

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION  
MAY 15, 2013  
MINUTES

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on May 15, 2013 in the Boeing Room at the Gettysburg Foundation in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: John A. Barbour, Karen Dougherty Buchholz, Susan M. Corbett, William V. Lewis, Andrew E. Masich, Representative Robert F. Matzie participated via conference call, Ann M. Moran, Jean Craige Pepper participated via conference call, Fredrick Powell participated via conference call, Richard Sand participated via conference call, Katie Eckhart for Senator Joseph Scarnati and Alice Lubrecht.

The following staff were present: Jean Cutler, David Dunn, David Haurly, Tom Leonard, Howard Pollman, Brenda Reigle and James Vaughan. Mickey Rowley and Rhonda Newton represented the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Masich called the meeting to order at 9am

**Minutes of February 6, 2013** – Chairman Masich called for a motion to approve the minutes from February 6, 2013. On motion by Ann Moran, seconded by John Barbour the February 6, 2013 minutes were approved.

**Funding for PA Museums** - Chairman Masich reported the proposed funding plan is to provide a consistent source of funding to Pennsylvania museums that do not receive general operating support from other state sources.

Funds are to be distributed by PHMC to qualified Pennsylvania museums that commit to the American Alliance of Museums Pledge of Excellence. Within two years, all funding applicants should maintain core documents that include: mission statement, code of ethics, strategic plan, and disaster/emergency plan and collection management policy.

Mrs. Corbett is concerned that the proposal is not looking at museums holistically by using money from the PA Realty Transfer Tax. Money from the PA Realty Transfer Tax helps fund state parks, libraries, zoos and PHMC.

Mrs. Corbett is also concerned about the standards in distributing money to museums. The Arts Council's philosophy is to make the arts accessible to people across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They are deliberate in making sure that there is arts funding that go to every single county. She stressed the importance of distributing money equally, not just for the citizens of Pennsylvania but to the legislature. If we want support for a grant program from the legislature we want to be able to demonstrate that we are aware of what is happening in their community.

Chairman Masich called for a motion to support in concept the creation of a funding source for museums regionally represented across the commonwealth and not identify a source of funding or set amount. On motion by Karen Dougherty Buchholz, seconded by William Lewis, the Commission approved the concept of creating a funding source for museums regionally represented across the commonwealth.

#### Executive Director's Report

Jim Vaughan reported to the Commission that he recently attended the following events since the last PHMC Commission meeting: Ribbon cutting ceremony for the remodeled visitor's center at Washington Crossing Historic Park, Representative Scott Petri also attended; Ground breaking ceremony at PA Lumber Museum for museum expansion, Senator Scarnati also attended. Jim attended a legislative breakfast held at Pennsbury Manor.

In September, the Battle of Lake Erie will celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In honor of this anniversary there will be a wreath laying ceremony, tall ships parade on Lake Erie and a reenactment of the Battle of Lake Erie in Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

At the State Museum of Pennsylvania, the Special Hannah Penn exhibit in honor of William Penn's second wife Hannah Penn was opened March 12<sup>th</sup>. The new civil war exhibit "Objects of Valor: Commemorating the Civil War in Pennsylvania" opened on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. A review of this exhibit was featured in the Wall Street Journal.

Jim started the process of reimagining the State Museum of Pennsylvania. The long term goal is to define the philosophical approach to exhibits and programs and eventually develop the related standards and processes.

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Jim invited the House Tourism Committee for a behind the scenes tour of the State Museum and Archives Complex including our collections storage areas.

Jim updated the Commission on the renovation of the auditorium in the State Museum.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, the Volunteer of the Year Awards Ceremony was held at the State Museum of Pennsylvania recognizing volunteers from all of our historic sites.

Jim reported to the Commission that the Collections Inventory team is currently working on the Community and Domestic Life and Political History Collections.

A site master plan process was launched at Washington Crossing Historic Park in February 2013. Frequently, Jim would receive calls from the public wanting to install a monument at Washington Crossing Historic Park. Currently, there is no master plan that states what land uses are acceptable or not acceptable. We have conducted interviews with stakeholders including city, county and township officials and are now at a point where we are looking at our first drafts. Public hearings are scheduled for June 18, 2013 and August 1, 2013.

We've contacted PANO (Pennsylvania Association of Non Profit Organizations) to work with the Friends of Washington Crossing Historic Park who are experiencing governance issues. PANO does a lot of training and work with boards. They are going to do a governance audit of the Friends of Washington Crossing Historic Park for us over the summer and make any recommendations on how we can improve our operations at the site

### **Historic Sites and Museums**

**Status of Placed Properties** – Brenda Reigle reported to the Commission a status update of the placed properties that have been transferred out of state ownership, properties in the process of being transferred out of state ownership and newly placed properties. Brenda reviewed a checklist for property disposition on what needs to be done when transferring property to a local group.

### **Historic Preservation**

**Approve Recommendations for new PA Historic Preservation Board** – Jean Cutler reported that there are three new proposed members to the Historic Preservation Board: Lloyd Chapman

retired from the National Park Service; Brian L. Fritz archaeologist specializing in historic and industrial archaeology and Susan B. Hannegan director of the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office.

Chairman Masich called for a motion to approve the proposed members for the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board. On motion by Susan Corbett, seconded by Ann Moran, the recommendations to the Historic Preservation Board were approved.

**Approve Resolutions for Outgoing Historic Preservation Board Members** – Jean Cutler reported that there are four Outgoing Historic Preservation Board Members: Scott Heberling (seven year member), Janet Irons (seven year member), Bruce Thomas (seven year member) and Daniel K. Perry (six year member).

Chairman Masich called for a motion to approve the resolutions for the Outgoing Historic Preservation Board Members. On motion by Karen Dougherty Buchholz, seconded by Ann Moran, the resolutions for Scott Heberling, Janet Irons, Bruce Thomas and Daniel K. Perry were approved.

**Approve Certified Local Government Grants** – Jean Cutler reported that the Certified Local government grants are based on funding from the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Grant to Pennsylvania for the operation of the State Historic Preservation office (SHPO). There are a total of 13 applications, the following 8 applications are recommended for funding: City of Philadelphia, City of Easton, City of Pittsburgh, City of Williamsport, City of Lancaster, City of Bradford, City of Allentown and City of Harrisburg.

Chairman Masich called for a motion to approve the Certified Local Government Grants. On motion by William Lewis, seconded by Karen Dougherty Buchholz, the Certified Local Government Grants were approved.

**Approve Keystone Historic Preservation Grants** - Jean Cutler reported to the Commission that the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant program is used to fund preservation, rehabilitation and restoration activities or historic sites that are eligible for or listed in the National Register of

Historic Places. KHP program also allows PHMC grand funds to be used for planning activities that support the preservation of historic properties.

The total number of eligible applications received was 70 and the total dollars requested was \$1.3 million. This year's allocation for fiscal year 2012-2013 is \$500,000. Grants requests range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and require a 50% cash match in order to show a commitment from the sponsoring organization. PHMC panel reviewed applications and anticipate funding for the following 29 organizations: University of Pittsburgh; Juniata Valley Audubon Society; City of Johnstown (Dept of Community and Economic Development); Tabernacle Baptist Church; Lake Shore Railway Historical Society; National Road Heritage Corridor; Huntingdon County Planning & Development Department; Historic Brookville, Inc.; LancasterHistory.org; LCHS and Wheatland; National Society of Colonial Dames of America/PA, Stenton; 1901 Church, Inc.; Daisy Wilson Artist Inc.; Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy; Cambria Co. Commissioners; Chester County Historical Society; Civic Club of Harrisburg; Messiah Lutheran Church; Erie County Historical Society; Western Pennsylvania Conservancy; Franklin County Historical Society – Kittochtinny; Lackawanna Historical Society; Historic Preservation Trust of Lebanon County; Borough of Hatboro; Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society; City of Shamokin; Girard College Founder's Hall (Girard College Development Fund); Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, Inc.; City of Franklin and Wayne County Historical Society.

Chairman Masich called for a motion to approve the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program Recommendations. On motion by Karen Dougherty Buchholz, seconded by Ann Moran, the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program Recommendations were approved.

**Approve Resolution of Appreciation for Jean Cutler** – Jim Vaughan announced that Jean Cutler planned to retire in June and Andrea MacDonald will serve as acting Bureau Director for the Bureau for Historic Preservation until a replacement is hired. Jim Vaughan thanked Jean Cutler for her leadership at PHMC for the past 12 years.

Chairman Masich called for a motion to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Jean Cutler. On motion by Karen Dougherty Buchholz, seconded by Ann Moran, the resolution of appreciation for Jean Cutler was approved.

### **State Archives**

**Approve State Archives Fee Schedule Changes for Commission** – Chairman Masich called for a motion to approve the Fees for the Use of Reproductions and Reference and Reproduction Services Fee Schedule from the Pennsylvania State Archives. On motion by Jack Barbour, seconded by Karen Dougherty Buchholz, the State Archives Fee Schedule Changes were approved.

**Approve Appointments to State Historic Records Advisory Board** - David Haury reported the five nominees for appointment to the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) are: Susan Hamburger, June Lloyd, Heidi Abbey, Alexis Macklin and Marilyn Parrish.

SHRAB serves as the central advisory body for historical records planning and seeks to facilitate cooperation among historical records repositories with the state. SHRAB members who are professional archivists also review grant applications submitted to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission from Pennsylvania institutions.

Chairman Masich called for a motion to approve the Appointments to State Historic Records Advisory Board. On motion by Bill Lewis, seconded by Susan Corbett, the Appointments to the State Historic Records Advisory Board were approved.

Dave Dunn reported on two retirements from the State Museum; Brenda Wetzel with 32 years of Commonwealth service and Kristin Scofield with 25 years of Commonwealth service.

Chairman Masich called for a motion to approve retirement resolutions for Brenda Wetzel and Kristin Scofield. On motion by Fred Powell, seconded by Jean Craige Pepper, the retirement resolutions were approved.

## PA Civil War 150

Karen Dougherty Buchholz updated the Commissioners on the PA Civil War 150 initiatives. The last committee meeting was held on April 9, 2013, next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2013. Web visitors through April 30, 2013 are 6,200 visitors; 1,900 followers on Twitter and 2,600 likes on Facebook.

Over 1,600 copies of *The Civil War in Pennsylvania: A Photograph History* was sold. The authors continue to travel around the Commonwealth to promote the book. The most recent sponsored stop on the book promotion tour was in Allentown at the Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum. Over 100 in attendance with 42 books sold. We received official news this week that the *Civil War in Pennsylvania: A Photograph History* was named the 2013 Award of Merit Winner by the American Association of State and Local History.

The Civil War African American Experience, a series of essays chronicling the heritage of African American Pennsylvanians during the Civil War is moving towards completion. Karen Dougherty Buchholz passed around a draft text for everyone to review and should be available to the public around December 1, 2013.

The Civil War in Pennsylvania is a joint collaborative edition of *Western Pennsylvania History* published by The Heinz History Center, *Legacies* Magazine published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and *Pennsylvania Heritage* magazine published by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is in its final stages of production and will be available beginning June 3, 2013. This issue is part of the Pennsylvania Civil War 150 initiative, combining articles from all three publications to commemorate the Civil War sesquicentennial.

Utilizing major components from the Civil War Road Show traveling exhibit, *Stories from the Homefront: Pennsylvania in the Civil War* is scheduled to be installed on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Idea Zone adjacent to the Village Square at the State Museum and open to the public on September 20, 2013.

The traveling exhibit, the Civil War in Pennsylvania continues to tour sites throughout Western Pennsylvania and scheduled to stop at 21 venues. The exhibit recently visited the Community College of Beaver County; next stop is the Heinz History Center.

### PA Heritage Foundation

Chairman Masich will recommend the following appointments at the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation meeting later this afternoon: Mickey Rowley continue to serve as President, Ann Moran continue to serve as Vice-President, Anne Yellot to serve as Treasurer, extend Bill Alexander's term and recommend Jonathan Edmunds to serve a three-year term on the foundation.

Mickey Rowley updated the Commission on the mission of the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation which is to support the work of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in collaboration with partner organizations, through fund development, grant management, membership, merchandising and advocacy.

Believes the PHF should be a significant source of museum funding but the reality is that the PHF is facing a budget deficit next year of \$20,000 - \$30,000. Rhonda Newton is volunteering to work part time but Mickey Rowley suggests the PHF use money from the \$200,000 reserve to keep a full complement of staff. Priorities include hiring a development director and offer prepackaged tours for our membership as part of our earned income.

### Adjournment

Chairman Masich adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.