

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

March 6, 2019

MINUTES

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on March 6, 2019 in the 5th Floor Board Room of the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Nancy Moses – Chair, Ophelia Chambliss, Senator Andrew Dinniman, Robert Savakinus, William Lewis, Philip Zimmerman, Fred Powell, Kate Flessner for Senator Joseph Scarnati. Representative Robert Matzie, Representative Parke Wentling and Kenneth Turner participated via conference call.

The following staff were present: Andrea Lowery, Howard Pollman, Brenda Reigle, Beth Hager, David Carmichael, Andrea MacDonald, Elizabeth Rairigh, Dave Bohanick, Mary Jane Miller, Ruthanna Kulp and Karen Galle. Rodney Akers and Gerard Leone served as legal counsel. Glenn Holliman represented the PA Heritage Foundation.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 5, 2018 MINUTES

Nancy called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2018 meeting.

MOTION: (Turner/Lewis) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the December 5, 2018 meeting were approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Nancy thanked the following PHMC Commissioners and staff for their work: Philip Zimmerman completed a Collection Policy with the help of Mary Jane Miller, Ruthanna Kulp, Rodney Akers and Gerard Leone. Robert Savakinus, David Schuyler and William Lewis for their work on the sites committee. Philip Zimmerman and Andy Masich spent a considerable amount of time advising Nancy on the Philadelphia

History Museum. Andrea Lowery and Howard Pollman are working with the governor's staff regarding PHMC's budget.

Nancy congratulated Robert Savakinus for his completion of the documentary film, "The Confederation of Union Generals".

Nancy reported the commission will work on a new strategic plan, coordinate a marketing and branding task force and a major capital campaign with the PA Heritage Foundation.

IV. PHMC AND PHF REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Cultural and Support Grants – The purpose of the program is to provide general operating support to Pennsylvania museums and official county historical societies that are not supported by other state agency funding programs. PHMC received 153 applications. 151 applicants are eligible, and 2 applicants are not eligible. One applicant is below the \$100,000 operating budget level and the other is an art museum that received support funding from another commonwealth agency.

The 151 eligible applicants are an increase of 9 from 142 eligible applicants in Fiscal Year 2017 – 2018. The number of counties also increased from 55 to 57 of the overall 67 counties.

MOTION: (Powell/Lewis) Motion to approve the Cultural and Support Grant Program Report – Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 as presented. 8 in favor/0 opposed/ 3 abstentions. Senator Andy Dinniman, Robert Savakinus and Ophelia Chambliss abstained from voting.

Historic Marker Nominations – PHMC received 55 marker nominations this year and the panel is recommending approval for 18 new historic markers. The panel is not recommending approval of 37 nominations. Applications are reviewed internally by staff who have subject matter expertise before they are sent out to the external committee members for review.

MOTION: (Lewis/Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Historic Marker Recommendations was approved. 11 approve/ 0 opposed/ 0 abstain

Historic Preservation Board Members – The following historic preservation board members have terms ending: Jeff Slack, Suzanna Barucco, Steven B. Burg, Lloyd Chapman and Brian L. Fritz. The resolutions are to thank and acknowledge their service to the commission.

MOTION: (Dinniman/Savakinus) Motion to approve the Historic Preservation Board Member resolutions. 11 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

Historic District Act Policy – PHMC currently has about 150 municipalities who are administering ordinances under the Pennsylvania Historic District Act which was created in 1961. A municipality cannot implement their local historic district until PHMC certifies the historical significance. The State Historic Preservation Office occasionally updates the internal policy that guides the definition of significance to stay current with preservation best practices. The last time the policy was updated was in 2008 and the Commission would like to update the Historic District Act Policy to be in sync with the new Certified Local Government guidelines. This policy empowers communities to be able to protect what they care about locally.

MOTION: (Chambliss/Powell) Motion to approve the Historic District Act Certification Policy as presented. 11 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

Volunteer of the Year Awards - Brenda Reigle announced that Sunday, March 10th is Charter Day when all the PHMC Historic Sites and Museums including the State Museum of PA are open to the public for free.

The Volunteer of the Year Awards and luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. The following nominees will receive a 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award:

Juliana Puccini – Anthracite Heritage Museum/Anthracite Heritage Museum and Iron Furnaces Associates
Nicholas Rodia – Brandywine Battlefield/Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates
Emily Liska, John Harris, and Nick Sopko – Bushy Run Battlefield/Bushy Run Battlefield Heritage Society
David Hoffman – Conrad Weiser Homestead/Friends of Conrad Weiser Homestead
Karin Mitchell – Cornwall Iron Furnace/Cornwall Iron Furnace Associates
William Jewell – Daniel Boone Homestead/Friends of Daniel Boone Homestead
Mary Jane Hiller – Daniel Boone Homestead/Friends of Daniel Boone Homestead
The Neyhart Family – Eckley Miners' Village/Eckley Miners' Village Associates
Julia Murphy – Ephrata Cloister/Ephrata Cloister Associates

Mary Kay Sanner – Erie Maritime Museum and Flagship Niagara/Flagship Niagara League
Steven Griffith – Graeme Park/Friends of Graeme Park
Coleen Bant – Hope Lodge/Friends of Hope Lodge
Sam Geise – Joseph Priestley House/Friends of Joseph Priestley House
Sharon O’Neal-Lehner and Dawn Snyder – Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum/Landis Valley Associates
Cynthia Pagesh – Old Economy Village/Friends of Old Economy Village
Beth Lepianka – Pennsbury Manor/The Pennsbury Society
Jack Deurer – Pennsylvania Lumber Museum/Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates
Victor Campbell – Pennsylvania Military Museum/Friends of the Pennsylvania Military Museum
William Cole – Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania/Friends of the Railroad Museum
Judy Swank – Somerset Historical Center/Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County
Andy Stauffer – The State Museum of Pennsylvania/Friends of The State Museum

Outstanding Service Awards

Robert Zimmerman – Eckley Miners’ Village Associates/Eckley Miners’ Village
Linda Bolla – Flagship Niagara League/Erie Maritime Museum and U.S. Brig Niagara
Robert Siever – Landis Valley Associates/Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum
Susan Plaisted – The Pennsbury Society/Pennsbury Manor

MOTION: (Powell/Dinniman) Motion to approve the 2018 Volunteer of the Year Awards as presented. 11 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

Executive Director Report – Andrea Lowery reported that on March 29th, construction documents for the new state archives building should arrive for review. The 146,000 square foot building will be located at the corner of 6th and Hamilton Streets; this project will cost approximately \$69 million dollars.

The Game Changers: Pennsylvania Women Who Made History exhibit will open on Tuesday, March 19th. All Commissioners are invited to a reception that day at 5pm at the Governor’s Residence in Harrisburg.

PHMC received \$21.5 million from the Governor’s Budget which gives the commission a \$1.2 million-dollar increase. The increase over the current GGO appropriation reflects the following initiatives: (a) \$210,000 to support networking infrastructure, electronics, and routers as part of the new Archives Facility (b) \$475,000 in non-personnel for information technology upgrades to PHMC’s point-of-sale system used at historic sites and museums across the state.

PHMC was scheduled for a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on February 20, 2019 but was cancelled due to weather. Because the hearing was cancelled, Andrea Lowery and Howard Pollman are scheduling individual meetings with Senate Appropriations Committee members legislators to talk about PHMC’s budget.

On March 11 – 12, we are hosting private “tours” of the historic Penn Charter for legislators at the State Museum.

PHMC worked with the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) on reviewing our Tax Credit Program this year. Next year, PHMC will be evaluated by the IFO for performance metrics and performance-based measuring.

Legislative Report – Howard Pollman reported on legislation he is tracking. HB 284 – Amendments to the Pennsylvania History Code. Look for updates as we move through the legislative and budget process.

Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation – Glenn Holliman, President of the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation (PHF) reported that the foundation is positioning itself for a major Capital Campaign. The PHF is in the process of upgrading two office positions. PHF will launch an exploratory committee at the Violet Oakle exhibit this fall to invite persons who can buy into the vision and hopefully in 2020 we will officially launch a capital campaign.

V. TASK FORCE REPORTS

Collections Task Force – Philip Zimmerman reported that in addition to himself, the following individuals served on the committee: Andy Masich, Alice Lubrecht, Beth Hager, Brenda Reigle, David Carmichael, Mary Jane Miller, Ruthanna Kulp, Janet Johnson, Susan Hanna, Rodney Akers, Gerard Leone, Nancy Moses and Andrea Lowery. Over the past few months, the committee met as a group to review the existing collections management policy and propose improvements. We wanted to create a comprehensive and concise policy; distinguish policy from procedure and to ensure that the policy is current regarding broad based museum, library and archival practices. The policy should serve as an invitation to the public to engage with PHMC collections.

MOTION: (Zimmerman/Powell) Motion for the commission to endorse the Collections Management Policy Standards as presented. 11 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Nancy announced that the June Commission meeting will take place at the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum in Lancaster, PA.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At this time, the regular meeting adjourned at 12pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

201936_1 MOTION: (Turner/Lewis) Motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2018 meeting were approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carried.

201936_2 MOTION: (Powell/Lewis) Motion to approve the Cultural and Support Grant Program Report – Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 as presented. 8 in favor/0 opposed/ 3 abstentions. Senator Andy Dinniman, Robert Savakinus and Ophelia Chambliss abstained from voting.

201936_3 MOTION: (Lewis/Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Historic Marker Recommendations was approved. 11 approve/ 0 opposed/ 0 abstain

201936_4 MOTION: (Dinniman/Savakinus) Motion to approve the Historic Preservation Board Member resolutions. 11 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

201936_5 MOTION: (Chambliss/Powell) Motion to approve the Historic District Act Certification Policy as presented. 11 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

201936_6 MOTION: (Powell/Dinniman) Motion to approve the 2018 Volunteer of the Year Awards as presented. 11 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

201936_7 MOTION: (Zimmerman/Powell) Motion for the commission to endorse the Collections Management Policy Standards as presented. 11 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.