

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
JUNE 20, 2007
MINUTES

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on June 20, 2007 at WITF, Inc. located at 4801 Lindle Road, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Wayne Spilove, Rhonda Cohen, Laura Fisher, Dr. Gordon Haaland, Janet Klein, Kathleen Pavelko, Casey Long for Senator Joseph Scarnati and Clare Zales. The following staff were present: Barbara Franco, Jane Crawford, Jean Cutler, Jeffrey Decker, Jason Gerard, Don Giles, Beth Hager, Jack Leighow, Howard Pollman, David Haury, Wasyl Polischuk, Ted Walke and Donna Williams. Heather Emery and Andrea Bowman 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 FROM MARCH 21, 2007 AND APRIL 9, 2007 MEETING

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2007 and April 9, 2007 commission meeting. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Ms. Fisher, the minutes were approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

- Attended the Pennsylvania Heritage Society meeting. At the meeting Rhonda Cohen agreed to serve as President of the Pennsylvania Heritage Society, Tom Hagen agreed to serve as Vice President, Anne Yellot, Barbara Franco agreed to serve as Secretary, Bill Alexander agreed to serve as Chair of the Finance Committee and Chairman Spilove agreed to serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee. The budget for the Society was reviewed and approved for 07-08.

- Attended the Franklin Institute Awards Program. The Franklin Institute Awards are among the oldest and most prestigious comprehensive science awards in the world.
- Attended the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the State Museum.
- Attended the Preservation Awards for Preservation Alliance in Philadelphia.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Franco reported that the Civil War continues to be a major focus for Pennsylvania. The Civil War Trails project is a partnership among DCED, PennDOT, PHMC, and 6 participating communities are now moving forward.

The NEH Consultation grant to the Pennsylvania Heritage Society supported a meeting to discuss the Sesquicentennial in April. Comments and discussions among the participants provided a strong basis for our next steps in planning for the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

This afternoon, Dr. Haaland will chair the first meeting of the Abraham Lincoln BiCentennial Commission in Pennsylvania.

Recently the Office of Administration issued an IT Governance Executive Order that impacts the Commission's IT program. Agency Chief Information Officer will report to the Office of Administration.

ISD recently launched the Commission's new web portal in May. As a result of the state's new web portal technology, extensive work by a PHMC workgroup, and generous cooperation throughout the agency, the Commission has an improved and expanded resource to offer online visitors.

DGS agreed to contract with Vitetta to prepare a Life Safety Feasibility Study for the State Museum and Archives buildings as a follow up to the malfunctioning fire alarm system earlier this year.

As the Commission comes to the end of its fiscal year, we are experiencing a shortfall in the General Government Operations fund. The GGO fund was budgeted at \$22,065,000 with \$19,785,000 covering personnel services and the remainder for operational expenses.

Ms. Franco called on Mr. Polischuk to update the Commissioners regarding the end of the year budget issues. Mr. Polischuk noted rising utility costs, leave payouts, interagency charges and curtailed expenses adding to the deficit. We have taken steps to limit any additional spending through the end of the year. We anticipate carrying over \$500,000 which will put additional pressure on next year's budget.

We anticipate making programmatic changes next year to balance our budget given the continued increases in basic utilities and interagency transfers. Bureau budgets for the next fiscal year will continue to be very tight.

Ms. Franco explained that other state agencies charge us for services but we currently provide records management to agencies without charging a fee. Other states charge a box fee for records management. If the Archives charged a records management fee they could bring in an estimated \$500,000.

Dr. Haaland called for a motion that the Commission look into charging a records management fee to other state agencies, seconded by Ms. Cohen. A formal resolution will be prepared and sent to the Budget Office.

Ms. Franco introduced Jason Gerard to the Commissioners. Jason will serve as the Commission's Legislative Liaison.

Ms. Franco announced that Heather Emery is leaving to work for Independent Regulatory Review Commission. Ms. Emery currently works with the Office of General Counsel. Andrea Bowman will serve as her replacement.

Ms. Emery encouraged the Commissioners to read and review the Office of General Counsel's guidance of the Ethics Act.

Chairman Spilove thanked Ms. Emery for her great service to the Commission and congratulated her on her new position with the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

V. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Williams announced the retirement of John Connolly, Building Maintenance Manger at Fort Pitt Museum and Bushy Run Battlefield. Mr. Connolly worked for the Commission for 31 years.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the resolution. On motion by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Ms. Cohen, the resolution for Mr. Connolly was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT A)

Mr. Polischuk announced the retirement of Jane Peyton, Human Resource Director. Ms. Peyton has 27 years of service with the Commonwealth.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the resolution. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Klein, the resolution for Ms. Peyton was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT B)

Mr. Leighow announced the retirement of Stephen Warfel, Senior Curator of Archaeology. Mr. Warfel has worked with the Commission since 1969.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the resolution. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Klein, the resolution for Mr. Warfel was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT C)

Mr. Haury announced the retirement of Harold Brown. Mr. Brown served more than 19 years of dedication and highly productive service to the Commission.

Mr. Haury announced the retirement of Kathy Smith, Chief of the Division of Records Administration and Image Services with the State Archives. Ms. Smith has 35 years of services with the Commonwealth.

Mr. Haury announced the retirement of Leonard Kever. Mr. Kever will retire with more than 31 years of dedicated and highly productive service to the Commission.

Mr. Haury announced the retirement of Linda Shopes. Ms. Shopes will retire with nearly 17 years of service to the Commission.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the retirement resolutions for Harold Brown, Kathy Smith, Stephen Warfel, Leonard Kever and Linda Shopes. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Ms. Fisher, the resolutions were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT D, E, F,G)

Ms. Cutler reported on an achievement resolution for Daniel Wise. Mr. Wise submitted a proposal to the Commission for a Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout project to replace the missing Sullivan's Expedition Against the Iroquois Indians, 1779 – White Oak Run historical plaque.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the achievement resolution for Mr. Wise. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Klein, the resolution was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT H).

Ms. Williams recognized Camille Moll who is retiring from Pennsbury Society. Ms. Moll served as manager of the society since 1981. Chairman Spilove will send a letter of recognition honoring Ms. Moll for her partnership between the Society and Commission and thanks her for her role in the development and growth of the Pennsbury Society and its support for the operation of Pennsbury Manor

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a) Proposed Transfer of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

Ms. Williams distributed a map of Washington Crossing Park to the Commissioners. Washington Crossing Park is located in Bucks County along the Delaware River and explained that the Wildflower Preserve has traditionally been identified as the area inside the deer fence in the Upper Park of Washington Crossing Historic Park (WCHP) which is about 100 acres. House Bill 1284 would transfer approximately 134 acres which includes an open recreational area along River Road in addition to the preserve area. House Bill 1284 was recently introduced by Representative O'Neill. The bill authorizes and directs the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor and the Commission to transfer the parcel of land.

The Commission strongly objects to the legislation as it is now written because the bill does not include adequate covenants to protect the historic resources or operation of Washington Crossing Historic Park. Any new construction or improvements to the property must be approved in advance, in writing by the Commission to insure that the changes are compatible with continued preservation and operation of Washington Crossing as a historic site.

We also do not agree that the property should be transferred for \$1 in consideration for their agreement to provide parking on property that currently belongs to the Commonwealth. The property should be transferred for fair market value based on an independent appraisal. Funds from the transfer would be deposited in the Historical Preservation Fund to support operations at Washington Crossing in the future.

Ms. Klein asked if the Commissioners could get a complete copy of the bill as it is written. It is important that we have copies of both bills so that we see exactly what each says so that we can suggest ways to compromise.

Ms. Franco said that our perspective is that there is only one Washington Crossing. The historic structures cannot be duplicated anywhere else. The Wildflower Preserve is something to be preserved, the program that they are proposing for the expansion is for conservation education and wildflower propagation, which could happen anywhere. There is no other place you can interpret the Thompson Neeley House. Ms. Franco's concern is to make sure that HB 1284 doesn't overwhelm or negate the value of the historic properties.

Ms. Pavelko asked if it was possible that a properly structured sale with the appropriate covenants would be acceptable to the Commission.

Chairman Spilove suggested that the Commission not take any formal action on this item until we receive further information. The Commission should set up a site visit with Representative Petri, schedule a meeting with the Association and hold a public hearing for the community so that we can make our decision at the September meeting.

Casey Long from Senator Scarnati's office reported that the senator is not in favor of a resolution stating the Commission's concern against HB 1284.

At this time Ms. Williams distributed a copy and read HB 1284 for everyone's review.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to express PHMC's grave concern over the legislation as currently submitted. On motion by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Ms. Klein, motion was approved. Casey Long from Senator Scarnati's office voted no.

b) New Admission Fees for Historic Sites and Museums

Ms. Williams requested the Commission's approval of new admission fees for historic sites and museums. Following a recent review of how admissions are handled by our Associate Group, we have been advised that we must collect an admission fee for each

participant in Associate-sponsored events. To address this change, we have added a new category to the fee structure. The new category, "Admission for Assoc. Special Events/Programs" will be set initially at \$.50 for all sites.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the New Admission Fees for Historic Sites and Museums. On motion by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Ms. Cohen the New Admission Fees for Historic Sites and Museums was approved. Casey Long from Senator Scarnati's office voted no.

c) Grant Funding Recommendations

Ms. Cutler reported on the recommendations for Project and General Operating Support Grants FY 2007-2008. Grant recommendations are based on recommendations made by peer review panels that were held this spring. Recommendations for general operating support (GOS) grants are based on the size of institutional operating budgets.

This year's funding is based on the assumption that the Commission will receive the same appropriation for the Museum and History Grant Program as it did last year. Should this amount increase or decrease, adjustments will be made accordingly to the grants. More project grants will be awarded if there is an increase based on the rankings of the peer review panels; more GOS funds will be given to museums according to a formula. If we receive less funding, the process will be reversed.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the 2006-2007 Archives Records Management Project Applications. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Dr. Haaland, the 2006-2007 Archives Records Management Project Applications were approved. Casey Long from Senator Scarnati's office abstained from voting.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the 2007 Public History Grants. Chairman Spilove, Ms. Pavelko, Ms. Fisher and Casey Long from Senator Scarnati's office abstained from voting. On motion by Dr. Haaland, seconded by Ms. Cohen the Public History Grants were approved.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Organizational Planning and Development grants. On motion by Dr. Haaland, seconded by Ms. Cohen the Organizational Planning and Development grants were approved. Casey Long from Senator Scarnati's office abstained from voting.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Historic Preservation Grants. On motion by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Ms. Cohen the Historic Preservation Grants were approved. Casey Long from Senator Casey Long from Senator Scarnati's office abstained from voting.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the General Operating Support Grants. On motion by Dr. Haaland, seconded by Ms. Zales the General Operating Support Grants were approved. Ms. Klein, Ms. Pavelko, Ms. Fisher, Ms. Cohen and Casey Long from Senator Casey Long from Senator Scarnati's office abstained from voting.

VII. OTHER REPORTS

a) Historical Marker Program

Ms. Fisher reported that a number of ideas were discussed at a recent meeting about expanding the impact of the historic marker program. Marker applications have a tremendous importance to communities proposing the markers. There is an upcoming significant anniversary for the marker program in a couple years. This is an opportunity to think about ways in which the impact of the marker program could be enhanced. There are lots of ideas in terms of education initiatives. Opportunities include the need for further technical assistance on how to

further develop the site of the marker and annual themes. The image and visibility of the Commission is very important. It would be helpful for us who are present at marker dedications if there were core messages that we are always saying. When markers are not approved we suggest that they erect their own. We could develop a template that gives it a little bit of a sense of it not just being something home grown but that it has some consistency. We want to be able to recognize the significance of whatever it is they are proposing even if it doesn't meet the criteria that we have.

Ms. Pavelko suggested that we provide marker submissions that do not have statewide significance but are significant locally or regionally a template with guidelines that the local community or region could use for their acceptance. We also could provide a graphic template so they have a family resemblance to each other and to ours but would be identified in some way that suggested it had regional or local significance.

b) National Register of Historic Places

Ms. Cutler reviewed the National Register Nominations that were reviewed at the June 12th Historic Preservation Board Meeting. All nominations have been forwarded to the National Park Service for its consideration except for the Edward G. Budd Manufacturing Company which was tabled.

c) Tour of PHMC Sites

Ms. Klein reported on her Pennsylvania N-W-S-E Tour. Ms. Klein tours included a number of PHMC sites and visits to the following areas: Anthracite Heritage Region, the Grand Army of the Republic Highway and the Endless Mountains Heritage Region of Pennsylvania, The Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, Route 6 Heritage Region, Pennsylvania Wilds and the Lumber Heritage Region, Cherry Springs State Park, Allegheny National Forest, Kinzua Dam,

Oil Heritage Region, Lake Erie, Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Presque Isle, Moraine State Park, McConnell's Mill State Park, Meadowcroft Rockshelter, Frick Art and Historical Center, Laurel Highlands, Shanksville, the Flight 93 Temporary Memorial, Johnstown Area Heritage Association, Flood Museum, Cambria City Historic District and the Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.