

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 20, 2009
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on November 20, 2009 in the 5th Floor Board Room of the State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Wayne Spilove, Rhonda Cohen, Dr. Gordon Haaland via conference phone, Janet Klein, Cheryl McClenney-Brooker, Kathleen Pavelko, Representative Scott Petri, Casey Long for Senator Joseph Scarnati, Representative Rick Taylor and Susan Pannebaker for Clare Zales. The following staff were present: Barbara Franco, Jean Cutler, Beth Hager, Jason Gerard, Jack Leighow, David Haury, Tom Leonard, Howard Pollman, Steve Miller and Kirk Wilson. Andrea Bowman, from the Office of General Counsel was present as PHMC Counsel.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Spilove called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2009 meeting. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Klein the minutes were approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Spilove reported that he participated in several Historical Marker Dedication ceremonies including Hershey's first candy shop in Philadelphia.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Franco reported the Commission is aware of Pennsylvania state government records being sold online or through dealers several times each year. The Council of State Archivists has designated the recovery of such records as a priority and established a Task

Force on the Sale of Government Records. The efforts of the State Archives in recovering such records has been hindered by the lack of a replevin law which clarifies the status of such records as government property and establishes the archives claim to them. We are working with the Office of General Counsel to draft a Records Recovery Act which will amend the History Code to rectify the situation and facilitate the recovery of historical documents which have been stolen or strayed into private hands.

A Pocket Guide to Pennsylvania Snakes was published by Walter Meshaka. This guide covers 22 kinds of snakes found in Pennsylvania and can be purchased at the Pennsylvania Bookstore.

The Friends of the State Museum launched a “Buy-A-Bone” campaign in coordination with the Pennsylvania Heritage Society. This campaign will help reconstruct the mastodon and build a new Paleontology Gallery. So far over \$39,000 has been raised. The mastodon will debut as part of the “Tusks! Ice Age Mammoths and Mastodons” exhibit on January 24, 2010.

Ms. Franco invited Commissioners to visit the Holiday Marketplace located in the atrium of the Commonwealth Keystone Building. This year’s participants include Ephrata Cloister; Landis Valley Museum; the Railroad Museum of PA, Radius, Pennsylvania State Bookstore; PA Department of Community and Economic Development; Capitol Preservation Committee; and PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Ms. Franco encouraged Commissioners to visit the “Wind Titans: A Pennsylvania Photo Essay” exhibit located in the State Museum. PHMC staff photographer Don Giles captured the images for this exhibit which runs through May 2, 2010.

As of January 1, 2010, the State Records Center will begin charging fees; this will cover staff and keep the program sustained. Agencies are charged by the number of boxes stored at the records center.

Washington Crossing received final approval from the township to move forward with their renovations.

At this time, Ms. Franco reported on the budget impact. The final 2009-2010 budget was approved in October. The past week has been devastating to PHMC as an organization, to employees as individuals and to staff collectively as colleagues and friends. We have experienced every emotion from anger, fear and frustration to sadness, loss and grief. The severity of reductions we face are unprecedented. Loss of thirty-five percent of our staff represents over 1,000 years of experience. The result of these cuts will change the work of the commission for decades to come and will have an immediate impact on employees, the public and communities in which we work.

Representative Petri proposed that the legislators on the commission meet in January to review the 2010-2011 budget requests to start thinking of what our priorities are. He raised the question of whether or not the transfer tax is a reliable source of funding or do legislators and administration not believe that this agency is important.

Representative Petri is also concerned about the deep cuts at the field sites and rely on the local communities to step up.

Ms. Franco is looking at the role of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Article 1 Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution reads "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common

property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”

PHMC is working with volunteers to create new partnerships with non-profit organizations to help maintain some of the historic sites.

Representative Taylor asked what the Commission can do to help the Friends of Grame Park continue to operate Grame Park.

Ms. Franco said each bureau of the commission has been affected by the cuts. House of operation will be reduced at the State Museum and State Archives. Ms. Franco read the names of individuals who were furloughed in August and November of 2009.

| NAME | YEARS OF SERVICE |
|---|------------------|
| John Clark, Archives & History | 51 |
| Judy Marcus, Archives & History | 45 |
| Robert Dructor, Sites & Museums | 33 |
| Thomas Bugno, Hope Lodge | 31 |
| Charles Thomforde, Pennsbury Manor | 27 |
| Brenda Chaney, Management Services | 23 |
| Elizabeth Rorke, Brandywine Battlefield | 22 |
| Anthony Borelli, State Museum | 22 |
| Charles Kovalchik, Pennsbury Manor | 19 |
| Florence Erbel, State Museum | 18 |
| Robert Arlet, Flagship Niagara | 16 |
| Zach Chadwick, State Museum | 16 |
| Andrea Bashore, Joseph Priestley House | 16 |
| Daniel Davenport, State Museum | 15 |
| Sara Breski, State Museum | 13 |
| Jeffrey Decker, Publications & Sales | 13 |
| Linda Fant, Collections | 13 |
| Bridget Salantri, Washington Crossing | 13 |
| Julius Sisak, Eckley Miners Village | 13 |
| Brenda Toellner, State Museum | 13 |
| Christie Balmer, Archives & History | 13 |
| David Harshbarger, Drake Well | 12 |
| Marcia Houston, Daniel Boone | 12 |
| Bonnie Mark, Historic Preservation | 12 |
| Donald Beachler, Landis Valley | 11 |
| Eugene Churma, Fort Pitt | 11 |
| Christy Gauthier, State Museum | 11 |
| Robert Hill, State Museum | 11 |

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| Bernice Sarver, Somerset Historical Center | 11 | |
| Walter Brosz, Washington Crossing | 10 | |
| Frederick Conrad, Cornwall Iron Furnace | 10 | |
| Barbara Cramer, State Museum | 10 | |
| Rita Dobson, Old Economy Village | 10 | |
| Fred Lauver, Publications & Sales | 10 | |
| Kimberly McCarty, Pennsbury Manor | 10 | |
| Laetitia McHale, Old Economy Village | 10 | |
| Bruce Midkiff, Architectural Preservation, Western Division | | 10 |
| Traci Ray, Railroad Museum | 10 | |
| Nancy Young, Old Economy Village | 10 | |
| Janet Amory, Erie Maritime Museum | 9 | |
| Richard Apelian, Washington Crossing | 9 | |
| Jill Counts-Weaverling, Fort Pitt | 9 | |
| Rebecca Zenuh, Fort Pitt | 9 | |
| William Baker, Historic Sites & Museums | 9 | |
| Dianne Breen, Washington Crossing | 9 | |
| Mary Fenton, Daniel Boone | 9 | |
| Kristine Rost, Ephrata Cloister | 9 | |
| Toni Slater, Drake Well | 9 | |
| Matthew Willard, Railroad Museum | 9 | |
| Jon Ford, Brandywine Battlefield | 9 | |
| Jason Amico, Archives & History | 8 | |
| Thomas Gelotte, Flagship Niagara | 8 | |
| Wesley Heerssen, Flagship Niagara | 8 | |
| George Keifer, Eckley Miners Village | 8 | |
| JoEllen Perciavalle, Old Economy | 8 | |
| Robert Young, State Museum | 8 | |
| George Findle, Brandywine Battlefield | 8 | |
| Thomas Curney, Eckley Miners Village | 7 | |
| David Klippel, Daniel Boone Homestead | 7 | |
| Sarah Goodman, Old Economy | 7 | |
| Nancy Mendes, State Museum | 7 | |
| Theresa Gruber-Ceulers, Brandywine Battlefield | | 7 |
| Heather Logan, State Museum | 7 | |
| Michael Harris, Brandywine Battlefield | 7 | |
| Karen James, Archives & History | 7 | |
| Douglas MacGregor, Fort Pitt Museum | 7 | |
| Cynthia Margolis, Archives & History | 6 | |
| Preston Stinney, State Museum | 6 | |
| Kevin Dermody, State Museum | 5 | |
| John Fielding, Anthracite Heritage | 5 | |
| Barbara Glass, State Museum | 5 | |
| Betty Nelson, Old Economy Village | 5 | |
| Linda Powell, State Museum | 5 | |
| Margaret Scott, Pennsbury Manor | 5 | |
| Margery Askey, PA Military Museum | 4 | |
| Patrick Crosby, Flagship Niagara | 4 | |

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| Ruth Cvetichan, Old Economy Village | 4 |
| Nicole Jackson, State Museum | 4 |
| Walter Kuhl, Railroad Museum | 4 |
| Brady Seitz, State Museum | 4 |
| Karl Smith, Fort Pitt | 4 |
| Roberta Sunstein, State Museum | 4 |
| Fred Threlfall, Fort Pitt | 4 |
| Mary Beidel, State Museum | 3 |
| Janelle Bentz, Daniel Boone | 3 |
| Ronald Dowey, State Museum | 3 |
| Andrea Glass-Heffner, Ephrata Cloister | 3 |
| Joan Hauger, Hope Lodge | 3 |
| Brandon Mihalik, Old Economy Village | 3 |
| Daniel Weaver, Drake Well | 3 |
| George Weston, Railroad Museum | 3 |
| Jennifer April, Washington Crossing | 2 |
| Tina Berg, Daniel Boone | 2 |
| Jessica Cox, Fort Pitt Museum | 2 |
| Sara Mesa, Pennsbury Manor | 2 |
| William Sabatini, Flagship Niagara | 2 |
| Erica Kozlovac, State Museum | 2 |
| Ronald Lee, State Museum | 2 |
| James Millhouse, Railroad Museum | 2 |
| Linda Padamonsky, Archives & History | 2 |
| Gail Smith, Somerset | 2 |
| George Tarasiuk, Pennsbury Manor | 2 |
| Robert Aspinwall, Flagship Niagara | 1 |
| Judy Quigley, Publications & Sales | 1 |
| David Welden, Ephrata Cloister | 2 |
| Danielle Hughes, PA Military Museum | 1 |
| Christopher Shope, State Museum | 1 |
| Amanda Weimer, Archives & History | 1 |

General Government Operations budget was reduced to \$6.3 million or 24%; PHMC's percentage of Keystone Funds from realty transfers for next year have been redirected to the General Fund, a loss of 100% or approximately \$6 million, \$4.3 million of which is used annually for security, conservation and environmental systems. Museum Assistance Grants were reduced by \$2 million or 53% for a total of \$1.8 million. Non preferred museums and Regional History Center grants were reduced by 41.6 million or 54% for a total of \$1,397,000. We are still waiting to see the final outcome of non-preferred grants that are tied to new table games legislation.

Ms. Klein appreciates receiving quarterly reports from the bureaus.

Chairman Spilove thanked staff for their dedication and hard work.

Looking ahead towards next years budget Representative Petri asked the Commission to provide a “wish list” of what it would take to reopen and maintain each site.

Ms. Pavelko suggested that PHMC call upon the Legislative History Caucus and executive branch asking for guidance.

V. ACTION ITEMS

a) PHMC Media Development and Production Policy

Mr. Haury reported the Publications Committee developed a Media Development and Production Policy. Its purpose is to provide guidelines and standards to be used in all printed and online media developed by representative of the Commission regardless of its funding.

Revisions to this policy will be developed by the Publications and Sales Division chief in counsel with the PHMC Publications Committee chair for review and submission to the Publication Committee prior to motion for approval by the PHMC Commission.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Media Development and Production Policy. On motion by Representative Scott Petri, seconded by Ms. Pavelko the Media Development and Production Policy was approved.

b) Grant Program

Ms. Cutler reviewed the grant program. Due to reduced funding staff have suggested only funding GOS this year based on conversations with museums. Grant allocations will be made based on available funds. Without Keystone Funds there is no money to support the marker program; sponsors must now provide money for fabrication/installation of markers.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the GOS grants. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Ms. Pavelko the GOS grants were approved.

VI. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

- a) Outgoing Historic Preservation Board Members: Ann Greene, Michael Eversmeyer, John Milner, Cecilia Rusnak

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the resolutions for the following Outgoing Historic Preservation Board Members: Ann Green, Michael Eversmyer, John Milner and Cecilia Rusnak. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Ms. Fisher the courtesy resolutions for Ann Greene, Michael Everyismeyer, Cecilia Rusnak and John Milner were approved.

VII. OTHER REPORTS

- a) Pennsylvania Quilts

Representative Todd Rock introduced Phyllis Shipman, quilt enthusiast and constituent. Ms. Shipman spoke to the Commission about her interest in displaying the quilt collections stored in The State Museum of Pennsylvania and presented signatures collected in support of an exhibition.

- b) National Register Nominations

Ms. Cutler reported that a total of nine National Register Nominations were reviewed October 6, 2009. The Pennsylvania State Office Building, Cheyney Farm and Hopewell Farm were rejected due to inadequate documentation; Chandler Mill Road Bridge was rejected due to lack of significance.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

IX. OLD BUSINSS

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Spilove adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.