

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
March 16, 2018
MINUTES

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on March 16, 2018 in the Board Room of the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Nancy Moses – Chair, Fred Powell, Kate Flessner for Senator Joseph Scarnati, David Schuyler, Fred Powell, Ophelia Chambliss, Robert Savakinas and William Lewis. Senator Andrew Dinniman, Representative Robert Matzie, and Ken Turner participated via conference call.

The following staff were present: Andrea Lowery, Brenda Reigle, Andrea MacDonald, David Carmichael, Beth Hager, Scott Doyle and Mary Jane Miller. Heather Hu represented the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation. Rodney Akers and Gerard Leone served as legal counsel.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Nancy Moses, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. At this time, Nancy asked everyone in the room and on the phone to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 MINUTES

Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2017. MOTION: (Powell/Lewis) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the December 6, 2017 meeting were approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Nancy informed PHMC Commissioners that they would hear reports from the Accession and Inclusion Task Force and the Historic Sites Task Force. The task forces create a policy platform for staff so that they will be able to reach new levels of excellence in the technical work of the commission and come to work with a new level of permission to take new directions.

IV. PHMC AND PHF REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Statewide Historic Preservation Plan – Andrea MacDonald reported on the Statewide Historic Preservation Plan. Her office is charged with completing the planning process every five years to be eligible for our annual allocation of federal historic preservation funds. This process is now complete, and a series of goals and approaches have been developed.

MOTION: (Powell/Lewis) Motion approved for the Statewide Historic Preservation Plan was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attached).

David Schuyler complimented Andrea MacDonald and her staff for their work on the plan.

b. Certified Local Government Grants – Andrea MacDonald reported that her office receives annual funding from the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Fund for their operation, and are required to pass through at least 10% of that funding to Certified Local Governments as subgrants. This year, 10 applications were received, and the total recommend CLG grant awards is \$120,000.

MOTION: (Lewis/Schuyler) Motion approved for the Certified Local Government Grants were approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attached).

c. Cultural and Support Grants – Scott Doyle provided a funding overview for the Cultural and Historical Support Grant Program. Grants were awarded to 142 applicants in 55 of 67 counties. The largest grant award is \$50,000. The minimum grant award is \$4,000. Grants are general awarded on a formula based on a percentage of operating budget based on the following criteria: museums with an operating budget in excess of \$4.5 million receive a \$50,000 grant; official county historical societies with an operating budget below \$290,000 receive a grant of \$4,000; museums outside of Philadelphia with budgets between \$290,000 and \$4,500,000 receive a grant based on 1.41% of the operating budget with a grant no less than \$4,000; and museums within

Philadelphia with budgets between \$290,000 and \$4,500,000 receive a grant based on 1.15% of the operating budget with a grant no less than \$4,000.

MOTION: (Powell/Schuyler) Motion approved for the 2017 Cultural and Historical Support Grant Recommendations were approved as presented. 9 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. Senator Andrew Dinniman and Robert Savakinis recused their self from voting. (See Attached).

d. Historical Marker Nominations - William Lewis reported that the Historic Marker Committee recently met and reviewed historic marker applications. The Committee recommends approval of 17 applications, provisional approval of 8 applications and 26 applications were not recommended for approval.

Nominators of the provisional approval marker applications will be asked to resubmit nominations with improvements suggested in the panel comments.

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

e. Historic District Act Certification for State College - Andrea MacDonald reported that in accordance with the requirements of the Historic District Act, the Borough of State College has requested that the PHMC certify the historical significance of two historic districts for the purpose of enacting a local historic preservation ordinance and establishing a Board of Historical Architectural Review for College Heights Historic District and Holmes-Foster Historic District.

MOTION: (Lewis/Schuyler) Motion to accept the Historic District Act Certification for State College as presented were approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attached)

f. Curiosity Connection – Beth Hager reported that the State Museum would like to request approval to create and gradually institute an admission fee for Curiosity Connection, the children’s permanent exhibit. The admission fee would be in addition to museum general admission. State Museum members would continue to be admitted to the Curiosity Connection free of charge along with their free general admission.

MOTION: (Savakinus/Turner) Motion to table the admission fee for the Curiosity Connection. Commission will review this request at the June 2018 meeting. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

g. Stephen Somers Retirement – Brenda Riegle reported on the upcoming retirement of Stephen Somers who began his career with the commission in 1988, his last day is March 30, 2018.

MOTION: (Powell/Savakinus) Motion to approve the Retirement Resolution for Stephen Somers. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attached)

h. Volunteer of the Year Awards 2017 – William Lewis reported that this year’s awards ceremony and luncheon is scheduled to be held Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. The following nominees will receive a 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award:

- Kathleen E. Donohue – Anthracite Heritage Museum/Anthracite Heritage Museum and Iron Furnaces Associates
- George Tolton – Brandywine Battlefield/Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates
- Maxine Ruble – Bushy Run Battlefield/Bushy Run Battlefield Heritage Society
- Anne Killeen – Conrad Weiser Homestead/Friends of Conrad Weiser Homestead
- Jim Polczynski – Cornwall Iron Furnace/Cornwall Iron Furnace Associates
- Lori Schaeffer – Daniel Boone Homestead/Friends of Daniel Boone Homestead
- Betty Cospers – Drake Well Museum and Park/Friends of Drake Well
- Walter Gilbert – Eckley Miners’ Village/Eckley Miners’ Village Associates
- Wayne Gongaware – Ephrata Cloister/Ephrata Cloister Associates
- Steve Dusza – Erie Maritime Museum and Flagship Niagara/Flagship Niagara League
- Phyllis Visco – Graeme Park/Friends of Graeme Park
- Melanie Hay – Hope Lodge/Friends of Hope Lodge
- Dee Casteel – Joseph Priestley House/Friends of Joseph Priestley House
- Danielle Retallack – Landis Valley Village/Friends of Old Economy Village
- Nyla Houser – Pennsbury Manor/The Pennsbury Society

Kenton Greenman – Pennsylvania Lumber Museum/Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates

Jim Carras – Pennsylvania Military Museum/Friends of the Pennsylvania Military Museum

R. Neil Gruber – Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania/Friends of the Railroad Museum

Wayne Pyle – Somerset Historical Center/Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County

Steve Lantz – The State Museum of Pennsylvania/Friends of The State Museum

Outstanding Service Award: Robert Greenman – Pennsylvania Lumber Museum/Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates and Andrea Bair – The State Museum of Pennsylvania/Friends of The State Museum

MOTION: (Savakius/Lewis) Motion to approve the Volunteer of the Year Awards 2017 as presented. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attached)

V. STAFF REPORTS

State Historic Preservation Office – Scott Doyle updated commission the Federal Historic Tax Credit Program and the implications to Pennsylvania projects. The 20 percent historic tax credit survived the most significant modification of the tax code. This achievement is gratifying because the historic tax credit was frequently targeted for elimination.

The preservation community's advocacy was advanced by supporters who sponsored the Historic Tax Credit Improvement Act. This strong showing of support resulted in an amendment to restore the historic tax credit to 20 percent. The amendment was accepted at a critical moment in the Senate Finance Committee's markup of the tax bill to file the amendment, however, Senator Cassidy needed to identify a way to offset the cost of the incentive. The solution was to take the historic tax credit in phases over five years instead of in its entirety the year a rehabilitated building is completed. While this change to the historic tax credit is expected to result in a slight reduction in its value, adoption of the Cassidy amendment represents a remarkable achievement by the preservation community.

Historic Sites and Museums - Brenda Reigle reported that a portion of the core orientation exhibit has been installed in the museum lobby at the Railroad Museum.

Brenda reported to commission on Museums for All, a program sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, this program will enable low-income families to explore Pennsylvania's rich history and culture by visiting participating state-owned museums for a minimal fee of \$4 per person with the presentation of an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card and identification. PHMC's participation in the program begins on April 2nd.

State Archives – David Carmicheal reported that this past January, he and his staff participated in the PA Farm Show by providing free Ancestry.com searches to visitors. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission celebrated the commonwealth's 337th birthday on Charter Day, Sunday, March 11. In addition to the display of the Charter, the archives displayed four original deed tracing the sale of lands by American Indians to William Penn where over 1,716 people attended.

David updated commissioners on the status of the site for the new State Archives building with a slideshow of various areas of the buildings. The design and development phase is nearly complete. Construction should be completed in late 2021. A feasibility study will be completed on the current site of the State Archives to see if it should become a storage area for collections.

Executive Office – Andrea Lowery reported that the appropriations hearings on both the House and Senate side were held in January and February, PHMC did not receive an appropriations hearing. PHMC's budget is \$19,272,000 in General Government Operations, our current complement for GGO positions is 160. Andrea continues to meet with legislators. Representative Mike Turzai, Speaker of the House prepared an acknowledgement regarding charter day for the commission.

“Resolved that the volunteers and other residents who keep history alive through their support and work with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania

State Archives, the Historical Records Advisory Board and 23 other state historic sites and museums through numerous other historical organizations within this commonwealth beyond their efforts.”

Andrea reported on Washington Crossing Historic Park; it is now the property of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. PHMC recently removed its collections from the site. Brenda Reigle and her team evaluated the collections at the site and placed artifacts with other historical organizations or are stored at a storage facility located in the State Hospital Facility in Harrisburg. The only project PHMC is involved with at Washington Crossing Park is repairs to a house that caught fire about two years ago.

Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation – Heather Hu reported that the annual Giving Circle Dinner will be held on April 10, 2018. A full external audit was completed in December of 2017 and there were no areas of concern.

End of the year fundraising efforts brought in a little over \$10,000 bringing the total amount raised in the 2017 calendar year to \$20,092. Currently there are 2,479 Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation and State Museum of Pennsylvania members.

The Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation continues to manage the annual NHRPC grant on behalf of the State Archives and an endowment of behalf of Ft. Pitt Museum.

The Board of Directors did not meet on March 7th but voted by email and approved four new board members and Bill Lewis and Fred Powell to the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation Board. Mark Makowski and Michael Harris will serve as private citizens on the board.

Heather reviewed the process for approving PHF fundraising priorities. We have formalized the relationship between the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation and PHMC and how priorities are determined. Heather received excellent input from Bureau Directors and opportunities to identify projects that will have great potential for fundraising. These projects will have broad appeal, and potential for grants to large donors. Each Bureau Director will need to

complete and submit a PHF Fundraising Approval and Priority Request Form for project consideration for fundraising. Heather will meet with Andrea Lowery on an annual basis to review all the projects submitted to determine which projects makes sense for PHMC priorities.

Projects recently submitted are: SHPO – Partners in Preservation Incentive Fund; STATE MUSEUM – Rededication of Mammal Hall, centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women's Right to Vote exhibit and programming; ARCHIVES – fundraising opportunities for the new State Archives building, exhibit space and Scholars in Residence Program; HISTORIC SITES AND MUSEUMS – hiring a diversity coordinator to implement recommendations developed from the 21st Century Museums Initiative and the commissions Access and Inclusion Task Force.

Beth Hager reported that the Tracy Heather Strain event is planned for Tuesday, April 17th, 6pm at the State Museum Auditorium in Harrisburg. Tracy Strain is a producer of the documentary film *Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart*. Earlier in the day, Tracy Strain will speak with about 150 local high school students in the State Museum Auditorium. At noon, a lunch will be provided in Village Square for committee members and several community and government leaders.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Guidance memo for Commissioners Serving on the PHF Board – Gerard Leone reported the official and unofficial behavior of Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (“PHMC”) is regulated by the Public Official and Employees Ethics Act 65 Pa. C.S.A. 1100 *et seq.*, and the Governor’s Code of Conduct, Executive Order 1980-18, amended in 2015-01 to include the “Gift Ban;” and the Commission’s own Fundraising Policies and Guidance adopted on September 21, 2005.

Commissioners of PHMC, who are also members of the General Assembly, are subject to higher, more stringent, ethical and legal standard. They should be aware not only of these guidelines

but the rules of conduct for elected officials. *See* Senate Resolution 3, Adopted January 3, 2011 “Ethical Conduct Rules of the Senate;” House Resolution 1, Adopted January 4, 2011, “General Operating Rules of the House of Representatives.”

The following is an outline of activities forbidden by the law for the education of the Commissioners. Any questions regarding ethical and legal conduct should be directed to PHMC’s Office of Legal Counsel, which will be happy to provide advice.

- **Avoid conflicts of interest or official actions that could personally benefit you or your business.**
- **Avoid any gift or exchange that could be construed as influence peddling.**
- **According to the “the Gift Ban,” avoid even gifts of nominal value from organizations or business that do business with the Commonwealth.**
- **Avoid using Commonwealth facilities for personal gain; only use them for official, public purposes.**
- **Avoid using or publicizing information you receive in an official capacity before it is published by PHMC.**
- **Avoid any political campaigning or fundraising.**
- **Commissioners cannot receive honoraria from groups that may be associated with PHMC or its work.**
- **According to Commission guidelines, a Commissioner cannot raise funds for PHMC. (See Commission Fundraising Guidelines, Adopted September 21, 2005)**

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Nancy Moses adjourned the meeting at 2pm

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

20180316_1 MOTION: (Powell/Lewis) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the December 6, 2017 meeting were approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried.

20180316_2 MOTION: (Powell/Lewis) Motion approved for the Statewide Historic Preservation Plan was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attached).

20180316_3 MOTION: (Lewis/Schuyler) Motion approved for the Certified Local Government Grants were approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attached).

20180316_4 MOTION: (Powell/Schuyler) Motion approved for the 2017 Cultural and Historical Support Grant Recommendations were approved as presented. 9 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. Senator Andrew Dinniman and Robert Savakinis recused their self from voting. (See Attached).

20180316_5 MOTION: (Lewis/Schuyler) Motion to accept the Historic Marker Recommendations as presented were approved. 10 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Senator Andrew Dinniman recused himself from voting. Motion carried. (See Attached)

20180316_6 MOTION: (Lewis/Schuyler) Motion to accept the Historic District Act Certification for State College as presented were approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attached)

20180316_7 MOTION: (Savakinus/Turner) Motion to table the admission fee for the Curiosity Connection. Commission will review this request at the June 2018 meeting. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

20180316_8 MOTION: (Powell/Savakinus) Motion to approve the Retirement Resolution for Stephen Somers. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attached)

20180316_9 MOTION: (Savakinus/Lewis) Motion to approve the Volunteer of the Year Awards 2017 as presented. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried. (See Attached)