was tabled for further discussion.

e) Increase of Reproductions Fees for Archives

Mr. Haury suggested an increase of the Pennsylvania State Archives Reference and Reproduction Services Fee Schedule. The increases are routine and periodic to keep up with inflation and rising costs. Fees for other state archives were reviewed for comparison.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the increase of the Pennsylvania State Archives Reference and Reproduction Services Fee Schedule. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Representative Curry the increase of the Pennsylvania State Archives Reference and Reproduction Services Fee Schedule was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT G)

f) Approval of Admission Plan and Rates for State Museum

Ms. Blackaby reported that the State Museum has always maintained free general admission, but has charged for special exhibits, programs, Planetarium shows and the Curiosity Connection. This policy is not consistent with the other museums and historic sites administered by the PHMC. All charge a general admission fee and have done so for many years.

Recent budget considerations dictate a change in this practice. A recent review of the History Code, by Agency Chief Counsel, revealed that PHMC is authorized to charge an admission fee to the State Museum. It is felt that this change would close the budget shortfall and allow the Museum to continue to offer high quality exhibits and programs. An admission fee at The State Museum would also be consistent with the rest of the PHMC's historic sites and museums.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Admission Fee Proposal. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Senator Ferlo the Admission Fee Proposal was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT G)

g) Approval of Commission Meeting for FY 05-06

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Commission Meeting Schedule for FY 05-06. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Klein the schedule of Commission Meetings for FY 05-06 was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT H)

VII. OTHER REPORTS

a) Strategic Plan

Chairman Spilove reported that it has been a year since the Commissioners started working on a strategic plan. Now the plan is being implemented.

Ms. Franco said that the Commissioners would continue to receive quarterly reports on the strategic plan. The first report provided was in March, since then with thanks to Ashley Armor we now have a system in place for tracking the goals and quarterly reports. A copy was distributed to all Commissioners.

Chairman Spilove thanked everyone for their work towards the goals and objectives of the strategic plan.

b) State Museum Renovations and new Archives Building

Ms. Franco reported that both the State Museum and Archives are celebrating their 100th anniversary as institutions both structures are 40 years old. Both buildings have been in need of repair for some time.

At this time, Ms. Blackaby and Mr. Haury provided a Power Point presentation on the Master Plan for the State Museum Archives buildings.

Ms. Blackaby reported that we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the State Museum and would like to introduce the concept of a new museum. Master Planning begun on the eve of the 100th Anniversary where three planning sessions were held and consultations between consultants and staff were conducted. The drivers for the new museums are: people, knowledge, collections and media.

Ms. Blackaby read the Master Planning Vision Report: “We are an audience driven museum for whom life-long learning is an essential function to be achieved by

making best use of our unique collections.” William Penn’s vision will serve as the foundation of the museum’s interpretive focus.

The State Museum will shift its emphasis to a more interactive environment. Exhibits will incorporate laboratory settings that engage visitors and allow them to experience how museums learn about history, science and the arts. The goal of the museum is to reach out to the entire Commonwealth. Visitor amenities include: parking, link to Memorial Hall, café and improved retail store and a visitor drop off area.

Option A: renovating the existing building would cost \$144,000,000, Option B: would include renovating Memorial Hall as the main entrance to the museum would cost \$151,000,000 and Option C: would include the new atrium outside the building with direct access to Memorial Hall and solving all interior transportation issues would cost \$173,000,000 initiative. Capitol funding is available for the project and we are looking into fundraising opportunities.

Mr. Haury reported that the Archives is facing issue such as the tower is filled to capacity, major structural and environmental problems, poor technology access, limited and uninviting public space, expensive and limited parking and water leaks under the plaza. Mr. Haury discussed several options for the State Archives: Option One: renovate existing facility, replace vapor barrier, re-cladding, repair plaza leaks, and add mobile shelving. This option would allow 10 – 12 years of growth to the State Archives and would cost approximately \$34,400,000.

Option Two: cover all issues in Option One, inclosure of two courtyards, new space for public service and additional storage. This option would allow 10 plus years of

growth to the State Archive and would cost approximately \$44,300,000. This would be the most expensive option.

Option Three: would be to build a new efficient facility with modern technology that would meet the public need with the availability of future expansion of the collections and would cost approximately \$24,316,000. The Commission believes this would be the best option to choose.

Ms. Blackaby said a copy of the presentation will be sent to all Commissioners.

c) Historic Preservation Plan

Ms. Cutler reported that the Bureau for Historic Preservation serves as the State Historic Preservation Office. We receive 50% of our funding from the National Park Service. One of our requirements is to implement a Historic Preservation Plan for the Commonwealth.

A series of public meetings were held, a survey was available on the internet, they met with focus groups and worked with Pittsburgh Young Preservationists to conduct meetings in the western part to try to get a better understanding of what the priorities and interests are for historic preservation.

The three goals for the plan are to:

1. Enhance education and awareness of Historic Preservation.
2. Provide stable public policy and funding for Historic Preservation programs.
3. Celebrate and commemorate our accomplishments.

The Historic Preservation Plan is a five year plan beginning 2006 through 2011. Ms. Cutler will provide copies of the Historic Preservation Plan to all Commissioners.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a) Fundraising Policy and Preliminary Briefing on Ethics Policy

The Commissioners agreed to table both policies to review until the September meeting. Ms. Franco asked that comments be sent to her so that they can be incorporated into the policies.

b) Historical Markers

At this time Chairman Spilove called upon several people who would like to make comments about the approved Gay and Lesbian Historic Marker to be placed in Philadelphia.

Carris Kocher, Diane Gramley, Carl Jarboe and Abigail Jarboe expressed their concerns over the approved Gay and Lesbian Historic Marker and requested the Commission to reconsider its vote.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

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.