

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
JUNE 21, 2006
MINUTES

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on June 21, 2006, in the 5th Floor Board Room of the State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Wayne S. Spilove, Chairman; Rhonda R. Cohen, Owen Thomas for Senator Jane Earll, Laura Fisher, Representative Stephen Maitland, Cheryl McClenney-Brooker, Dr. Brian Mitchell, M. Clare Zales. The following staff were present: Barbara Franco, Anita Blackaby, Jane Crawford, Jean Cutler, David Haury, Marilyn Levin, Howard Pollman, Wasyl Polischuk, Donna Williams. Heather Emery represented the Office of General Counsel.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2006

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

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

*** Rotary Club Speech – Union League**

Thanked Jane Crawford, Don Giles and Beth Hager for putting together a great presentation. Received wonderful feedback from the members of the Rotary Club.

*** Woodturning Center**

Met with Albert LeCoff and staff to discuss plans they have for the future of the woodturning center and advised them on which PHMC grants would be most suitable for them to apply for.

* **Arts and Heritage Meeting**

Lackawanna County stakeholders came to Harrisburg to discuss their cultural plan for Lackawanna County. The plan is very extensive and impressive; we plan to do our best to help them carry it out.

* **Christ Church – Fire System**

With money received from PHMC, Christ Church unveiled their new fire system in April and asked that I attend and spoke on behalf of PHMC.

* **Associates Luncheon – Military Museum**

On May 6th we recognized some of the most important members of PHMC – our volunteers – with a luncheon at the Military Museum.

* **Please Touch Museum – Carousel unveiling**

Joined by Jane Crawford and Barbara Franco at the unveiling of the carousel that is on loan from PHMC to the Please Touch Museum.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Franco reported that the Trails of History Guides were reprinted. The guide was included in a special Civil War supplement to American Heritage magazine; 165,000 copies were distributed to subscriber's east of the Mississippi.

PHMC continues to participate in the development of the Pennsylvania Civil War Trails program in partnership with DCED, DCNR, PennDOT and communities of south central Pennsylvania. The Commission received an NEH Consultants grant administered by the Heritage Society; the Commission is taking a leadership role in convening regional meetings and planning for the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in 2011.

The Lincoln Bicentennial will be celebrated in 2009. Ms. Franco was invited by Gettysburg College to attend the award ceremony for Lincoln Prize in New York City. Gettysburg College is leading the Pennsylvania observance of the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial (NALB) in 2009 and sought PHMC's help in organizing their effort as a state-

wide initiative. Ms. Franco was appointed as the Pennsylvania representative to the Governors' Council of the NALB.

The Commission is working with the Arts and Heritage Committee and Pennsylvania Humanities Council to help create a cultural plan for Lackawanna County. A meeting was held on April 11th and a meeting with the entire Committee is planned in Scranton in July.

Ms. Franco reported on the Commission's budget. Included in this year's budget is an additional million dollars put into the maintenance fund to cover the cost of additional salaries. It is extremely important that the Commission receives this additional money. If the money is not received we will start charging an admission to the State Museum and looking at closing major sites.

Ms. Franco encouraged the Commissioners to visit the 39th annual Art of the State exhibit. The exhibition is located on the first floor in the newly renovated museum quality lighting, new carpeting and a new modular wall system.

Chairman Spilove announced that Representative Stephen Maitland will be stepping down from the Commission and would like to express his deepest gratitude. It's been a pleasure working with him on historic markers and Gettysburg. Representative Maitland will attend Widener Law School in September.

V. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Haury announced the retirement of Diane Reed who has worked for the Commission for the past 17 years. The past 15 years Ms. Reed served as Chief of the Division of Publications and Sales.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the resolution. On motion by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Cohen, the resolution for Ms. Reed was approved. (See Attachment A)

Ms. Williams announced the retirement of Linda Cappabianca. Ms. Cappabianca was the Administrative Assistant for the Flagship *Niagara* and Erie Maritime Museum.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the resolution. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Cohen, the resolution for Ms. Cappabianca was approved. (See Attachment B)

Ms. Cutler announced the retirement of four outgoing Historic Preservation Board Members: June Evans, Paul Heberling, Peter Kaplan and Richard Levengood.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the resolutions. On motion by Ms. Brooker, seconded by Dr. Mitchell, the resolutions for June Evans, Paul Heberling, Peter Kaplan and Richard Levengood were approved. (See Attachment C)

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a) GOS and Project Grant Recommendations

Ms. Cutler reported a total of 116 applications were received for the Project Grants. The Board is recommending funding 50% of the total dollars requested.

Categories included are Archives and Records Management, Collections Management and Conservation, Organizational Development and Public History and Education Programs.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve Project Grant Recommendations. On motion by Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Fisher the Project Grant Recommendations were approved. (See Attachment D)

Ms. Cutler reported on the Historic Preservation Grants which include Community Preservation, Keystone Historic Property, Archaeology and Certified Local Government grants.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Historic Preservation Project Grants. On motion by Representative Maitland, seconded by Ms. Fisher, the Historic Preservation Project Grants were approved. (See Attachment D)

Ms. Cutler reported that there were 107 application received for the General Operating Support Grants for Museums totaling \$7,970,085. The total dollars recommended for funding is \$2,379,882.

Ms. Cutler reported that there were 48 applications received for the Official County Historical Society totaling \$411,413. The total dollars recommended for funding is \$411,413.on the Official County Historical Societies

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the General Operating Support Grants for Museums and Official County Historical Society should there be an addition augmentation to the grant program we will either increase or decrease based on the final funding. On motion by Ms. Brooker, seconded by Dr. Mitchell the General Operating Support Grants for Museum and Official County Historical Societies were approved. (See Attachment D)

- b) Certification of West Chester Borough, West Chester Historic District Boundary Increase

Ms. Cutler reported on the request for certification of the Historical Significance for the Borough of West Chester. The West Chester Borough Downtown Historic District was listed to the National Register of Historic Places on July 2, 1985, and the Historic District

boundary increase was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on February 27, 2005.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Certification of West Chester Borough, West Chester Historic District boundary increase. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Cohen the boundary increase of West Chester Borough, West Chester Historic District was approved. (See Attachment E)

c) Certification of Wayne Historic District, Radnor Township Delaware County

Ms. Cutler reported on the request for certification of the Wayne Historic District, Radnor Township Delaware County. The North Wayne Historic District was listed to the National Register of Historic Places July 25, 1985.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Certification of Wayne Historic District, Radnor Township, Delaware County. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Representative Maitland the Certification of Wayne Historic District was approved. (See Attachment F)

d) Change in Policy for Approval of Historical Markers

Ms. Cutler reported that the Bureau for Historic Preservation recommends an additional criteria be added to the policies for approval of Historical Markers. This recommendation was reviewed by the Historical Marker Committee. It's addition is requested in order to verify that a marker has statewide or national significance without staff having to undertake additional research.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Change in Policy for Approval of Historic Markers. On motion by Representative Maitland, seconded by Ms. Brooker the Change in Policy for Approval of Historical Markers was approved. (See Attachment G)

Reproduction Policy

Mr. Haury reported that this policy was reviewed earlier this year. We have made some minor changes to Section III. G. These changes are related to the marking and size of artifact reproductions.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Reproduction Policy. On motion by Representative Maitland, seconded by Ms. Cohen the Reproduction Policy was approved. (See Attachment H)

f) Black History Advisory Committee Bylaws

Mr. Haury reported on the Black History Advisory Committee. This Committee was appointed by a resolution from the Commission in 1976. The Committee did not have bylaws with a mission statement or actual details of how the Committee would operate. After working with the Committee, Mr. Haury is recommending the Commission approve the Bylaws for the Black History Advisory Committee.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Black History Advisory Committee Bylaws. On motion by Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Pavelko, the Black History Advisory Committee Bylaws were approved. (See Attachment I)

g) FY 06-07 Commission Meetings

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Commission Meeting Schedule for FY 06-07. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Fisher the schedule of Commission Meetings for FY 06-05 was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT J)

OTHER REPORTS

a) National Register Nominations Approved by Historic Preservation Board

Ms. Cutler reported on the National Register Nominations that were reviewed at the June 13th Historic Preservation Board Meeting.

The following nominations will be forwarded to the National Park Service for its consideration for listing on the National Register of Historic Places: Presser Home for Retired Music Teachers; American Railway Express Company Garage; Nugent Home for Baptists and the Millersburg Ferry. The following nomination was tabled: John Armor Bingham House.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Fisher gave a brief report on the Point State Park Master Plan. Point State Park is a National Historic Landmark located in downtown Pittsburgh and is owned by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Restoring Point State Park as an amenity will further bolster investment downtown and create a more marketable image for Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh 250th celebrations in 2008 will attract millions of visitors to Pittsburgh and will bring international attention and tourism dollars to the region.

Representative Maitland said he will finish law school in beginning this fall and will step down from the Commission shortly and will ask the Speaker of the House to name his replacement. He thanked everyone for their support and the experience working with staff at the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Representative Maitland motion approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.