

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION**  
**JUNE 14, 2017**  
**MINUTES**

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on June 14, 2017 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room of the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Ophelia Chambliss, William Lewis, Alice Lubrecht, Andrew Masich, Representative Robert Matzie, Nancy Moses – Chair, Fredrick Powell, Kate Eckhart for Senator Joseph Scarnati, Robert Savakinus, 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 Janice Mullin. Heather Hu represented the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation. Rodney Akers served as Chief Counsel.

**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 MARCH 22, 2017 MINUTES**

Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2017 meeting. MOTION: (Powell/Turner) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the March 22, 2017 meeting were approved. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried.

At this time, Nancy Moses called an executive session.

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

**John E. Fryer Historical Marker Panel Recommendation** – Andrea MacDonald reported that the John E. Fryer Historic Marker Nominations is a provisional nomination where nominators were asked to resubmit nominations with improvements suggested by the panel.

MOTION: (Lewis/Schuyler) Motion to approve the John E. Fryer Historic Marker Nomination as presented was approved. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried.

### **Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Recommendations** – Andrea MacDonald

reported that the grant applications received are in both the construction and planning categories and were considered separately; the ratio of funding recommendations is based on their respective total requests from each category. More applicants requested support for construction activities, therefore more awards are recommended in that category.

Nancy Moses, Chair asked if any commissioners needed to recuse themselves from voting on the grant recommendations.

MOTION: (Turner/Schuyler) Motion to approve the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Recommendations as presented was approved. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried.

## **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Budget** – Jim Vaughan reported that there has been no change in the governor's recommendation since the last commission meeting in March.

**Legislative Report** – Howard Pollman reported on Senate Bill 178, 588 and House Bill 1287. Senate Bill 178 (changes to the History Code) was recommitted from appropriations to be voted on by the full senate and then the House of Representatives. Senate Bill 588 (Museum Preservation and Grant Program) is scheduled to be voted on this morning from the Senate State Government Committee. House Bill 1287 (Property Disposition bill for Warrior Run) was voted through the house and is received in the senate and referred to Senate State Government Committee.

Jim Vaughan reported members of the legislature were invited to a special showing of the original Great Law. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, David Carmichael and Jim Vaughan provided legislators with a personal opportunity to see and be photographed with the Great Law.

**State Historic Preservation Office** – Andrea MacDonald reported that this week, the Statewide Conference on Heritage is taking place in Carlisle from Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday, June 16. Last week, the State Historic Preservation Office was recognized by the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia for their partnership with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Association (PEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) on disaster planning for historic properties initiative.

**State Archives** – David Carmichael reported that at the request of Senator Dinniman, he brought 40 fourth grade students to view the original Great Law on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Schematic design of the new state archives building has begun. A new lead architect was assigned to our project and we are looking at the function of the building.

The staff at the State Archives began to add our post card collection to the Power Library one county at a time.

**State Museum** – Beth Hager reported on the following projects: Switchgear - a major electrical project where the electrical equipment in the basement is being upgraded and the escalator project is scheduled to begin in January 2018. The restoration of the dioramas in Mammal Hall continues and is expected to be completed the beginning of next year.

This past Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> the Art of the State exhibit opened with its annual awards reception at the museum. PHMC Commissioner Ophelia Chambliss met with the art docents to provide an artist's perspective in looking at the exhibit.

**Historic Sites and Museums** – Brenda Reigle reported the Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums has begun a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum initiative. It is a way to have our sites look at how we can start becoming more relevant to the community.

Nancy reported that a Collections Policy Task Force was created to review our collections and envision what the visitor experience will be a generation in the future and some of

the major themes and issues in Pennsylvania. We are charged with focusing on PHMC's collections and assessing how we might best frame a collections policy that will meet the commission's needs in the future. To do so we need to think about audience, access, and care of the collections.

Nancy hopes the commission can come up with a way of discussing our sites, both current and past in ways that demonstrates an ongoing commitment that the commission has.

**Property Disposition Resolution** – Brenda Reigle reported that PHMC is looking to transfer ownership of the following properties: Curtin Village, Centre County; Mather Mill, Montgomery County; Old Chester Courthouse, Delaware County and Peace Church, Cumberland County.

After the property is transferred, it is no longer owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. However, there are covenants included in the deed which require the site to continue to provide access to the public as a historic resource. There are also covenants in place that prohibit any ground disturbance or major changes to the structure without prior approval from PHMC. The primary contact for the site after the transfer becomes the State Historic Preservation Office rather than the Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums.

Andrew Masich called for approval of the following resolution:

**Whereas** PHMC has been evaluating historic sites and museums and working to move historic properties that do not necessarily have statewide significance to either local ownership, to long-term leases with no financial obligations to the Commonwealth, or to the management of other state agencies; and

**Whereas** the properties listed below have been deemed by review panels since the early 1980s to not have state-wide significance; and

**Whereas** limited Commission resources need to be focused on properties that have state-wide significance; and

**Whereas** the Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums (BHSM) would like to move the properties listed below out of Commission ownership. (All of these properties entail preservation obligations and operating obligations.) PHMC wishes to move these properties to local ownership or local redevelopment with preservation covenants.

**Now therefore, be it resolved** that the BHSM would like Commission approval to proceed with reviewing options and potentially placing the following properties with alternative management/ownership:

- Curtin Village, Centre County
- Mather Mill, Montgomery County
- Old Chester Courthouse, Delaware County
- Peace Church, Cumberland County

William Lewis would like to amend the fourth paragraph “with preservation covenants” to include “or negotiated easements.”

MOTION: (Turner/Powell) Motion to approve the Property Disposition Resolution as amended. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. The amended Property Disposition Resolution was approved.

**Strategic Plan** – Jim Vaughan reported that staff worked on the strategic plan for some time. Staff provided input on strategies since our last meeting but we haven’t had time to incorporate those strategies in the strategic plan. Jim recommends that the commission vote to accept the draft strategic plan as it is presently written with an understanding that there will be amendments and changes that are appropriate in the future.

MOTION: (Turner/Powell) Motion to approve the draft strategic plan as it is presently written with an understanding that there will be amendments and changes that are appropriate in the future. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion approved.

## **V. PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

Heather Hu reported that the foundation received a \$25,000 pledge from The Pollock Foundation in support of the Mammal Hall Restoration Project. The gift will provide naming rights for the Elk Diorama, which will be named in honor of the great-grandchildren in the Pollock family.

The foundation is working with the State Archives to develop a proposal to reinstate the Scholar in Residence Program, along with a paid internship.

Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation president, Glenn Holliman and his wife, generously became the first donors to formally name the foundation in their estate plan.

Giving Circle Dinner was held on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at the State Museum. The annual dinner is to thank those who support the foundation with an annual gift of \$1,000 or above.

Heather reviewed the membership materials to the commissioners.

The foundation continues to manages one NHPRC grant on behalf of the State Archives and one endowment on behalf of Fort Pitt. Through the annual distribution from the Fort Pitt Endowment, PHMC was able to purchase an early American whisky still for the Fort Pitt collections.

The next foundation meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 26, 2017.

## **VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Andrew Masich thanked Jim Vaughan for his leadership and guidance as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and wished him well in his retirement.

Jim Vaughan reported that his last official day of service as Executive Director is July 7, 2017. He accepted this assignment with the intention of staying no longer than 18 months. It has now been more than five years and time to retire. He thanked everyone for their support during that time and that he is confident that the progress will continue under new leadership.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

At this time, Nancy Moses adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

**2017614\_1** MOTION: (Powell/Turner) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the March 22, 2017 meeting were approved. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried.

**2017614\_2** MOTION: (Lewis/Schuyler) Motion to approve the John E. Fryer Historic Marker Nomination as presented was approved. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attachment).

**2017614\_3** MOTION: (Turner/Schuyler) Motion to approve the Keystone Historic Grant Recommendations as presented was approved. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attachment).

**2017614\_4** MOTION: (Turner/Powell) Motion to approve the Property Disposition Resolution as amended. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried.

**2017614\_5** MOTION: (Turner/Powell) Motion to approve the draft strategic plan as it is presently written with an understanding that there will be amendments and changes that are appropriate in the future. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried.