

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 15, 2006
MINUTES

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on November 15, 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, Lauren Williams for Senator Jane Earll, Laura Fisher, Dr. Gordon Haaland, Janet Klein, Cheryl McClenney-Brooker, Kathleen Pavelko, and Representative Scott Petri. The following staff were present: Barbara Franco, Jane Crawford, Jean Cutler, Jack Leighow, Marilyn Levin, Howard Pollman, Harry Parker, Wasyl Polischuk, John Robinson and Donna Williams. Beth Hager represented the Pennsylvania Heritage Society.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Spilove called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the minutes. On motion by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Klein, minutes were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT A)

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

- **Commercial Digital Computer Birthplace – Marker dedication**

The marker was dedicated at the building where the BINAC and Univac I computers were created. There were over 100 people in attendance. The event was attended by many of the people that actually worked on the computers around 1949.

- **Re-Dedication of the State Capitol**

Speakers included a re-enactor who portrayed Theodore Roosevelt and also the noted historian and author Michael Beschloss.

- **National Constitution Center – Liberty Medal**
 Past President's George Bush Sr. and Bill Clinton received the Liberty medal this year for their work with the disaster of Hurricane Katrina and the Tsunami. The Presidents are credited with raising over \$1 billion dollars to support disaster relief. The ceremony was followed by a gala in the NCC.
- **Swearing In Ceremony for Mary Bomar**
 On October 17, 2006, attended Mary Bomar's swearing in ceremony as the new Director of the National Parks Service. Her swearing in took place inside of Philadelphia's Congress Hall on Independence Mall. Followed by a luncheon in Mary's honor which was also attend by the Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne.
- **Ralph Archbold Event**
 The event was held at the Franklin Institute and honored the 25 years he has dedicated to portraying Ben Franklin in Philadelphia.
- **Casmir Seizwinski Dedication**
 Attended a marker dedication in Doylestown, PA for the well known banker and the first Chairman of SEPTA.
- **Once Upon A Nation VIP Night -**
 Hosted an evening tour for Once Upon a Nation's Independence After Hours Tour. The tour begins with dinner at the City Tavern and then continues for a behind the scenes glimpse of the Pennsylvania State House, Independence Hall circa 1776. During which you encounter delegates who will share with you the events of that time period.
- **Black Horse Inn – Check presentation**
 Black Horse Inn recently received funds through a Keystone grant that will allow them to preserve this beautiful building which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and also provided comfort to travelers and residents along the Bethlehem Pike since the 18th century. Representative Curry also attended.
- **Bob Rovner Show**
 45 minute radio show with host Bob Rovner to discuss PHMC .
- **Unveiling of the Reading Terminal Neon Sign**
 9 X 16 foot Neon Sign that hung for decades at Reading Terminal Market was pulled out of storage and restored with funding from PHMC. The sign was rededicated last week.
- **Atwater Kent Museum**
 Attended the opening of an exhibit called *How Philadelphia Works – Streets as a Barometer of Urban life*. The exhibit explores Philadelphia Street activity over the

past 300 years. Featured in the exhibit are the Philadelphia City Charter drafted by William Penn to residents in 1701, the wampum belt believed to have been given to Penn by the Lenape tribe, police paraphernalia from the late 1800's, torches from the 19th century used in parades among other items.

- **Smith Playground Check presentation**

Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse will receive a keystone grant on November 17th for \$85,000. On Friday we will have a check presentation at the playground which has been in existence since July 23, 1899.

- **Philadelphia Check Presentations for Keystone grants**

On November 28 we will be having a joint check presentation at Girard College, for the Philadelphia county organizations that received Keystone Grants this year including: Glen Foerd on the Delaware, St. Peter's Church, Historical Society of Frankford, The Olympia, Bartram House, The Mask and Wig Club and the Royal Theater.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Franco reported that this year's annual report is complete and thanked everyone who worked on getting this done on such a tight schedule for printing by today's meeting. This publication will be used for year-end mailings, distributed to perspective new Pennsylvania Heritage Society Board Members and new members of the legislature.

October is a month that recognizes different disciplines and subject areas. PHMC participated in activities for Hispanic Heritage Month, Archeology Month, and National Archives Week. All events were well attended. The Commission co-sponsored a conference on Pennsylvania's Native American Heritage presented at the State Museum that attracted an audience of 170 people. The annual Archives and Records Management Seminar attracted 250 participants during National Archives Week.

A number of our statewide partners had board meetings this fall: Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations, Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical Association.

This year the National Trust for Historic Preservation met in Pittsburgh and was very well attended. A new PHMC trade show booth was debuted at the National Trust and is on display in the 5th floor reception area. This will be available for all bureaus to use.

The Institute for Museum and Library Services one of the major national funders of museums and libraries is coming up for reauthorization in 2009. There have been preliminary conversations about the opportunity to increase the amount of funding for museums. One suggestion is the idea of setting up a similar program to that which now funds libraries as a federal formula grant to states. These grants require matches by the states. There would be a state advisory board similar to preservation advisory board.

The Commission is working on a new initiative about Citizenship. Anita Blackaby is working on this special assignment. She will serve as the central Pennsylvania liaison to PennCORD.

We are beginning to assemble information packets for the new legislators that were recently elected. Representative Petri suggested we invite the new legislators to the State Museum on a Monday and inform them of the number of children who visit the museum from their district.

V. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

There were no courtesy resolutions at this time.

VI. ACTIONS ITEMS

- a) Borough of Stroudsburg Historic District Act.

Ms. Cutler reported on the request for certification by the Borough of Stroudsburg, County of Monroe. The Stroudsburg Historic District is comprised of the Academy Hill

Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places January 4, 1990 and the Stroudsburg Downtown Historic District determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places March 17, 2000.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Certification by the Borough of Stroudsburg, County of Monroe. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Klein the request for certification was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT B)

b) Borough of Lansdowne Historic District Act

Ms. Cutler reported on the request for Certification by the Borough of Lansdowne, County of Delaware. This area serves as the central commercial district.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Certification by the Borough of Lansdowne, County of Delaware. On motion by Representative Petri, seconded by Ms. Klein the request for certification was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT C)

c) Reproduction Use Fee Schedule

Ms. Franco reported that this was discussed at the September 20, 2006 meeting. An amended version is enclosed in the commission packets.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Reproduction Use Fee Schedule as amended, Ms. Pavelko seconded the motion. The Reproduction Use Fee Schedule was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT D)

VII. OTHER REPORTS

Ms. Franco pointed out table tents at the center of the table advertising the Pennsylvania Heritage Society Holiday Marketplace. Items from our historic sites and museums gift shops will be available for sale in the Keystone Atrium. The Department of Community and Economic Development and Capitol Preservation Committee were also partners in this program.

Ms. Franco asked each of the Bureaus to present highlights from the annual report.

Ms. Cutler reported on the Historic Schools Initiative. It includes the development of public programs and resources that encourage the preservation and continued use of historic school buildings. “Educate Yourself About Preservation” poster has been disseminated Commonwealth-wide. Historic School Buildings Initiative website has been launched and is continuously updated. The survey of 20th century public schools is ongoing.

Mr. Parker reported that the Archives received from the federal Save America’s Treasures Project \$375,000, this was matched by \$675,000 from the Pennsylvania General Assembly to conserve the Pennsylvania’s Civil War Muster Rolls. The Archives acquired the personal papers of C. DeLores Tucker, former secretary of the Commonwealth and a prominent crusader for minority and women’s civil rights and sponsored the 29th Annual Black History Conference in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Polischuk shared with the Commission some highlights from the information technology plan for the current year. The bureau directors came together to identify projects we thought would be important to the Commission over the next several years. Projects identified as the highest three priorities are: further development of the

Commission's web presence, the Bureau for Historic Preservation Environmental Review tracking system and to expand the availability and access to the Collections Management Program.

Ms. Williams reported that the historic sites and museums hosted 1.1 million visitors in 2005-2006. The division of architecture and design manages all the architecture and preservation projects for the agency.

Barry Loveland gave a presentation on a new apprenticeship program for historic preservation trades to encourage more educational and training opportunities for people who are either in the trades or entering the trades to focus their interests in working with historic buildings. This new initiative started this past summer with two apprentices from the cabinet making program at Thaddeus Stevens College who worked with PHMC preservation construction specialists.

The goal is to increase the skill level of workers on preservation projects, encourage more people to enter this field; and increase the number of experienced workers by providing education, training and work experience. This summer we are expanding the program to offer a one day seminar in historic preservation. The training component will include intensive workshops with master craftsmen. The work experience component will include an 11-12 week placement with the Commission and several additional partners.

Mr. Pollman reported on the marketing efforts of the Commission. We are working on the PHMC logo as well as advertising for all PHMC sites in the state visitors guide, *Pursuits Magazine* and www.visitpa.com website. People are requesting Pennsylvania Trail of History brochures by calling 1-800-Visit-PA Our marketing efforts

have been enhanced through partnership with Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

We are also involved in special the following initiatives with DCED. The Pennsylvania Civil War Trail, interpretive signs in communities of Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Carlisle, the river towns Marietta, Wrightsville, Columbia, York, Hanover and Chambersburg. The Commission is developing a medallion for our historical markers that will bear the Civil War Trails logo and identify them as part of the trail.

DCED is working on the Pennsylvania Artisans Trails to promote Pennsylvania craftsman and artists on various roads through the Commonwealth. This weekend the State Museum of Pennsylvania is opening *Pennsylvania Craft*, the first statewide juried craft exhibition as part of that effort.

Family reunion planning/workshops will be held at the State Museum of Pennsylvania and around our sites during Heritage Week as part of DCED's family reunion initiative: *Pennsylvania Homecomings*.

Over the past year the Commission participated in a series of colloquia as part of DCED's Underground Railroad Initiative: The Pennsylvania Quest for Freedom.

Jack Leighow invited Commissioners to see the *Steel: Made in Pennsylvania* exhibit. This photographic exhibit documents several steel works in Pennsylvania. It will then travel to the Palmer Gallery in Bethlehem and the Rivers of Steel in Pittsburgh. Photographs were taken by Don Giles who works for the Commission.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:30
a.m.