

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

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on November 16, 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 Earl, Senator Jim Ferlo, Laura Fisher, Janet S. Klein, Representative Stephen Maitland, Cheryl McClenney-Brooker, Dr. Brian Mitchell, and Kathleen Pavelko. 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.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Spilove called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2005 MEETING

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

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Spilove took a moment to remember Commissioner Robert Janosov who passed away in October. Chairman Spilove attended the funeral which was well attended. Chairman Spilove gave a summary on programs/meetings he attended this past quarter:

- Visited the Sarah Smith Playground. The playground is next to a national historical cemetery where six or seven generals from the Philadelphia area are buried.
- Attended the Vet Stadium Marker Dedication. The event was well covered by the press with a special thanks to Jane Crawford. Chairman Spilove reported that there were several other marker dedications over the past two months.
- Attended the groundbreaking at Eckley Miner's Village with Barbara Franco and Donna Williams. There are \$2.5 million of renovations being planned on ten homes at this site.
- Attended Archaeology Month at the Capitol.
- Attended and gave remarks at the 25th Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board at the Capitol. The unveiling of the Preservation Plan and a preservation poster also took place at this event.
- Chairman Spilove flew to Greensburg, PA, in Westmoreland County, to attend the Governor's Arts Awards in Greensburg, PA.
- Attended the groundbreaking for the Pennsbury Visitors Center.
- Attended the John Houston Marker Dedication in Germantown.
- Attended Marker Dedication for the PSFS Building on Market Street in Philadelphia.
- Attended event at the Steven Decatur House in Washington where they honored Jerry Lendfest for his \$4.5 million contribution to the Center for the Gettysburg Memorial Battlefield.
- Attended Marker Dedication honoring the 230th Anniversary of Tun Tavern, the Birthplace of the Marines. Governor Rendell and President Bush sent letters to be read at the event.
- Reported that the Historical Marker Program Committee will meet twice a year. Two new members have been appointed to the Committee: Janet Klein and Representative Curry. Chairman Spilove gave Representative Maitland, Chair of the Historical Marker Committee, permission to hold emergency meetings as necessary.
- Chairman Spilove welcomed Senator Thompson of Chester County. Senator Thompson was invited to the meeting so he could be thanked for

his donation of film taken at the 1938 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

- The marker committee will meet twice a year. Chairman Spilove gave Representative Maitland, Chair of the Marker Committee, permission to hold emergency meetings throughout the year.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Franco announced that the strategic plan updates will be sent out in December. She also reported that the annual report will be going out soon. Have final approvals from DGS and working with Governor's Office to put out a release on where we are with the Master Plan for The State Museum and the State Archives. Ms. Franco also noted an article that was published on affordable housing for historic preservation which includes one of our projects on the historic tax credit. Ms. Franco announced that we've been involved in a lot of projects concerning the Civil War. DCED, PennDOT, and PHMC will unveil The Civil War Trails project. The Commission has also received some important grants. We were awarded a \$375,000 Save America's Treasures grant, which is the largest amount ever given for document preservation. This grant will be used in the preservation of the Civil War Muster Rolls. The grant was matched by the History Caucus. The Heritage Society received the second Teaching American History grant with the Susquehanna Intermediate Unit. A group in Philadelphia has approached the Commission to do advertising spots in Philadelphia television using our Black History markers in Philadelphia. Howard Pollman is working on the arrangements with the group. Ms. Franco asked Mr. Pollman to update the Commission on the new logo. Mr. Pollman brought two versions of the logo to show the Commission. There are two versions; a left justified and a centered version. Both versions will be available digitally.

Ms. Fisher asked why we don't have any vanity plates anymore. Chairman Spilove announced that the Commission is working with PennDOT on a Civil War license plate. Ms. Franco informed the group that she has already spoken with Rina Cutler from PennDOT. The vanity plate will be of the Rothermel painting.

V. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Polischuk announced that Suzanne Schmitt of the Bureau of Management Services has accepted a position with the Department of General Services after serving 15 years with the Commission.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the resolution. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Representative Maitland, the resolution for Ms. Schmitt was approved. (Attachment A)

Ms. Blackaby announced that Gracie Davis will be retiring after 8 years with the Commission. She came to work for the Commission out of retirement. She began her work in the Executive Office in the Public Relations office and assisted in the Collections Department.

On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Representative Maitland, the resolution for Ms. Davis was approved. (Attachment B)

Ms. Blackaby announced that Dave Staiger will be leaving the Commission after 14 years. He specialized in the lighting for exhibits.

On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Representative Maitland, the resolution for Mr. Staiger was approved. (Attachment C)

Chairman Spilove announced that Commissioner Janosov passed away after serving on the Commission for two years. Commissioner Janosov made numerous contributions to the State in the field of history.

The resolution for Mr. Janosov was unanimously approved by all members in attendance. (Attachment D)

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a) Historical Marker Meetings

Chairman Spilove announced that Historical Marker Review Panel meetings will be held twice a year. Also, Representative Maitland has permission to call as needed meetings during the year.

b) C. DeLores Tucker Historical Marker

A historical marker nomination honoring C. DeLores Tucker was sent to the Historical Marker Review Panel and was unanimously approved. Chairman Spilove asked that the Commission approve the Marker Panels recommendation of the approval of the marker. The Commission unanimously approved the Marker Review Panel's recommendation. Ms. Tucker was the first woman and African American Secretary of State.

Ms. Fisher asked how the history of historical marker nominations are verified. Chairman Spilove responded that nominations are first reviewed by staff of the Bureau for Historic Preservation and then reviewed by the Historical Marker Review Panel. Documentation is also provided with the historical marker nomination.

VII. OTHER REPORTS

a) Budget Report

Mr. Polischuk gave a review on the budget. The excerpt of the budget he handed out prior to the start of the meeting contains two sections of the budget. The excerpt contains the budget narrative and a summary by funded appropriation. There is a 7.5% reduction on the budget. One item in the budget is the Point-of-Sale System for each of the Sites. This will allow the Sites to get the money faster and get it into the bank to earn interest. There is a proposal to move \$1 million from the Museum Assistance Grant fund to the General Government Operations fund. Mr. Polischuk reported that the capital budget has not been included in the handout.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a) Senate Resolution No. 190 of 2005-2006

Ms. Franco read Senate Resolution No. 190 adopted October 24, 2005. The resolution deals with heritage tourism, the preservation of historic barns and the preservation of historic agriculture buildings. This resolution urges the Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to cooperate to develop and undertake a voluntary inventory and cataloging of historic barns and the results be used in the promotion of the agriculture tourism industry. Results of this project are to be reported to the Senate by November 30, 2006.

Ms. Cutler reported that in partnership with PennDOT and Penn State University, an inventory of historic barns has commenced. An inventory of central and southeast corridors still has to be done. Representative Sheila Miller will ask the legislature for additional funding to complete this project.

Representative Maitland reported that Camp Letterman, a Civil War hospital in Gettysburg is located in an area that is going to be developed. Representative Maitland wanted to know if the PHMC will be doing the archaeology. Ms. Cutler responded to the question saying that at this point there is no state or federal involvement because the properties are privately owned. The PHMC has no authority to intervene due to the Pennsylvania History and National Historic Preservation Act.

Senator Ferlo reported that an historical marker application will be submitted for Forbes Field Wall. Senator Ferlo will be working to have the historical marker approved and unveiled by the time the Major League Baseball holds its All Star game in Pittsburgh next year.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be discussed.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Cohen, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

