

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 21, 2005
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on September 21, 2005, in the 5th Floor Board Room of the State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Wayne S. Spilove, Chairman; Rhonda R. Cohen, Representative Lawrence Curry, Senator Jane Earll, Senator Jim Ferlo, Laura Fisher, Janet S. Klein, Representative Stephen Maitland, Cheryl McClenney-Brooker, 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, Howard Pollman, Wasyl Polischuk, John Robinson, 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.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2005 MEETING

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the minutes. On motion by Senator Earll, 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 a Marker Dedication for the Civil War Hospital located at 9th and Christian Streets in Philadelphia.
- Attended the Artspace Meeting sponsored by the William Penn Foundation. Artspace is a group from St. Paul Minneapolis that

supports the continued professional growth of artists and enhances the cultural and economic vitality of the surrounding community.

- Visited the Wagner Free Institute of Science. The Education institution provides science classes for adult and school age children.
- Attended the Sam Fleischer Art Memorial Marker Dedication.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Ms. Franco shared a magazine dated 1973. In the magazine there is an article about Washington Crossing reenacts Birth of a Nation. Ms. Franco received correspondence from Fern Hetrick, former Commissioner. Enclosed was the Executive Director's message from 1975-76 talking about the budget cuts and a handkerchief from the 1950's showing the State Museum and other sites of interest. The handkerchief is in the original Bowman's envelope. Ms. Franco said she will donate the handkerchief to the State Museum for their upcoming exhibit on Department Stores.

This year's budget presents the challenge of a \$1.7 million reduction accompanied by increases in salaries and benefits as well as rising energy costs. Ms. Franco referred to the PHMC Budget Trends report provided by Mr. Polischuk. The analysis of PHMC's budgets over the past nine years shows flat funding levels and increasing personnel costs resulting in reduced staffing and fewer funds available for program operations.

The Preservation Fund, consisting of revolving funds for publications from book sales, operating revenues from document digitization services (DISC), admission fees, grants and other restricted or encumbered funds has been seen as augmentation in the past. It has now become an integral part of the operating budget for core functions and staff positions.

Despite the challenges of a reduced budget, PHMC staff has worked steadily to fulfill the goals of our strategic plan. The plan continues to be an important tool for us in initiating partnerships with other agencies and in setting priorities for scarce resources.

On behalf of the Commission, the Pennsylvania Heritage Society submitted a grant proposal to NEH to convene a meeting of Pennsylvania research and collecting institutions with several nationally known Civil War scholars. The purpose of the meeting will be to identify “New Narratives from Old Collections,” and to establish a working structure for planning Pennsylvania’s programming for the Civil War Sesquicentennial 2001-2015.

Ms. Franco said that considerable progress has been made toward our identity and branding project. She asked Mr. Pollman to unveil a prototype for a new PHMC logo that was developed by the Publications Division Staff.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

At this time Chairman Spilove discussed the Admission Fee for the State Museum of Pennsylvania. The State Museum requested authorization to charge a general admission fee in addition to the program fees already in place for the Curiosity Connection, Planetarium and special programs. Governor Rendell has requested the Commission rescind the fee decision. The anticipated income of \$180,000 from admissions would have to be covered by \$70,000 from unanticipated interest last year and unrestricted reserves in the Preservation Fund. This a one-time temporary solution to an ongoing budget problem because both of these sources are non-recurring and will not be available to cover these expenses in future years-making.

Ms. Franco reported that both Dave Myers from the Governor's Office and the Governor's Communications Office were fully informed in advance about the proposed fee.

Senator Ferlo argued with not charging admission for school children but does not believe we should totally rescind the decision.

Senator Earll agrees with Senator Ferlo and is concerned that the policy regarding admission fees is not uniform across the state. Before the Commission agrees to rescind its decision we should have a firm commitment that the administration is going to make up for lost revenue.

Chairman Spilove read the following letter from Governor Rendell that was received September 20, 2005: "Dear Mr. Spilove, I am aware of the passing of an entrance fee for the State Museum. Administration Officials and I are working with Barbara Franco to identify savings and alternative funding sources to avoid the implementation of an admission fee at the State Museum. I am prepared to work with the Commission to ensure enough money will be provided in the budget in the future to avoid imposing an entrance fee at the State Museum. Sincerely, Edward G. Rendell".

Ms. Pavelko understands that rescinding the increase for the current fiscal year will result in using reserve funds that might have otherwise been used for other purposes. Ms. Pavelko asked if the Governor's Office has been specific about future budgets than what the letter from the Governor states. Ms. Franco said no.

Ms. Zales asked when the Commission's submission date for the budget is due. Mr. Polischuk said October 11th.

Ms. Pavelko suggested that the Commission show the admission fees as a line item, and then wait to discuss the issue with budget analysts and the administration about how they would prefer to address removing those fees through appropriations.

Ms. Cohen asked for a motion that the Commission not rescind its decision but that we defer the implementation of our prior resolution through June 2006 to give the Commission time to work with the reaction from the administration and the budget office.

On motion by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Dr. Mitchell, motion approved to defer the implementation of the admission fee through June 2006.

Senator Earll asked why the historic sites and museums across the state do not have uniform policies regarding admission fees.

Ms. Franco said the main reason that the sites and the State Museum have been seen differently is that the State Museum has a historic relationship to the capitol and Department of Education. The State Museum started within the Department of Education and has always served school groups and people visiting Harrisburg as a part of their visit to the capitol complex.

V. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Haury reported that Dr. Edna McKenzie recently passed away. She served on the Black History Advisory Committee for over a dozen years.

Chairman S Spilove called for a motion to approve the resolution for Dr. Edna McKenzie. On motion by Senator Ferlo, seconded by Senator Earll the resolution for Dr. Edna McKenzie was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT A)

Ms. Williams reported that Patricia Mousley served as a volunteer, interpretive guide, educator and museum and historic site administrator at Graeme Park and Hope Lodge and Norah Kienzle cared for Morton Homestead for many years. Both Ms. Mousley and Ms. Kienzle are retiring.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve both retirement resolutions for Patricia Mousley and Norah Kienzle. On motion by Ms. Zales, seconded by Ms. Fisher both resolutions for Ms. Mousley and Ms. Kienzle were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT B, C).

Ms. Franco reported that Doreen McCall has transferred to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. She has served as chief counsel for the Commission for five years.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve Ms. McCall's resolution. On motion by Representative Maitland, seconded by Dr. Mitchell the resolution for Ms. McCall was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT D)

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a) Certification of Historic Districts under Act 167

Ms. Cutler reported that Act 167 is the historic district act created in 1961. Because it was prior to the creation of the federal national historic preservation act, there was no definition of historical significance with the enactment of the national historic preservation act in 1966 the historic significance criteria for the national register were applied to Act 167. Ms. Cutler would like the Commission to consider broadening the definition of historic significance under Act 167.

The Commission votes on when a local municipality creates a local historic ordinance, the role of the Commission is to certify its historic significance. A local historic district is a group of buildings, monuments, bridges, cemeteries, and parks or designed landscapes, etc., that have been recognized for their local historic or cultural significance.

Under the national register, non-contributing buildings can be included but only sparingly within the district.

Ms. Cutler would like to expand the definition of historical significance under Act 167 to act as a buffer to any adverse effect of contemporary development that may have an impact on the appearance of historic areas that may include vacant parcels.

Dr. Mitchell asked if college institutions like Moravian or Lehigh College chose to clear land near the edge of the district to put up a facility that was consistent with the architecture of Moravian or Lehigh College but not necessarily an extension of the historical district would this change affect them. Ms. Cutler said that it would be a local decision. Dr. Mitchell said this would pose problems for him at Bucknell University and he would have to oppose the change because of his concern about the local interpretation of the expanded definition.

Senator Ferlo would like this to remain a local decision.

Ms. Williams clarified for the Commission that Act 167 does not apply to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Ms. Franco asked for Ms. Cutler to clarify for the Commission what the change to the policy would be. Ms. Cutler said that the following criteria would be added: 4. May

act as a buffer to any adverse effect of contemporary development and 6. May include vacant parcels.

Ms. Klein said if this is a tool to help a municipality plan its growth then she is in favor of the changes to the criteria for Act 167. It is important to assist the municipalities in their planning process.

Chairman Spilove would like someone to come up with a motion that gives everyone an opportunity to review the suggested changes to Act 167 and resubmit for approval at the November Commission meeting.

Ms. Franco said in the meantime Ms. Cutler should provide more background information on Act 167 so that the Commissioners better understand what they are acting on.

Senator Ferlo would like to hear from local public officials with an open comment period before voting.

Senator Earll called for a motion to table action items 6a and 6b until the November Commission meeting, seconded by Ms. Cohen.

Ms. Franco would like the staff of the Bureau for Historic Preservation to decide whether the issue of historic preservation is being used in lieu of zoning issues and to ask local officials how this would impact the community and if this is an issue for the community.

Ms. Cutler asked the Commission to vote to approve the Historic Ordinance for the City of Easton under the existing criteria as designated on their map within the boundaries. They could come back at a later time to the Commission and ask for a boundary extension if the criteria was expanded.

Senator Earl withdrew her previous motion to table action items 6a and 6b. Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Historic Ordinance for the City of Easton under the existing criteria as designated on their map within the boundaries, but the City of Easton could come back at a later time and ask for a boundary extension. On motion by Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Pavelko motion was approved.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to table action item 6b on any changes to the Criteria of the Certification of Historic Districts under Act 167 until the November meeting.

c) Recommendations for Keystone Grants

Ms. Cutler reported on the recommendations for the allocation of funds – FY 2005-2006 for the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program. PHMC received 95 applications totaling \$7,389,973 in grant requests. The proposed funding scenario will fund 32 projects representing 33% of all applications. Applications are evaluated and ranked by a panel of peer reviewers. The funding order of applications is established by peer review ranking order and geographic distribution.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the allocation of Funds FY 2005-06 Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program. Ms. McClenney-Brooker abstained from voting on the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Representative Curry abstained from voting on the Black Horse Tavern. The allocation of Funds FY 2005-06 Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program was approved.

Ms. Klein would like to see the full list of peer review panels. Ms. Cutler said she would send the list to all Commissioners before the November meeting. Ms. Klein

also requested that the Commissioners receive information prior to the meeting so that they have time to review the information before approving.

d) Proposed Transfer of Museum of Anthracite Mining

Ms. Williams reported that in 1997 a “Blue Ribbon Committee” of historians and museum professionals was appointed by the PHMC to review its historic sites and museums. Their report recommended that the Commission investigate alternative management for the Museum of Mining in Ashland (MAM) among others. The committee evaluated each of our museums by the following criteria: historical significance; historical integrity/authenticity; historical themes; audience potential; community support/partnering/resourcing.

The Museum of Mining in Ashland is one of three museums within the PHMC system related to Anthracite heritage (Anthracite Heritage Museum in Scranton, Eckley Miners’ Village and MAM). The museum in Ashland has the most limited opportunities and resources for development.

Over the past several years staff discussed the future of Museum of Mining with individuals and organizations in Ashland. The Borough of Ashland has now indicated an interest in acquiring the facility and continuing to operate the museum program. Ms. Williams recommends proceeding with these discussions and taking steps necessary to lease the property to the borough in the interim while legislation is developed and approved for transfer of title.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion that authorizes the Executive Director and staff to develop and implement a plan for transfer of the Museum of Anthracite Mining in Ashland into management and eventual ownership by a responsible local

government or historical organization. Further, the PHMC supports the development and passage of legislation required to achieve this goal. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Senator Ferlo, motion approved to authorize the Transfer of Museum of Anthracite Mining.

e) State Museum/Archives Master Plan

Ms. Blackaby distributed the program for today's historical marker dedication commemorating the Centennial of The State Museum of Pennsylvania at 11:30 a.m.

Ms. Blackaby reviewed the Master Plan noting there were three possible scenarios for the renovation but that Scenario C provided the most potential to support growing tourism initiatives in Harrisburg and state-wide efforts to brand the Commonwealth as a cultural destination offering the greatest return on investment in terms of public benefit, economic development, and positive identity for the state. It also proposes base renovations, demolition of the archives tower and construction of a new off-site archives facility, plus the construction of a four-story 12,000 square foot atrium to serve as the main entrance and reception for the museum.

PHMC completed a portion of its renovations in 2004 at a cost of \$11 million, an existing state appropriation of \$80.5 million remains in place, with this support, renovations could resume in the near future. We would also seek federal funds and private contributions for the project. Revenue bonds for a proposed parking facility adjacent to The State Museum would offset construction costs for a garage.

f) Institutional Code of Ethics/Fundraising Policy

Drafts of the Fundraising Policy and Institutional Code of Ethics were distributed for review and comment from Commissioners at the last Commission Meeting.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Institutional Code of Ethics and Fundraising Policy. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Fisher, the Institutional Code of Ethics/Fundraising Policy was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT E)

g) Brig Niagara Fee

Ms. Franco reported that an Executive Committee was held on July 19, 2005 by telephone conference to approve the admission fee for the Brig Niagara. The Niagara has received the necessary sailing school license that enables PHMC to advertise and charge a fee for day sails. This was approved by the Executive Committee with the understanding that this proposal would be brought before the full Commission at today's meeting for ratification.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Admission Fee for Brig Niagara. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Ms. Pavelko, the Admission Fee for the Brig Niagara was approved.

VII. OTHER REPORTS

a) National Register Nominations

Ms. Cutler reported that the Historic Preservation Board met on September 13, 2005 to consider 7 nominations for the National Register 6 of those were approved. The Germantown Grammar School was tabled.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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