

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
DECEMBER 17, 2014
MINUTES

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on December 17, 2014 in the 5th Floor Board Room of the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: John A. Barbour, Susan M. Corbett, William Lewis, Andrew E. Masich, Ann Moran, Representative Scott Petri, Fredrick Powell, Kate Eckhart for Senator Joseph Scarnati and Alice Lubrecht. Representative Robert Matzie and Jean Craige Pepper participated via conference call.

The following staff were present: James Vaughan, David Carmicheal, Howard Pollman, Serena Bellew, Jonathan Brandon, Scott Doyle, David Dunn, Beth Hager, Brenda Reigle, Tammi Snyder-Queen and James Vaughan. Rhonda Newton and Heather Hu represented the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation.

The following individuals also attended: Attorney John McGee, Vintage Baseball; Karen Gunnison, First Lady's Chief of Staff; Guy Pulhemus, Crossing Legacy; Amy McClellan, Crossing Legacy; David Benner, Bowman's Hill Wildflower.

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Masich called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: (Powell/Moran) Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on September 24, 2014. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion Carries.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Transition

Chairman Masich clarified to PHMC Commissioners that they are appointed by the Governor and serve until the third Tuesday of January 2015, and until their successor is appointed and qualified.

B. Resolution of Appreciation – Senator James Ferlo

MOTION: (Corbett/Moran) Motion to approve a resolution for outgoing PHMC Commissioner Senator James Ferlo, thanking him for his long service as a Commissioner to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion Carries

C. Museum Grants Legislation

The Arts and Culture Caucus is making an effort to re-introduce SB 1070 for legislation approval. SB 1070 proposes a dedicated source of funding for private museums if they meet certain criteria to be administered by PHMC.

Rusty Baker, Executive Director of PA Museums reported that PHMC and PA Museums in partnership with American Alliance of Museums are offering statewide workshops throughout the Commonwealth. These workshops will help museum's meet the standards for Core Documents Verification. Overall attendance at the workshops held so far was very well attended. Completion of the program provides public confirmation that your institution has an education mission and the policies and procedures in place that reflect standard practices of professional museums, as articulated in the AAM's National Standards and Best Practices for U.S. Museums.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

James Vaughan introduced David Carmicheal to commissioners and staff; he is the new Director of the Pennsylvania State Archives. Jim reported that Mike Denny accepted the position as Director of Management Services. Mr. Denny comes from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and is planning to start sometime in January 2015.

A. Administration

1. Strategic Plan Review and Work Plan for 2015 – Jim Vaughan reported that we are making good progress towards completing our Strategic Plan. The plan is based on a vision of where PHMC should be in 2020. Collections Goals: gain greater intellectual control over all collections, increase public access through digitization and improve stewardship of collections. Facilities Goals: transfer sites of local significance to local partners, reduce/eliminate deferred maintenance, provide collection storage that meets

the highest standards and upgrade PHMC capital complex facilities. Financial Goals: increase fundraising capacity of Pennsylvania Heritage Society now Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation, strengthen capacity of historic site partner organizations and restore grants to non-PHMC museums. Leadership and Partnership Goals: restore PHMC leadership position in the professional museum, preservation and archives communities and build strategic partnerships. Organizational Efficiency Goals: increase efficiency and productivity, become a model of public-private partnerships and increase and improve partnerships and collaborations. Marketing and Communications Goals: expand visibility of PHMC on the web, cluster marketing and programs around anniversaries and significant events and increase awareness of PHMC to state agencies and employees.

Susan Corbett complimented Jim Vaughan and commented on how PHMC has changed favorably under his leadership.

B. Historic Preservation

1. Update on Shell Petrochemical Facility – Serena Bellew updated commissioners and staff on the Shell Petrochemical Facility project. The facility is located in Beaver County and is being reviewed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Both Serena Bellew and Jim Vaughan meet bi-weekly with staff from Shell to discuss the project and keep moving forward with completion.

2. Ambridge Sewer Project- Serena Bellew updated commissioners and staff on the Ambridge Sewer Project. This project is being reviewed under the State History Code because the project requires a DEP permit for the sewer. Old Economy Village is adjacent to the project area. We are working with Michael Knecht, Site Administrator for Old Economy Village and Charlie Fox, Western Division Chief. We have expressed our concerns about vibrations to the Water Authority regarding the sewer project. The Water Authority has agreed to shift the direction of the sewer main slight and agreed to put in vibrations monitors. The City of Ambridge has three levels of historic designation: National Historic Landmark District, National Register Listed District and is a locally designated historic district.

3. Star Barn Relocation – Serena Bellew updated commissioners and staff on the relocation of the Star Barn Complex. Karen Arnold and Scott Doyle have been working with the new owners of the Star

Barn complex to preserve the main barn, carriage house, pig pen, chicken coop and stone farmyard wall. These structures are proposed to be relocated from its original location to the Ironstone Ranch in Lancaster County. While relocation of a National Register listed property is usually discouraged, in cases such as this, it may be the last hope to save these incredible buildings.

C. State Archives

1. Update on new State Archives Schematic Design – David Carmicheal reported that staff met with officials from the Department of General Services and HGA Architects and Engineers to design the new State Archives building on programming requirements. We are making great progress and look forward to groundbreaking in 2016 .

D. State Museum

1. Natural History & History Exhibit Plans – Jim Vaughan reported on the Natural History Exhibits on the 3rd Floor. The Nature Lab is near completion; Education Division held test programs to both large and small groups. Cabinets will be filled with specimens and staff is currently developing a hands-on family friendly program for the Nature Lab. Jim hopes to have a formal opening sometime in February 2015.

The State Museum’s Natural History Advisory Committee is working to develop an interpretive plan for the museum’s 3rd Floor. These exhibits were installed more than 40 years ago. Jim reported that David Dunn is leading the Mammal Hall project. A pilot project will be completed on the four smallest dioramas starting in January 2015. We are also working on renovating the Carboniferous Forest and Ecology Hall.

2. Collections Advancement Project – David Dunn reported that the collections inventory project is moving along, although there was some loss of momentum due to the overhead pipe work in nearly every collections storage space in the State Museum’s 4th floor collections storage area. All of the rain leaders from the roof drains had to be replaced by DGS which also meant that the asbestos insulation around them had to be removed. In order to accomplish that task, the collection items in the storage rooms had to be moved or protected from the work. The asbestos has been removed and at least half the old pipes have been

removed and replaced with modern PVC pipe and reinsulated. In the areas where the pipe work has been completed, the spaces are back to normal and the inventory continues.

A Horse Drawn Vehicle Survey has been completed. PHMC has 139 horse drawn vehicles in our collections. A consultant with experience in horse-drawn vehicles will evaluate the collection and provide some guidance concerning the historical importance and condition of the collection. It is hoped that we can reduce the collection by deaccessioning pieces that are in poor condition or no longer relate to the Museum's mission and gain much needed storage space.

At this time Chairman Masich called for an executive session to discuss the annual performance evaluation of Jim Vaughan, PHMC Executive Director. Executive Session completed and Commission meeting resumes.

E. Historic Sites and Museums

1. Washington Crossing/DCNR Update – Brenda Reigle reported that we have been doing “business as usual”; at the September Commission Meeting the Commission approved a resolution regarding the continuing operations at Washington Crossing Historic Park. Planning continues for the annual Christmas crossing events.

At this time, David Benner, Botanist at the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, addressed the Commission about his concerns of the direction of the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. Amy McClellan addressed the Commission about her concerns related to the transfer of Washington Crossing Historic Park to DCNR.

2. Report on Property Disposition – Howard Pollman reported that the Judson House, Fort Leboeuf and Washington Park, all in Erie County were legislatively transferred from Commonwealth to local ownership. The deeds to these properties have been signed by PHMC and have been returned to DGS for final processing and recording. In January, PHMC will issue RFIs to identify/confirm local management groups for Robert Fulton Birthplace, Tuscarora Academy, Warrior Run Church, McCoy House and Mather Mill.

3. Partner Property Program – (Lewis/Powell) Motion to approve a resolution to approve Hope Lodge becoming a “Partner Property” of PHMC and to delegate to the Executive Director authority to enter into an Agreement with the Friends of Hope Lodge Associates for this purpose. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion Carries. (See Attachment)

4. Public Assembly Policy – MOTION: (Lewis/Moran) Motion to approve a resolution recommending the Commission approve the Policy on Public Demonstrations, Distribution of Literature and Related “Speech” Activity for PHMC properties. 11 in favor/ 0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion Carries.

Representative Petri suggested the following changes to the Public Assembly Policy: The Site Administrator will not unreasonably withhold his/her consent and will notify agency counsel of such gatherings. If the Site Administrator fails to respond to a request within three business days from the date of the initial request, the request will be deemed approved. MOTION: (Lewis/Moran) Motion to approve the amended resolution to include Representative Petri’s recommendations. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion Carries. (Amended Policy on Public Demonstrations, Distribution of Literature and Related “Speech” Activity at PHMC Historic Sites and Museums attached)

5. Eckley Baseball Partnership Update – Bill Lewis reported that the Eckley Miners Village Baseball Committee was formed and met with Attorney John McGee in Senator John Blake’s office to discuss the Eckley Baseball Partnership. At the suggestions of Fred Powell, Attorney John McGee sent his business proposal to PHMC Commissioners. The committee agreed to continue negotiations with Attorney McGee and PHMC staff.

V. MUSEUM PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Beth Hager reported that Jim Vaughan appointed a World War Task Force. The task force will consider our collections, purpose and programs and partnerships with other agencies and organizations. Rusty Baker from PA Museums announced that their annual conference, Partners In History: Telling the Pennsylvania Story, will take place in Harrisburg, April 12 – 14, 2014.

VI. PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Ann Moran reported that great things are currently happening with the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation and expect a lot of exciting and great things in the future. Ann Moran thanked Heather Hu for her work with the foundation.

Heather Hu reported that the case statement for the foundation tells who we are, what we do and why we need support. Fundraising efforts include: Turnpike Exhibit Project, Annual Appeal and Annual Giving Circle. The 50th Anniversary of the State Museum Gala will take place on October 24, 2015.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Jim Vaughan reported on a case for history. The American Association for State and Local History has produced a written case for history and why it should be taught in our schools. Realizing that this was not a national issue, it was an issue that would be effective state by state because education policies are decided at the state level, AASLH asked the state historical administrators to take the lead in writing a case statement on the value of history. The State Historical Administrators have asked each state history organization to consider endorsing the case statement. Jim reported that this will be on the agenda for approval at the next commission meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Masich adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

20141217_1 MOTION: (Powell/Moran) Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on September 24, 2014. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion Carries.

20141217_2 MOTION: (Corbett/Moran) Motion to approve a resolution for outgoing PHMC Commissioner Senator James Ferlo, thanking him for his long service as a Commissioner to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion Carries

20141217_3 MOTION: (Lewis/Powell) Motion to approve a resolution to approve Hope Lodge becoming a “Partner Property” of PHMC and to delegate to the Executive Director authority to enter into an Agreement with the Friends of Hope Lodge Associates for this purpose. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion Carries. (See Attachment)

20141217_4 MOTION: (Lewis/Moran) Motion to approve the amended resolution to include Representative Petri’s recommendations. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion Carries. (Amended Policy on Public Demonstrations, Distribution of Literature and Related “Speech” Activity at PHMC Historic Sites and Museums attached)