

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION**  
**OCTOBER 15, 2008**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on October 15, 2008, in the Boeing Executive Conference Room at Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Rhonda Cohen, Laura Fisher, Janet Klein, Representative Scott Petri participated via conference call and Clare Zales. The following staff were present: Barbara Franco, Jean Cutler, Jason Gerard, Beth Hager, Jack Leighow, David Haury, Steve Miller, Howard Pollman, and Kirk Wilson. Jim Pickman, Civil War Consultant for PA Heritage Society was present.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Cohen called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. It was determined that a quorum was not present. The Commissioners present agreed to review reports and make recommendations to the full Commission in November.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 16, 2008**

Ms. Cohen called for a motion to approve the minutes from June 16, 2008. On motion by Mrs. Klein, seconded by Ms. Fisher the minutes were recommended for approval.

**III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Ms. Cohen gave a summary of programs/meetings Chairman Spilove attended this past quarter:

- On September 21<sup>st</sup> Chairman Spilove attended the Germantown Meeting House and Beth Sholom Marker Dedications in Philadelphia.
- On October 6<sup>th</sup> Chairman Spilove and Ms. Cohen attended the German Society of Pennsylvania Marker Dedication in Philadelphia.

- Chairman Spilove is working with Ms. Franco and Mr. Gerald on the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Land transfer.

Ms. Cohen reported on the Pennsylvania Heritage Society meeting held earlier. The discussion included opportunities to seek corporate sponsors for annual themes. Annual PHMC theme this year is the New Deal. In 2009 it will be Energy: Innovation, Exploitation and Conservation and African American History in Pennsylvania in 2010.

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

Ms. Franco reported that the Commission ended the fiscal year with a deficit of approximately \$200,000, which is significantly less than the previous year and did not require a transfer of funds from the Historic Preservation Fund. To help cover utility costs, the Commission received an additional \$268,000 in 2008-09 budget. We are hoping to eliminate deficits this year with careful spending.

Last month, all state agencies were required to further reduce their 2008-09 budget by 4.2%. For the Commission this translates into a \$1.32 million reduction in the Operating and Grants appropriations. These reductions were made, in part, through a mandated hiring freeze of all open positions and elimination of all out of state travel. All paid internships have also been suspended for this year and only unpaid internships will be advertised for the coming year.

Another change in this year's budget is the transfer of the Digital Imaging program (DISC) to the Department of Revenue including 13 staff.

A proposal to fund the costs of operating the Records Center through fees to agencies has moved forward and a proposal from the Office of Administration and PHMC will now be submitted to the Budget Secretary to be included in the 2009-10 budget.

The commission is responding to the requirements of the new Right-to-Know Law that goes into effect January 2009. Contracts over \$5,000 must be posted with Treasury in a digital and redacted format that can be publicly accessible.

Ms. Franco introduced Steve Miller; he is the new Bureau Director for Historic Sites and Museums. Mr. Miller was the Site Administrator for Landis Valley Museum.

The Bureau Director for Management Services position vacated by Wasyl Polischuk's retirement last March remains unfilled. The Commission has received an exception to the hiring freeze and the reclassification of the position will be recommended by OA so that we can proceed to advertise and fill that position as soon as possible.

The Governance Committee met over the summer; Ms. Pavelko will report to the Commission at the November Commission Meeting.

Ms. Klein, chair of the Capital Projects Committee held a meeting earlier this month and will report to the Commission later in the meeting.

Ms. Franco met with several legislators since June. Recently she and Mr. Gerard met with Senator Wozniak to discuss the grants program and need for funding for Pennsylvania's museums and historical organizations. There have been a good deal of discussion in the Senate about the about status of the non-preferred museum grants. Ms. Franco will meet with museum directors of the non-preferred museums to discuss their funding needs.

On September 30<sup>th</sup> the Commission met with the House Majority Policy Committee to discuss issues facing our agency.

Mr. Pickman gave an update to the Commission on the Civil War 150<sup>th</sup>. Achievements made so far include: theme for commemoration, logo, developing an interactive website, planning of a large-scale exhibit, planning for a mobile traveling

museum, digitization project, developing educational resources K-12 and product development.

## **V. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS**

Ms. Cutler announced the retirement of Edie Walsh. Ms. Walsh began her employment with the Commission in 1995 as Legislative Liaison. Ms. Walsh worked for the Commission for thirteen years.

On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Ms. Fisher, the retirement resolution for Ms. Walsh was recommended for approval. (SEE ATTACHMENT A)

Mr. Haury announced the retirement of Harry Parker. Mr. Parker retired this past summer after 26 years of service to the Commission. Ms. Klein called for a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Fisher, the resolution for Harry Parker was recommended for approval. (SEE ATTACHMENT B)

Mr. Miller announced the retirements of Thomas Blair a building maintenance foreman at Old Economy Village. Mr. Blair worked for the Commission for twenty-three years. Tammy Moore a Maintenance Repairman I at Old Economy Village. Ms. Moore worked for the Commonwealth for 19 years. Eric Castle a Museum Curator Supervisor at Old Economy Village. Mr. Castle worked for the Commission for 18 years. David Crowell, Chief of Maintenance at Pennsylvania Lumber Museum. Mr. Crowell worked for the Commission for ten years.

On motion by Representative Petri, seconded by Ms. Klein the retirement resolutions for Thomas Blair, Tammy Moore, Eric Castle and David Crowell were recommended for approval. (SEE ATTACHMENT C, D, E, F)

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

- a) Keystone Grant Funding Recommendations

The Keystone Historic Preservation Grant report is being submitted to the Commission for approval of the ranking order. Projects will be funded in approved order as based on available funds. The number of applications received was 77, the total dollars requested was \$6,110,477.00.

On motion by Representative Petri, seconded by Mrs. Klein, the Keystone Grant Funding Recommendations were recommended for approval. (SEE ATTACHMENT G)

b) Historic Marker Request for Approval Resubmissions

The following Historical marker nomination submissions for Christopher Saur, Henry S. Drinker and Mischianaza (The) received preliminary approval by Historical Marker Review Panel at the February 29, 2008 meeting. The nominator fulfilled the request to provide additional documentation to verify the nomination met Criteria for Approval of State Historical markers. Based on resubmission documentation, Historical Marker Review Panel approved the nominations.

On motion by Mrs. Klein, seconded by Ms. Fisher, the Historic Marker Request for Approval Resubmissions were recommended for approval. (SEE ATTACHMENT H)

c) Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Marker Request

The Historic Marker Committee is asking for recommendation on the following marker request in honor of The Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. A special request for a PHMC Historical Marker and Dedication Event was submitted to be included in the 2009 calendar of Lincoln Bicentennial events in Pennsylvania. The marker nomination seeks to recognize two distinct events associated with Lincoln at the Pennsylvania Capitol Grounds. The first event is Lincoln's address to

PA General Assembly in House Chamber prior to his First Inauguration as President and the second event is when Lincoln lay in state after his assassination in House Chamber.

PHMC Marker staff expressed concern about the request based on three factors. First, it was not clear that the Marker met the Criteria for Approval. Second, the request is solely related to the anniversary event. Third, the applicant had not received permission from Capitol Preservation Committee to approve the installation of a marker on Capitol grounds. PHMC Marker staff is concerned about the number of markers on Capitol grounds and believes discretion needs to be afforded when considering markers on Capitol grounds.

The Commission recommends the consolidation of the two markers honoring Lincoln's History in Harrisburg and to find a suitable location other than the capitol grounds possibly located at the train station.

### **VIII. OTHER REPORTS**

Ms. Cutler reported on the National Register Nominations that were reviewed at the October 7, 2008 Historic Preservation Board Meeting. Ten nominations were considered, seven were approved, and three were rejected. Two of the rejected nominations were recommended that they reapply for further consideration.

Mrs. Klein gave a report on the Capital Projects for the State Museum of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State Archives. The Pennsylvania State Archives contains precious documents including William Penn's Charter. The Archives is physically, technologically and dangerously out of date. A new Archives structure needs to be built in Harrisburg close to the capitol complex.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania requires emergency infrastructure repairs and technological improvements (Phase I use of funds). Further work on the museum would

follow later that would provide more visitor services, protection to the collections and updated exhibit areas with better climate control and security.

When the new Archives facility is completed and the current tower removed a parking facility would be built to serve visitors to the museum and capitol complex.

Eventually the Commission could turn to the Pennsylvania Heritage Society to bring in private funding to enhance the State Museum of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania State Archives facilities.

A conference call with the Capital Projects Committee will be scheduled early December. The Committee includes Gordon Haaland, Senator Jim Ferlo and Senator Joseph Scarnati.

Ms. Zales congratulated Mrs. Klein for chairing the Capital Projects Committee. She noted that it is important that the Commission has a plan in place.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business to discuss at this time.

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business to discuss at this time.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Rhonda Cohen adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.