

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
MARCH 22, 2017
MINUTES

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on March 22, 2017 in the 5th Floor Board Room of the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Ophelia Chambliss, Senator Andrew Dinniman, William Lewis, Alice Lubrecht, Andrew Masich, Nancy Moses – Chair, Fredrick Powell participated via conference call, Kate Eckhart for Senator Joseph Scarnati, David Schuyler, Ken Turner and Philip Zimmerman.

The following staff were present: James Vaughan, Brenda Reigle, Andrea MacDonald, Pam Roche, David Carmichael, Beth Hager, Howard Pollman, Scott Doyle and Elizabeth Vera. Heather Hu represented the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Nancy Moses, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00am. At this time, she asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 7, 2016 MINUTES

Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2016 meeting. MOTION: (Turner/Dinniman) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the December 7, 2016 meeting were approved. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nancy Moses reported that she attended the Senate Appropriations Hearing on March 6th and was moved by the positive comments and support from Senators about the work that PHMC does and thanked Kate Eckhart, Senator Scarnati and Senator Dinniman for their continued support. Nancy also attended the Site Administrators Meeting held at Cornwall Iron Furnace on March 7th and noted that this was the first time in many years that the Chair of the Commission had attended a Site

Administrators Meeting. She was pleased to meet everyone. Nancy led a discussion at the meeting centered on intellectual/programming access to PHMC sites.

Nancy updated everyone on the search for a new Executive Director of PHMC. Diversified Search, the company leading the search interviewed commissioners and senior staff. Nancy distributed the draft position description and key functions of the position that includes: advocating with the legislature, seeking support from private sector funders and the ability to continue a climate of collaboration so that we can continue to be effective and fiscally responsible. As of today, there are 17 competitive candidates for the position. The following commissioners and staff are on the search committee: Ophelia Chambliss, Fred Powell, Nancy Moses, Karen Bream and Beth Hager. Karen Bream is a public representative.

Thoughts for consideration at a future commission meeting, that were inspired at the Site Administrators meeting: our role as custodians of history, what themes in Pennsylvania History are currently not covered by PHMC and what stories are we not telling.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

Historical Marker Panel Recommendations - William Lewis reported that the Historic Marker Committee recently met and reviewed historic marker applications. The Committee recommends approval of 18 applications, provisional approval of 5 applications and 31 applications were not recommended for approval.

Ophelia believes the committee puts a lot of thought into reviewing each of the nominations and follows the criteria.

Nominators of the provisional approval marker applications will be asked to resubmit nominations with improvements suggested in the panel comments. The deadline for resubmission is June 30th.

Nancy Moses, Chair called for a motion to approve the Historic Marker Recommendations. MOTION: (Lewis/Turner) Motion to accept the Historic Marker Recommendations as presented were approved. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attached)

Cultural & Museum Support Grants – The following PHMC Commissioners reported conflicts: Andrew Masich – Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and Senator Andrew Dinniman – Chester County Historical Society.

MOTION: (Lubrecht/Eckhart) Motion to approve the Cultural and Historic Support Grant recommendations for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 except the Chester County Historical Society and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion carries (See attachment).

MOTION: (LEWIS/TURNER) Motion to approve the Cultural and Historic Support Grant for the Chester County Historical Society. 9 in favor/0 opposed/1 recusal (Dinniman).

MOTION: (LEWIS/TURNER) Motion to approve the Cultural and Historic Support Grant for the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. 9 in favor/0 opposed/1 recusal (Masich).

Certified Local Government Grants – Andrea MacDonald reported that State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) receives annual funding from the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for their operation, and are required to pass through at least 10% of that funding to Pennsylvania Certified Local Governments as subgrants. For the Federal Fiscal Year 2017, the SHPO office is anticipating a total HPF grant of approximately \$1,181,000; the required 10% would be \$118,100. The total of the recommended CLG grant award is \$120,100.

Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Certified Local Government Grants as presented. MOTION: (Lubrecht/Masich) Motion to approve the Certified Local Government Grants as presented were approved. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attachment).

Outgoing Historic Preservation Board Members – Andrea Macdonald reported on two outgoing members of the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board: Richard Leonori and Richard Burkert. She thanked the outgoing members for the work they have accomplished over the past six years.

MOTION: (Lewis/Lubrecht) Motion to approve the PA Historic Preservation Board Resolutions as presented. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion carries (See attachment).

Volunteer of the Year Award - Brenda Reigle reported that this year's awards ceremony and luncheon is scheduled to be held Saturday, April 22, 2017 at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. The following nominees will receive a 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award:

Maureen McGuigan and Alysia Scazafabo-Adam – Anthracite Heritage Museum/Anthracite Heritage Museum and Scranton Iron Furnaces Associates
Ralph Denlinger – Brandywine Battlefield/Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates
Margaret Herron – Bushy Run Battlefield/Bushy Run Battlefield Heritage Society
Harold Taylor – Conrad Weiser Homestead/Friends of Conrad Weiser Homestead
Maxine Coopey – Cornwall Iron Furnace/Cornwall Iron Furnace Associates
Deb Drager – Daniel Boone Homestead/Friends of Daniel Boone
Jane Bradshaw – Drake Well Museum and Park/Friends of Drake Well
Gina Gibbons – Eckley Miners' Village/Eckley Miners' Village Associates
Cathie Oliphant – Ephrata Cloister/Ephrata Cloister Associates
William Koehle – Erie Maritime Museum and Flagship Niagara/Flagship Niagara League
Diane Horan – Graeme Park/Friends of Graeme Park
Hope Webster Kopf – Joseph Priestley House/Friends of Joseph Priestley House
Carol Vogt and Dee Perry – Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum/Landis Valley Associates
Sandy Smailer – Old Economy Village/Friends of Old Economy Village
Val Long and Steve Ringel – Pennsbury Manor/The Pennsbury Society
Carola Glennon – Pennsylvania Lumber Museum/Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates
Scott Davis – Pennsylvania Military Museum/Friends of the Pennsylvania Military Museum
James "Stu" Jack – Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania/Friends of the Railroad Museum
Terry Werner – Somerset Historical Center/Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County
Merikay Wood – The State Museum of Pennsylvania/Friends of The State Museum

Outstanding Service Award – John "Augie" Holtz – Friends of Drake Well/Drake Well Museum and Park

MOTION: (Turner/Masich) Motion to approve the Volunteer of the Year Award Resolutions as presented. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion carries (See attachment).

Retirement Resolution for James Lewars – Brenda Reigle reported on the following upcoming retirement of James Lewars where he began his career with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1977. Jim worked at Ephrata Cloister, Daniel Boone Homestead and Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum.

MOTION: (Lewis/Turner) Motion to approve the Retirement Resolution for James Lewars as presented. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion carries (See attachment).

Property Disposition Resolution – Brenda Reigle reported on the next group of properties that we would like to look for alternative management. Properties include Peace Church, Cumberland County; Old Chester

Courthouse, Delaware County; Curtin Village, Centre County; Mather Mill, Montgomery County; Flagship Niagara, Erie County; Fort Pitt, Pittsburgh; Eckley Miners' Village, Luzerne County and Brandywine Battlefield, Delaware County. Brenda's office worked over the past five years to move historic properties that do not necessarily have state-wide significance to local ownership or private management. The resolution would allow staff to think about what other options we may have for those properties that lessens the financial burden on PHMC.

William Lewis called for a motion to approve the Property Disposition Resolution. Nancy Moses commented that she cannot make a decision about the deaccession of sites without knowing what the criteria is and process by which those sites were selected and how they fit into Pennsylvania History. Nancy would like to table the Property Disposition Resolution for further discussion.

Jim Vaughan stated that the commission needed to think about the long term future of the historic sites because we do not have the financial and personnel resources necessary to manage the sites that we have at a level that we are proud of. We have a long term obligation to figure out what is the best preservation solution for all sites and cannot assume that the best preservation solution is that they be owned by PHMC. There may be cases where another state agency or township is better able to manage the site. There will be difficult decisions to make over the next 5 – 10 years about which resources we can focus on and which resources to let go. Criteria needs to be established and brought to the commission for approval. It was agreed that during the next commission meeting, the agenda would include a discussion of deaccession criteria including all historic sites and museums reflecting the major themes in Pennsylvania History that should be covered by Pennsylvania Institutions.

MOTION: (Zimmerman/Turner) Motion to table the Property Disposition Resolution until the June 14, 2017 Commission Meeting. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion carries.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jim reported on House Bill 640, a proposal to eliminate the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and turn our assets over to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. House Bill 640 was introduced by Representative Stephen Barrar with 9 co-sponsors. Jim spoke with Cindy Dunn,

Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural resources who is not in support of the bill and recognize that merging both agencies provides no efficiency savings. Howard Pollman added that the administration is also not in favor of House Bill 640.

Budget Report – Jim reported that the Senate Appropriations Hearing on March 6th went very well. It is very clear that they recognize PHMC's efforts and in support of PHMC.

The governor's proposed budget is \$19,631,000 in general operating funds for PHMC. This is approximately \$300,000 less than our current fiscal year funding. The House has introduced a budget bill that shows \$19,146,000 for PHMC, which is a much deeper cut.

In addition to the hiring freeze, PHMC also received a reduction in our complement. Our current complement for GGO positions is 160.

Beth Hager distributed handouts on two upcoming special programs at the State Museum of PA; a new display from the Pennsylvania State Archives featuring its historic collection of World War I-era posters will open April 2, 2017 and Nancy Moses, author and Chair of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will discuss her new book, *Stolen, Smuggled, Sold: On the Hunt for Cultural Treasures* on Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

David Carmichael thanked commissioners for providing names of individuals for the State Historic Records Advisory Board.

The following commissioners made site visits: Kenneth Turner attended one of the petroleum lecture series by Melissa Mann at Drake Well; William Lewis visited Eckley Miners Village and Nancy Moses visited Fort Pitt and had a great time at Pennsbury Manor on Charter Day.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Ophelia Chambliss was honored in an article in USA Today. She was nominated by the York Daily Record to be part of an "I am an American" program where Ophelia talks about bringing people together through art.

VII. STRATEGIC PLAN

Commissioners and staff reviewed and edited the draft strategic plan.

MOTION: (Chambliss/Zimmerman) Motion to accept the Strategic Plan with edits. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion carries.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At this time, Nancy Moses adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

20170322_1 MOTION: (Turner/Dinniman) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the December 7, 2016 meeting were approved. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried.

20170322_2 MOTION: (Lewis/Turner) Motion to accept the Historic Marker Recommendations as presented were approved. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attached)

20170322_3 MOTION: (Lubrecht/Eckhart) Motion to approve the Cultural and Historic Support Grant recommendations for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 except the Chester County Historical Society and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion carries (See attachment).

20170322_4 MOTION: (Lubrecht/Masich) Motion to approve the Certified Local Government Grants as presented were approved. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attachment).

20170322_5 MOTION: (Lewis/Lubrecht) Motion to approve the PA Historic Preservation Board Resolutions as presented. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion carries (See attachment).

20170322_6 MOTION: (Turner/Masich) Motion to approve the Volunteer of the Year Award Resolutions as presented. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion carries (See attachment).

20170322_7 MOTION: (Lewis/Turner) Motion to approve the Retirement Resolution for James Lewars as presented. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion carries (See attachment).

20170322_8 MOTION: (Zimmerman/Turner) Motion to table the Property Disposition Resolution until the June 14, 2017 Commission Meeting. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion carries.

20170322_9 MOTION: (Chambliss/Zimmerman) Motion to accept the Strategic Plan with edits. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion carries.