

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
OCTOBER 6, 2010
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on October 6, 2010 in the Pollock Room at WITF, 3801 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Wayne Spilove, Flora Becker, Michele Sellitto, Rhonda Cohen, Senator Jim Ferlo, Laura Fisher, Janet Klein, Kathleen Pavelko, Casey Long for Senator Joe Scarnati and Alice Lubrecht for Clare Zales. The following staff were present: Barbara Franco, Jean Cutler, Rhonda Newton, David Dunn, David Haury, Tom Leonard, Steve Miller and Kirk Wilson.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Spilove welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Ms. Pavelko for the use of the facilities at WITF for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Meeting and Strategic Planning Session. Chairman Spilove called the meeting to order at 9:15am and asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 16, 2010

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the minutes from June 16, 2010. Ms. Sellitto asked if there was a Commission Meeting in November and what the correct date is November 15th or November 17th. The correct date is November 17th. Senator Ferlo said that the minutes should reflect that he is opposed to a transfer of ownership of property at Washington Crossing Historic Park. The minutes were approved with corrections as noted.

III. ACTION ITEMS

- a) Historic Marker Nominations – Resubmissions

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Historical Markers Nominations – Resubmission for the American Federation of Musicians, Local 471 in Allegheny County and William Lewis in Philadelphia County as submitted. On motion by Senator Ferlo, seconded by Ms. Fisher the resubmission of PHMC Historical Markers was approved as submitted.

Senator Ferlo would like Commissioners to receive a copy of the final text of the historic markers.

Ms. Klein would like to see the Red Star Line marker nomination resubmitted. The Red Star Line brought Jewish Immigrants to Philadelphia. The landing dock still exists on the Delaware River. Neither Ms. Klein or Ms. Fisher were able to attend the last historic marker panel meeting when the decision was made not to recommend the Red Star Line for a Historic Marker. Ms. Klein would like a commissioner to be present at panel meetings. Chairman Spilove agreed that either Ms. Klein or Ms. Fisher be present at the panel meeting to discuss historic marker recommendations.

IV. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

a) Retirement Resolution for Delores Buchsen

Mr. Miller recommended for approval a retirement resolution for Delores Buchsen. Ms. Buchseon was a dedicated employee and retired in July 2010 as the Site Administrator for the PA Lumber Museum.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the retirement resolution for Delores Buchsen. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Cohen, the retirement resolution for Ms. Buchsen was approved.

b) Retirement Resolution for Karen Fisher

Mr. Leonard recommended for approval a retirement resolution for Karen Fisher. Mr. Leonard read Ms. Fisher's resolution to the Commission.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the retirement resolution for Karen Fisher. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Cohen, the retirement resolution for Ms. Fisher was approved.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Spilove thanked Karen Fisher for her years of service and wishes her all the best in retirement.

c) Retirement resolutions for Steve Musser and Tomas Diaz

Mr. Haury recommended for approval two retirement resolutions for Steve Musser and Tomas Diaz. Both Mr. Musser and Mr. Diaz worked at the State Records Center.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the retirement resolutions for Steve Musser and Tomas Diaz. On motion by Ms. Pavelko, seconded by Ms. Cohen, the retirement resolutions for Mr. Musser and Mr. Diaz were approved.

V. REPORTS

There were no reports at this time.

VI. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Chairman Spilove gave a summary of the meetings he attended this past quarter regarding: Washington Crossing Historic Park and Church of the Assumption demolition.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Ms. Franco reported that the Human Resources Division was eliminated and responsibility for all HR services was transferred to HR Division of the Office of Administration. Karen Fisher, former HR director retired in the process and has agreed to return as an annuitant to help with the transition.

The transition has been made more difficult by staff turn over in OAHR and the shifting of HR responsibilities to PHMC supervisory staff. Tom Leonard and other Bureau Directors and staff have had to take on new roles and perform many routine HR duties that were previously handled by PHMC HR staff.

Ms. Pavelko asked if we expect the HR functions for the Commission to continue to be handled by the Office of Administration once we have a new administration. Ms. Franco said the new arrangement would work if we had an HR Analyst working at the Commission.

Senator Ferlo asked for an update on the Commissions vacancies, what their priorities are, if there is money budgeted for those positions and if we have authorization to rehire. Ms. Franco said there have been over 80 furloughs over the past year and because of aging workforce we also had a lot of retirements. Retirements have often left key jobs vacant such as site administrators for the PA Lumber Museum, Washington Crossing and Old Economy Village.

Ms. Franco will update the Commission on the HR Transition at the November Commission meeting.

Ms. Franco reported a meeting scheduled for Washington Crossing Historic Park on October 20, 2010 and will give a report to the Commission at the November meeting.

The Flagship Niagara league held a successful Tall Ships Festival in Erie. Significant funds have been raised to support this year's program.

A meeting was held this past Monday with Congressman Gerlach at Valley Forge to discuss tourism and how Revolutionary War sites in south-east Pennsylvania can work more effectively together.

Recently Ms. Franco was a guest speaker on Radio Smart Talk talking about what is "hallowed ground".

Ruthann Hubbert-Kemper, Executive Director of the Capitol Preservation Committee recently retired; David Craig will now serve as the Executive Director. The Commission agreed to send a letter to Ruthann thanking her for the years of service with the committee and wishing her the best on her retirement. A letter of congratulations will also be sent to David on his new position as Executive Director of the Capitol Preservation Committee.

The Pennsylvania Civil War Roadshow products are being developed for sale during the anniversary. The Pennsylvania Heritage Society received an IMLS grant for \$800,000 to support public programming at the sites over three years where the Civil War Roadshow will tour. A consultant will work with host organizations to develop their capacity for membership and new audiences.

Ms. Franco reported the Civil War Roadshow will preview in Harrisburg on April 12, 2011. More information on the Civil War 150th is available by visiting www.pacivilwar150.com. Ms. Cohen asked if the commission would consider scheduling a commission meeting around April 12th for commissioners to see the Civil War Roadshow exhibit.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Michael Maguire, President of The Johnsville Centrifuge and Science Museum and Mark Calhoun talked to the Commission about the museum and its purpose and their concerns about destruction of historical elements by its current owner. The group is looking towards PHMC to help preserve and protect the building from further destruction for future generations to visit. Ms. Franco said that Commission staff will work with our General Counsel for further investigation and what can be done to protect and preserve the facility.

The Commission also suggested the group contact the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General for further investigation.

Guy Polhemus, Peggy Kennedy and Ellen Lane-Novitz attended today's meeting and voiced their concerns about Washington Crossing Historic Park.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Spilove adjourned the meeting at 10:53 am