

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION**  
**MARCH 21, 2007**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on March 21, 2007, in the 5th Floor Board Room of the State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Wayne Spilove, Dr. Gordon Haaland, Janet Klein, Cheryl McClenney-Brooker, Senator Scott Petri, Casey Long for Senator Joseph Scarnati and George Friedline for Clare Zales. The following staff were present: Barbara Franco, Jane Crawford, Jean Cutler, Jack Leighow, Marilyn Levin, Howard Pollman, David Haury, 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. It was determined that since a quorum was not present that five commissioners present--Wayne Spilove, Gordon Haaland, Janet Klein, Cheryl McClenney Booker and Scott Petri would constitute a committee to review reports and make recommendations to the full commission."

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 15, 2006 MEETING**

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2006 commission meeting. On motion by Representative Petri, seconded by Dr. Haaland, the Committee voted to recommend approval of the minutes.

**III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Spilove gave a summary on programs/meetings he attended this past quarter: Disney Adventure Group came into Philadelphia and would like to use Independence Park as part of their National Adventure Tours.

- \* Met with Tom Hagen former secretary of Commerce and former CEO of Erie Insurance Company. Mr. Hagen agreed to join the board as a member of the Pennsylvania Heritage Society.
- \* Met with Bill Alexander, a Professor at the Wharton School of Business. Mr. Alexander is considering joining the board as a member of the Pennsylvania Heritage Society.
- \* Chairman Spilove had the opportunity to meet and speak to Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia.
- \* Attended George Washington's 250th Birthday Celebration at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
- \* Attended the 32nd Annual Travel and Tourism Legislative Dinner with Meryl Levitz of the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation and Amy Needle of Historic Philadelphia. Before dinner the group toured the State Museum of Pennsylvania.
- \* Attended an event at Valley Forge celebrating Once Upon a Nation partnership with the National Park Service.
- \* Chairman Spilove will attend an upcoming marker dedication honoring Siegmund Lubin in Philadelphia on April 11, 2007.
- \* Working with the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police and Firefighters on a memorial for firefighters and fallen police officers in Philadelphia. The Memorial will be located in Independence Park.
- \* Attended the Washington Crossing Reenactment on Christmas Day.

#### **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Franco reported that the Commission held a successful Penn Ambassador program at the State Museum of Pennsylvania. This year, a number of new legislators nominated Penn Ambassadors.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania was forced to close for four days because the fire alarm system was not working. Upgrading of this system, along with other building systems is

part of the major renovation of the museum which has been a requested capital project for some time.

The Commission participated in the Annual Black History Month program sponsored by several state agencies. This program was aired on Pennsylvania Cable Network.

Ms. Franco attended the annual National Conference for State Historic Preservation Officers in Washington, D.C. This was an opportunity for all preservation advocacy groups to work together to visit with congressmen and lobby for preservation-related legislation.

Ms. Franco and Ms. Klein attended the Governor's Task Force on the Pennsylvania Wilds. This is an initiative of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The Governor's budget has been released and provides the Commission with a cost to carry budget that covers salary increases. On March 7th the Commission appeared before the House Appropriate Committee.

The following capital projects are recommended for release: Anthracite Heritage Museum and Railroad Museum HVAC systems; fire protection systems for Daniel Boone homestead, Joseph Priestly House and Drake Well Museum; and permanent exhibits at Old Economy Village for design construction totaling approximately \$4 million.

Ms. Franco announced that Dave Myers, Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff is leaving state government and will be working for Dr. Mitchell at Bucknell University. Ms. Franco informed the Commission that due to Marilyn Levin retiring at the end of March we are currently interviewing candidates for Legislative Liaison.

As a result of participating in the minority internship last year, Rachel Jones Williams has changed her career and graduate school plans and has applied and has been accepted into the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies.

## V. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to recommend approval of the following resolutions for John Williams, Fort Pitt Museum; Kathy Bozar, Eckley Miners' Village; the Volunteer of the Year Awards for:

Anthracite Heritage Museum & Scranton Iron Furnaces – Mary Theresa Montoro  
Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates – Kathy Massey  
Bushy Run Battlefield Heritage Society – Jack Suich, Donna Detore  
Friends of the Conrad Weiser Homestead – Brian Beamesderfer  
Cornwall Iron Furnace Associates – Pat Freeland  
Friends of Daniel Boone Homestead – Beverly Connor  
The Colonel, Inc. – Bob Lewis  
Eckley Miners Village Associates – Robert Zimmerman  
Ephrata Cloister Associates – Joe Flasher  
Flagship Niagara League – Claudia Bankert  
Fort Pitt Museum Associates – Donn Neal  
Friends of Graeme Park – Susan Tafel  
Friends of Hope Lodge and Mathew Mill – Debbie Hoffman  
Friends of Joseph Priestley House – George Specht  
Landis Valley Associates – Betsy Weidler  
The Harmonie Associates – Michael Wayne  
The Pennsbury Society – Miriam Ernay  
Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates – David Berberich  
Friends of the Pennsylvania Military Museum – Jim Lynch  
Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania – Robert Reese  
Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County – Hazel Ware  
Friends of Washington Crossing Historic Park – Durham Boat Restoration Crew (Paul Beck, David Ludwig, Frank Lyons, Robert Scordia, Mark Weiss)  
Friends of the State Museum – Joan Prescott  
Outstanding Service Award – Phil Walsh, State Museum of Pennsylvania

On motion by Dr. Haaland, seconded by Ms. Klein the following resolutions were recommended for approval by the full Commission: John Williams, Fort Pitt Museum; Kathy Bozar, Eckley Miners' Village; the Volunteer of the Year Awards and the Outstanding Service

Award pending a formal vote by a quorum of Commission Members (SEE ATTACHMENT B,C,D,E)

Ms. Franco read a resolution in honor of Marilyn Levin, Legislative Liaison.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to recommend approval of the resolution for Marilyn Levin. On motion by Dr. Haaland, seconded by Ms. Klein, the resolution for Marilyn Levin was recommended for approval at a later meeting of a quorum of Commission Members. Representative Petri remarked that Marilyn has been a tremendous service to the Commission.

Ms. Franco read a resolution in honor of John Robinson, Webmaster.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to recommend approval of the resolution for John Robinson. On motion by Dr. Haaland, seconded by Ms. Klein, the resolution for John Robinson was recommended for approval at a later meeting of a quorum of Commission Members.

Mr. Haury reported that Jim Arnold has been a full-time member of the Commission for over 35 years. His knowledge and understanding of the Archives is immense and will be greatly missed. Mr. Arnold will retire from the Commission on March 30, 2007.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to recommend approval of the resolution for James Arnold. On motion by Dr. Haaland, seconded by Ms. Klein, the resolution for James Arnold was recommended for approval at a later meeting of a quorum of Commission Members. (SEE ATTACHMENT F)

Mr. Polischuk reported that Ronald Smith served 27 years working for the Commission as a budget analyst. Ron has given his time, talent, and energy to assist his colleagues, members of the general public and other government agencies. Mr. Smith will retire from the Commission on March 30, 2007.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to recommend approval of the resolution for

Ronald Smith. On motion by Dr. Haaland, seconded by Ms. Klein, the resolution for Ronald Smith was recommended for approval at a later meeting of a quorum of Commission Members.

(SEE ATTACHMENT G)

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

### **a) Scholars in Residence Recommendations**

Mr. Haury reported the Scholars in Residence Program received eighteen applications for a residency appointment of four to eight weeks each per program guidelines. The total amount requested by these applicants was \$42,000. The residency program review panel at its meeting on March 13th recommended five awards, totaling \$10,500. The five applicants recommended for funding are: Katharina Hering, George Mason University; Jeffrey D. Kaja, University of Michigan; Andrew G. Krause, Temple University; Richard McMahon, University College Dublin and Patrick Spero, University of Pennsylvania.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to recommend approval of the Scholars in Residents Recommendations for 2007-2008. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Dr. Haaland the Scholars in Residents Recommendations were recommended for approval at a later meeting of quorum of Commission Members. (SEE ATTACHMENT H)

### **b) State Historical Records Advisory Board Reappointments**

Mr. Haury reported that the State Historical Records Advisory Board serves as the central advisory body for historical records planning and seeks to facilitate cooperation among historical records repositories within the state. The reappointments are necessary to ensure continuity in implementing the Board's long-term strategic plan.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to recommend approval of the State Historical Records Advisory Board Reappointments. On motion by Dr. Haaland, seconded by Ms. Klein,

the State Historical Records Advisory Board Reappointments were recommended for approval at a later meeting of a quorum of Commission Members. (SEE ATTACHMENT I)

c) Request for Certification by the Borough of Munhall

Ms. Cutler reported the Borough of Munhall and the local Steel Valley Historic Architectural Review Board are requesting an extension to the previously approved and certified Local Historic District. The existing district was listed on the National Register in 1990 and declared a Local Historic District by the Borough in 2001.

The proposed additional areas to be added to the Local Historic District will help protect the historic character of the Historic District and will act as a buffer in the Local Historic Preservation efforts.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to recommend approval of the request for certification by the Borough of Munhall. On motion by Representative Petri, seconded by Dr. Haaland, the request for certification by the Borough of Munhall was recommended for approval at a later meeting of a quorum of Commission Members. (SEE ATTACHMENT J)

d) Historic Preservation Board Recommendation

Ms. Cutler reported that the Historic Preservation Board is recommending Daniel Perry to serve as Historic Preservation Board Members.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to recommend approval of the Historic Preservation Board Recommendation. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Dr. Haaland the Historic Preservation Board Recommendation was recommended for approval at a later meeting of a quorum of Commission Members. (SEE ATTACHMENT K)

e) Historic Marker Recommendations

Ms. Cutler introduced Karen Galle, who is the historic marker coordinator to the Commission.

Ms. Cutler reported that the Historic Marker Review Panel recently reviewed nominations for Historical Markers. The panel recommends approval of 35 markers. Seven of the nominations are recommended to be resubmitted for reconsideration this year and 54 nominations are not recommended for approval.

Representative Petri asked if there was an organization not recommended for approval and have been disapproved three times. Ms. Cutler said no. Representative Petri asked who should an organization or agency contact if they want to revisit or receive expertise in resubmitting their nominations. Ms. Cutler said the Commission tries to help the organization to get in contact with a scholar or local historical society who is knowledgeable in that area.

Ms. Franco reported that Laura Fisher, chair of the historic marker panel and would like to review the criteria.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to recommend approval of the Historic Marker Recommendations. Ms. Klein did not vote on the Dr. Abraham Simon Wolf Rosenbach nomination. On motion by Representative Petri, seconded by Dr. Haaland, the Historical Marker Review Panel Recommendations were recommended for approval at a later meeting of a quorum of Commission Members. (SEE ATTACHMENT L)

f) Certified Local Government Grants

Ms. Cutler reported on the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Certified Local Government Applications. A total number of 7 applications were received in the amount of \$78,529; all 7 applications were awarded \$84,559.

As per Certified Local Government Grant Guidelines, PHMC has discretion to approve greater than \$15,000. Due to limited applications PHMC was able to award these applicants at 50% of their total project cost, enabling the PHMC to meeting the National Park Service, Historic Preservation Fund Grant requirement of 10% minimum pass-through to Certified Local Governments.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to recommend approval of the Certified Local Government Grants. Representative Petri moved that the Committee recommend approval of the Certified Local Government Grants, seconded by Ms. Klein. Motion recommended approval of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Certified Local Government Grant Applications Fiscal Year 2007 at a later meeting of a quorum of Commission Members. (SEE ATTACHMENT M)

## **VII. OTHER REPORTS**

### a) National Register Nominations

Ms. Cutler reported the Historic Preservation Board met on March 13 to consider the following nominations for the National Register for Historic Places:

Guthriesville Historic District, East Brandywine Township, Chester County  
Chester Waterside Station of the Philadelphia Electric Company, Chester, Delaware County  
Horner House and Barn, Cumberland Township, Adams County  
Mylin House and Barn, West Lampeter Township, Lancaster County  
Wrightstown Octagonal School, Wrightstown Township, Bucks County  
Turtle Creek High School, Turtle Creek, Allegheny County  
Enoch Wright House, Peters Township, Washington County  
Houseknecht Farm, Moreland Township Lycoming County

At the request of the nominator, the Guthriesville Historic District nomination was withdrawn. The Houseknecht Farm nomination was tabled for additional information and revisions. The Board recommends to the National Park Service that the remaining six nominations be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

b) Citizenship Initiative

Ms. Franco asked Ms. Blackaby to report to the Commission on a new initiative about Citizenship.

Ms. Blackaby said the Commission has been engaged in civic education since 1913. Through the preservation of the tangible remains of Pennsylvania's past-artifacts, archival materials, and historic properties-the PHMC endeavors to teach its citizens about their history, making them better citizens now and in the future. After 94-years of public service, the PHMC is poised to participate in a statewide, regional and national effort to strengthen civic education today.

In 2002, three major organizations joined forces to address the decline in American civic engagement among young people, they are: Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Their focus was on citizenship education and policy in the schools. They were not looking at historical resources such as museums and historic sites or public history programs. Their work resulted in The Civic Mission of Schools.

Through the leadership of the Commission, it is hoped that a formal partnership could be forged between the civic education community and the museum/public history establishment. Potential partners that PHMC may engage include organizations on the state, regional and national levels, as well as individual museums and programs. Preliminary discussions with a variety of organizations – American Association of Museums, American Association of State and Local History, PennCORD, the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island, WITF Inc., Harrisburg and Millersville University to name a few have been extremely positive.

We are hoping at the June Commission Retreat to have more of a dialogue about the issues and get some feedback and ideas from the Commissioners about how we may proceed.

We are planning to work with First Lady, Judge Marjorie O. Rendell, identify and prioritize partnership opportunities.

The extensive research in the field of civic engagement to date has resulted in a profile of a good citizen. Competent and responsible citizens are informed and thoughtful, participate in their communities, act politically and have moral and civic virtues. If Commissioners have input on the topic they can email Ms. Blackaby directly.

In terms of our current strategic plan, Ms. Franco said this is one initiative that fits very much into encouraging partnerships and new partnerships and also about providing leadership for the commonwealth.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Franco reported on the upcoming meetings. We are about to move into a new strategic planning cycle at our June meeting. Chairman Spilove suggested that we meet on Tuesday, June 19th for a mini retreat and dinner prior to our regular Commission meeting on Wednesday, June 20th at WITF's new headquarters.

Ms. Franco suggested holding the September Commission meeting at Pennsbury Manor. This will be an opportunity for everyone to see their new visitors' center. Chairman Spilove is working on arrangements for everyone to take a tour with Once Upon a Nation, dinner and transportation to meeting.

Ms. Franco reported she received a request from the President of the Upper Makefield Newtown Soccer Club. The request is to continue using the field for practice and games and also

to add Mother's Day weekend and Columbus Day weekend allowing the fees remain the same as in previous years at \$1000 per year and be renewable every two years.

Representative Petri said the original controversy was because the board of supervisors were seeking to expand the number of soccer fields. The current lease was to terminate after the expansion of the fields was to be completed. Since the fields have not germinated well, the Representative was asked if they could have additional time using the fields at Washington Crossing. The tournaments on Mother's Day and Columbus Day weekend bring in thousands of people to the park.

It was agreed that the Commission should approve the request by the Upper Makefield Newtown Soccer Club to renew their lease.

Ms. Franco reported that Dr. Haaland serves as chair of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. The year 2009 celebrates the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. President Lincoln traveled to Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Harrisburg. We are thinking about creating key events in 2009 and supporting organizations that may already be doing something and hope to coordinate some events with the National Lincoln BiCentennial.

#### **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Spilove thanked staff for their hard work and dedication. He looks forward to working on a new strategic plan for the Commission.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to adjourn. On motion by Representative Curry, seconded by Ms. Klein the meeting was adjourned.