

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
JUNE 15, 2011
MINUTES

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on June 15, 2011 in the 5th Floor Board Room of the State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Cheryl McClenney-Brooker participated via conference call, Senator Jim Ferlo, Laura Fisher participated via conference call, Representative Robert Matzie, Kathleen Pavelko – Acting Chair, Representative Scott Petri, and Katie Eckhart represented Senator Joseph Scarnati, Michele Sellitto and Alice Lubrecht represented Clare Zales. Andrea Bowman, from the Office of General Counsel was present as PHMC Counsel.

The following staff were present: Ann Barnett, Barbara Franco, Jean Cutler, Rhonda Newton, David Dunn, David Haury, Howard Pollman, Tom Leonard, Steve Miller and John Seitter. Karen Gunnison, First Lady Chief of Staff also attended.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Pavelko, member of the Commission called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

II. WELCOME AND NEW COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Pavelko welcomed everyone to the Commission Meeting. In addition to current Commissioners, Ms. Pavelko acknowledged four Commission nominees attending today's meeting: Ann Moran, Richard Sand, Fred Powell and Bill Lewis.

Ms. Pavelko asked Ms. Andrea Bowman, Office of General Counsel and PHMC Counsel to explain the status of both current Commission and nominees. Ms. Bowman explained the four step process in becoming a Commissioner: 1) Governor nominates new Commissioners 2) Senate confirms nominations, 3) Governor appoints Commissioners with a formal appointment letter and 4) New appointees are sworn in. Because the nominees have not completed all four steps the current commission still hold their offices as voting members.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 16, 2011

Ms. Pavelko called for a motion to approve the minutes from March 16, 2011. Representative Robert Matzie asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that he participated in the March 16th meeting via conference call.

On motion by Representative Matzie, seconded by Senator Ferlo the minutes were approved to include the correction that Representative Robert Matzie participated in the March 16th meeting via conference call.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a) Publication Policy

Mr. Pollman reported the name change of the Publications Division to Marketing and Media with minor changes to the language regarding publication requirements as well as a review process. That includes publications produced on behalf of friends groups.

Ms. Pavelko reported that this is an attempt to make the policy consistent with the new organizational structure of the Commission.

Representative Petri asked for clarification of the process friends groups seeking approval of a publication. Mr. Pollman said friends groups that are printing material for major public distribution should share that information with the site administrator and any questions should be directed to the Division Chief or himself.

Ms. Pavelko called for a motion to approve the Publication Policy. On motion by Representative Petri, seconded by Representative Matzie the Publications Policy was approved.

b) Keystone Project Grant Recommendations

Ms. Cutler reported to the Commission that funding for the Keystone Historic Preservation Project Grant Program comes from the real estate transfer tax. The total number of eligible applications received was 95 applications and the total dollars requested was \$1.2 million.

This year's allocation for fiscal year 2010-2011 is \$500,000. PHMC staff reviewed applications and anticipate funding for 35 projects.

Commission nominees were informed that they should abstain from any discussion and/or voting if they have a relationship with one of the grant applicants.

Ms. Pavelko called for a motion to approve the Keystone Project Grant Recommendations. On motion by Senator Ferlo, seconded by Representative Matzie the Keystone Project Grant Recommendations were approved.

c) Historic Marker Resubmission

Ms. Cutler reported on the nomination of the 1910 Labor Strikes. The nomination was resubmitted early for consideration by the Historical Marker Review Panel, PHMC and staff. An exception was made to accept the resubmission a month prior to the standard June 30 deadline. The sponsoring organization plans to dedicate the marker at their September annual meeting if approved.

Based upon review, both panel and staff do not feel the additional information justifies the rationale to associate all 1910 Lehigh Valley region strikes, as evidence is not provided to indicate that they were coordinated strike efforts.

Panel and staff recommend the approval of a marker for the 1910 Bethlehem Steel strike only, which would be dedicated in Allentown at the annual meeting of the PA Labor History Society but later installed in Bethlehem.

Ms. Pavelko called for a motion to approve the Historic Marker Nomination. On motion by Representative Petri, seconded by Representative Matzie the Historic Marker Nomination for the 1910 Bethlehem Steel strike to be installed in the appropriate spot in Bethlehem was approved. Ms. Sellitto voted against the Historic Marker Nomination.

d) Open Flame Policy

Mr. Miller, reported on the Open Flame Policy. It is a new policy to provide guidelines and procedures by which open flame devices and fires may be used at Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission sites and museums. This applies to 473 buildings under PHMC administrative jurisdiction.

Ms. Pavelko called for a motion to approve the Open Flame Policy as presented. On motion by Senator Ferlo, seconded by Ms. Lubrecht the Open Flame Policy was approved.

e) Meeting Dates for 2011 – 2012

Ms. Pavelko recommended that the commission approve the September 21, 2011 meeting so it is on the calendar and allow the new commission to approve the dates for the remaining fiscal year.

Ms. Pavelko called for a motion to approve the September 21, 2011 commission meeting. On motion by Representative Matzie, seconded by Senator Ferlo the September 21, 2011 commission date was approved.

V. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Franco gave a report on two retirements: Robert Bullock, Chief of Exhibit Division, State Museum of Pennsylvania and Susan Zacher, Bureau for Historic Preservation.

Ms. Pavelko called for a motion to approve the two retirement resolutions for Robert Bullock and Susan Zacher. On motion by Representative Matzie, seconded by Senator Ferlo the retirement resolutions were approved.

Ms. Franco reported that Jim Pickman worked for the Pennsylvania Heritage Society as project manager reporting to the Commission on the planning for the PA Civil War 150th. Mr. Pickman's contract is now over but he has offered to serve as Senior Advisor to the committee on a voluntary basis. Ms. Franco would like the commission to approve a resolution for him thanking him for his commitment to the goals of Pennsylvania Civil War 150th.

Ms. Pavelko called for a motion to approve the resolution for Jim Pickman. On motion by Senator Ferlo, seconded by Representative Matzie the resolution for Jim Pickman was approved.

VI. REPORTS

a) PA Civil War 150

At this time Ms. Pavelko introduced John Seitter, Project Manager for PA Civil War 150th. PA Civil War 150th is a statewide collaboration headed by PHMC, John Heinz History Center and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Major components of the project include the website www.pacivilwar150.com, a series of publications about the Civil War and the PA Civil War Road Show.

Since the launch in Pittsburgh the PA Civil War Road Show has had over 15,000 visitors, almost 200 story booth uploads and includes scrapbook engagements and close to 600,000 visual impressions.

Thanks to a series of grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development, Institute for Library and Museum Sciences, the PA Civil War Road Show is fully funded for 2011. The PA Civil War Road Show costs approximately \$600,000 a year to operate. We are looking at a shortfall as we move towards 2012 – 2014 and are looking for additional funding. The PA Civil War Road Show is a tremendous sponsorship opportunity.

Ms. Sellitto offered to create a RSS Feed out to schools in the beginning of the year on the Pennsylvania Department of Education Standard Aligned System portal that would link people to PA Civil War Road Show website.

Ms. Franco introduced Ann Barnett, Merchandising Manager for the PA Civil War 150th wholesale program. Ms. Barnett presented items available for purchase in the State Museum Gift Shop and at the PA Civil War Road Show exhibit. Proceeds go to the Pennsylvania Heritage Society to support PA Civil War 150.

b) Pennsylvania Heritage Society

Rhonda Newtown, Managing Director of the Pennsylvania Heritage Society gave a brief report to the Commission. The Pennsylvania Heritage Society is the statewide, nonprofit partner of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

In May 2011 the PHS held its first Groupon promotion in York, Lancaster and Harrisburg area and sold 118 memberships in three days. Currently, PHS is selling Groupon promotions in the Allentown/Reading area.

The State Museum Store is temporarily open with a grand opening scheduled for September 16, 2011. In the fall PHS is hosting a Signature Series Bus Trip to the Winterthur Museum.

At the last PHS board meeting the following new officers were elected: Mickey Rowley, President; Barbara Franco, Secretary (ex officio) and Ann Yellot, Treasurer; Bill Alexander continues to serve as Finance Chair.

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Pavelko read a letter of resignation from the former Chairman, Wayne Spilove:

Dear Governor,

I am writing to convey my resignation as Chairman and as a Member of the Pennsylvania State Historical and Museum Commission effective 1 June 2011.

I do so with mixed feelings. After nearly nine years of one of the most gratifying public service experiences of my life, it is time for me to move on and attend to other interests and priorities. At the same time, it has been an extraordinary privilege to serve the Commonwealth and its citizens, and to serve alongside dedicated and talented colleagues on the Commission, its staff, and in the Administration and General Assembly.

As I conclude my service, I am more convinced than ever that PHMC's work of guarding and conserving the treasures of Pennsylvania's past is crucial to creating a bright future for our Commonwealth. I wish you well in this important work.

Wayne S. Spilove

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Ms. Franco noted with PHMC staff retirements many of these positions remain unfilled. The process to fill vacant positions is lengthy. We are tremendously understaffed right now, especially at our historic sites and museums.

The Bureau for Historic Preservation is holding listening sessions throughout the Commonwealth in anticipation of their next 5 year statewide historic preservation plan.

A successful groundbreaking ceremony was held at the Washington Crossing Historic Park visitor's center.

Ms. Franco attended a meeting with DCNR and other state agencies about the America's Great Outdoor initiative. Pennsylvania has been asked to suggest several projects one of those being Lower Susquehanna and Washington Crossing along the Delaware River.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

a) Mellon Arena

Ms. Franco reported that there is a new arena for the Pittsburgh Penguins and there is an issue of the disposition of the Civic Arena. PHMC has determined that the Civic Arena is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of its engineering significance and historic significance as the site of performances by important figures in sports, entertainment and the arts over the past half century.

Senator Ferlo reported that he has submitted a letter to the Commission requesting that the Commission hold a public hearing in Pittsburgh to discuss mitigation steps in the event that demolition of the arena cannot be prevented and review all proposals and ideas on the arena.

Senator Ferlo called for a motion for PHMC to hold a hearing in Pittsburgh to review all proposals, ideas, and thoughts on mitigation efforts in the event that demolition of the arena cannot be prevented.

Katie Eckhart on behalf of Senator Scarnati's office asked that at this point the issue of a public hearing be tabled until new commission members are sworn in.

Ms. Pavelko asked if we have a second on the motion to table? Senator Ferlo, in respect for Senator Scarnati's decision, seconded the motion.

Representative Petri asked if PHMC issued any official response on the Civic Center? Ms. Cutler commented that recommendations were made. There is no federal undertaking at this time. The last official letter was dated August 19, 2010.

Ms. Pavelko asked if City Counsel ultimately decides whether or not the arena is demolished. Senator Ferlo replied yes. Ms. Eckhart believes there is a City Council meeting scheduled sometime today.

Ms. Pavelko asked if there were any further comments on the motion for PHMC to hold a public meeting in Pittsburgh to discuss possible mitigation option in the event the arena is demolished.

Ms. Pavelko asked Andrea Bowman, Chief Counsel which motion takes precedence. Senator Ferlo responded that the motion to table takes precedence.

Ms. Pavelko asked for a vote. Michelle Selitto opposed. Motion to table the public hearing passed.

Guy Polhemus and Amy McLellan attended today's meeting and spoke about their concerns about Washington Crossing Historic Park.

X. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.