

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
MARCH 19, 2008
MINUTES

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on March 19, 2008, in the 5th Floor Board Room of the State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Rhonda Cohen, Senator Jim Ferlo, Laura Fisher, Janet Klein, Kathleen Pavelko, Ann Marie Segilia for Representative Scott Petri, Casey Long for Senator Joseph Scarnati, Representative Rick Taylor and Clare Zales. The following staff were present: Barbara Franco, Jean Cutler, Jason Gerard, Beth Hager, Jack Leighow, Rhonda Newton, David Haury, Howard Pollman, Wasyl Polischuk, Brenda Reigle, Ted Walke and Kirk Wilson. Andrea Bowman, from the Office of General Counsel, was present as PHMC Counsel. Jim Pickman, Civil War Consultant for PA Heritage Society was present.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Cohen called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 28, 2007

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the minutes from November 28, 2007. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Senator Ferlo, the minutes were approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Cohen read a report from Chairman Spilove:

- On December 5, 2007, Chairman Spilove attended a marker dedication for the Masonic Temple.
- December 12, 2007, Chairman Spilove attended a budget meeting with Barbara Franco, Wasyl Polischuk and Melody Henry. The group met with Secretary Masch, Steve Kniley to review the Governor's fiscal recommendations for the upcoming year in Harrisburg, PA.
- December 12, 2007, Chairman Spilove attended the PA Council on the Arts Joint Commission Meeting at the Red Door in Harrisburg, PA.
- January 22, 2008, Chairman Spilove met with Don Smith, Executive Director of Christ Church.

- January 28, 2008, Chairman Spilove attended the PA Heritage Society meeting in Harrisburg, PA.
- February 10, 2008, Chairman Spilove met with the grandson of Charles Weisgerber, artist who painted the painting of Betsy Ross. He is trying to get the U.S. Post Office to reissue a stamp of the painting on Flag Day.
- Chairman Spilove created two new committees: Kathleen Pavelko will chair the Governance Committee and Janet Klein will chair the Capitol Projects Committee.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Franco reported that the Commission is continuing to work on reducing our annual structural deficit and has eliminated the carryover from last year of \$716, 459 by delaying the hiring of position for 90 days. We are still anticipating a deficit of about \$200,000.

Ms. Franco, Chairman Spilove and Melody Henry met with the budget office on December 12th to discuss the 2007-2008 budget. The Commission was asked to absorb a program cut of \$706,000 and will receive an additional \$268,000 to cover increases in utility costs. To allow greater flexibility to meet our expenses, the \$2 million Maintenance Fund will be merged with General Government Operations.

Ms. Franco is working with the Department of Revenue to take over the Digital Imaging program which has not been profitable and has run deficits in the Preservation Fund. We also discussed the possibility of charging agencies to cover the costs of operating the Records Center, but that proposal has been tabled by the Office of Administration.

There are four capital projects that are recommended for release this year. Two of the projects are for the Drake Well Museum. This is extremely important to allow the project to proceed as part of the Oil 150th Celebration that is taking place in 2009 to mark the anniversary of Drake's Well and the beginnings of the oil industry.

Ms. Franco reported on the following staff changes: Brenda Reigle is Acting Bureau Director for the Bureau for Historic Sites and Museums. Kirk Wilson is the new Press Secretary.

Ms. Franco and Ms. Klein met with the Director of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation. The Foundation is the support group for DCNR.

The Commisison's theme this year is the 75th anniversary of the New Deal in Pennsylvania. In 2009 the theme will be Energy: Exploration, Innovation and Conservation.

PHMC sites were featured in advertising in both *Pursuits* magazine as well as *Preservation Magazine*, the National Trust publication.

V. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Leighow announced the retirement of Robert "Bob" Weible. Bob began working for the Commission in 1989 as Chief of the Division of History through 2003, Acting Director of the Bureau of Archives and History 1994-1995 and 2003-2004. Mr. Weible served as Director of Public History in the State Museum of PA from 2004 – 2008. Bob has accepted a position as State Historian of New York.

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the resolution. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Senator Ferlo, the resolution for Mr. Weible was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT A).

Ms. Franco announced the retirement of Wasyl Polischuk, Director of Management Services. Wasyl has had a long and distinguished career in state government for over 35 years.

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the resolution. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Klein, the resolution for Mr. Polischuk was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT B).

Ms. Franco announced the retirement of Anita Blackaby. Anita joined the Commission in 1987 as the Historic Site Administrator for Bushy Run Battlefield and Somerset Historical Center. Anita served as Director of the State Museum of PA from 1992 until 2007 and was reassigned to the Executive Office as Director of Special Initiatives in 2007. Anita has accepted a position as Director of the House of Seven Gables in Salem, Massachusetts.

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the resolution. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Senator Ferlo, the resolution for Ms. Blackaby was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT C).

Mr. Haury announces the retirement of Dennis Sage. The Commission recognizes Dennis for more than 25 years of dedicated and highly productive service to the Commission, the Commonwealth and the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the resolution. On motion by Senator Ferlo, seconded by Ms. Pavelko, the resolution for Mr. Sage was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT D).

Ms. Reigle announced the retirement of Kelly Hackman, Custodial Guide Supervisor at Ephrata Cloister.

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the resolution. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Fisher, the resolution for Ms. Hackman was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT E).

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the Volunteer of the Year Award Nominations for:

Anthracite Heritage Museum & Scranton Iron Furnaces Associates – Cyril Draina
Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates – Ben Rohrbeck
Bushy Run Battlefield Heritage Society – Vince DiPaolo
Friends of the Conrad Weiser Homestead – Michael Slease
Cornwall Iron Furnace Associates – Beverly Manbeck
Friends of Daniel Boone Homestead – Courtney Stevens
Friends of Drake Well – William Stumpf
Eckley Miners Village Associates – Pat Hametz
Ephrata Cloister Associates – Sandy Miller
Flagship Niagara League – Dr. Tom Miller
Fort Pitt Museum Associates – Samantha Doyle
Friends of Graeme Park – Michael MacCausland
Friends of Hope Lodge and Mather Mill – George and Nancy Gingrich
Friends of Joseph Priestley House – Jo Ann Long
Landis Valley Associates – Dr. Irwin Richman
Friends of Old Economy Village – Karla Spinelli
The Pennsbury Society – Susan Crook
Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates – Cathy Bowers, John Torok, Ken wingo
Friends of the Pennsylvania Military Museum – David Rhoades
Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania – Ralph Lockard
Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County – Lois & Robert Brougher
Washington Crossing Historic Park – Martin Kelly
Friends of the State Museum – Donna Fisher

Outstanding Service Award – Donn Neal – Fort Pitt Museum Associates

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the resolutions. On motion by Senator Ferlo, seconded by Ms. Pavelko, the Volunteer of the Year Award Nominations were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT F).

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a) Approval of Historic Preservation Board Member

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the Historic Preservation Board Recommendation for Gerald M. Kuncio. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Senator Ferlo the Historic Preservation Board Recommendation was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT G)

b) Approval of Historic Markers

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the Historic Marker Recommendations. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Ms. Pavelko, the Historic marker Recommendations were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT H)

c) Approval of CLG Grant Recommendations

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the Certified Local Grant Recommendations. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Senator Ferlo, the Certified Local Grant Recommendations were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT I)

e) Approval of SHRAB Appointments

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the State Historical Records Advisory Board nominees for Michael Dabrishus, Pamela C. Whitenack, Annita Andrick, Lee Arnold, Heidi Mays and Laurie Rofini. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Fisher, the SHARB appointments were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT J)

f) Approval of Scholars in Residence

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the Scholars in Residence Recommendations for April M. Beisaw, Julian C. Chambliss, Kenneth DeLucca, John M. Foster, Tracy Neuman, Adam J. Rogers, Patrick S. Vitale. Marcus Gallo serves as an alternate. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded

by Ms. Fisher, the Scholars in Residence recommendations were approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT K)

g) Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the Strategic Plan 2008-2011. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Klein, the Strategic Plan was approved. (SEE ATTACHMENT L)

VII. OTHER REPORTS

a) PA Bookstore.com

At this time Mr. Walke, Chief of Publications gave a brief overview of PAbookstore.com. The PHMC/PHS co-partnered e-commerce website. The website was launched in November 2007 with over 350 titles online. Pennsylvania Heritage Society members receive a 10% discount on PHMC publications. The goal is to be the ultimate source for books about Pennsylvania. Book categories include: American Civil War, Archaeology and Native Americans, Architecture and Historic Preservation, Art and Decorative Arts, Biography, Cookbooks, Ethnic/African American Studies, For Young Readers, Government and Politics, History, Industry, Military History and Natural History and Science.

b) PA Civil War 150th

Mr. Pickman continues to work with the PA Heritage Society and Ms. Franco on the Civil War 150th Anniversary. A planning committee has been created and includes people from the public and private sectors from around the Commonwealth that are involved in the commemoration. Projects include: Main Exhibit: National Constitution Center, K-12 Education Program: Historical Society of PA, Digitization Project: Richards Center and Commonwealth Libraries, Publications and Special Media Initiatives: Heinz History Center, Mobile Museum "The Civil War Road Show": PHMC/State Museum, Public Programs/Public Engagement: PHMC/PHC.

Regional programs include: Western: Heinz History Center, Central: PHMC and Gettysburg Organizations, Southeastern: Civil War History Consortium, Northeastern and Underserved: PHMC and Center for Anti-Slavery Studies.

A Planning Charrette was held earlier this month for a day and a half. Participants discussed how to make the commemoration relevant to a broad audience. The “big idea” to provide the overarching framework for the entire commemoration is:

“The Civil War fundamentally changed the United States, redefining our ongoing struggle for equality and justice, and our identity as a nation. The War radically altered assumptions and aspirations at the core of our society in ways that continue to affect all of us today. The legacy of the Civil War is thus not over; its business is not finished.”

Jim Pickman met with the governor and continues to work with the governor’s office on a significant public-private funding package that would support all of the centrally coordinated initiatives and provide meaningful seed or challenge funding to each of the regional partners for the local programming in their regions. The intent is that the regional partners will seek funding from local sources to supplement the funds provided centrally.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

At this time Craig Caba spoke to the Commission regarding his concerns about the Gettysburg Battlefield Commission, Camp Letterman.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.