

# PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

June 5, 2019

## MINUTES

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on June 5, 2019 at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Nancy Moses – Chair, Ophelia Chambliss, William Lewis, Glenn Miller (Department of Education), Andrew Masich, Fred Powell, Bob Savakinas, David Schuyler, Ken Turner, and Philip Zimmerman. Senator Andy Dinniman, Representative Bob Matzie, Kate Flessner (Senator Scarnati’s office), and Representative Parke Wentling participated via conference call.

The following staff were present: Andrea Lowery, Howard Pollman, Brenda Reigle, Beth Hager, David Carmichael, Andera MacDonald, Scott Doyle, Karen Galle, and Patrick Morrison. Rodney Akers and Gerard Leone served as legal counsel. Fred Powell spoke on behalf of the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation.

### 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 to introduce themselves.

### II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 6, 2019 MINUTES

Nancy called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2019 meeting.

MOTION: (Powell/Turner) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the March 6, 2019 meeting was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention (Andy Masich not present.)

### III. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

Nancy remarked on the history of the Railroad Museum and commended the 184 volunteers who provided 17,255 hours of volunteer time in the last year. She also applauded the Museum’s commitment to diversity, noting their recent initiatives to include American Sign Language interpreters for events and its role as a pilot site for AIRA, which is an app to assist the visually impaired during their visits. She also praised the Museum for their new exhibits.

Fred Powell commented on the sustainable technology employed within the museum, noting the geothermal system that provides heating and cooling 24/7.

### IV. PHMC REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

#### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

**Bureau Director Report** - Andrea MacDonald reported on the Northeast Regional gathering of SHPOs and tribal offices (THPOs) at the PHMC on June 3 and 5. States represented extended from Maine to Virginia, and 12 tribes were represented. 85 people attended the conference.

Andrea also reported on the History Code updates. SHPO is working closely with legal to move forward to encourage fellow agencies to promulgate regulations.

**Keystone Grants** – This program funds preservation, rehabilitation and restoration activities of sites that are eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Eligible applicants include non-profit or municipal governments who operate publicly accessible historic properties.

Ninety-six applications were received, and 57 grants were funded. The total award amount is \$2,539,000, and all applicants from Act 47 communities (distressed communities) received grants.

MOTION: (Savakinus/Chambliss) Motion to approve the award of the Keystone grants as proposed was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention (Andy Masich not present.) (See attached)

## **BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES AND MUSEUMS**

**Bureau Director Report** - Brenda Reigle reported on Eckley Miners' Village's master planning effort, which will help determine a plan for the historic site with an eye to a sustainable future. To date, two meetings have been held with a variety of stakeholders. Commissioner Bob Savakinus reported on the planning meeting he attended where elected officials, business leaders, and a variety of community members were in attendance to discuss how to preserve the village and consider possible future uses. Brenda will continue to provide updates on this effort.

Brenda also reported on the DEI&A initiative within the bureau, which is underway at sites.

Commissioner Ken Turner asked about another village the Commission holds – Pithole City – in relation to Eckley. Brenda outlined some of the differences between the two villages – Pithole is essentially an “above ground archaeological site” with no historic structures remaining.

## **BUREAU OF THE STATE MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**Bureau Director Report** – Beth Hager reported that the State Museum was honored with the institutional arts award from Theatre Harrisburg this year. The ceremony was held the evening of Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. She read a letter of recognition in honor of the Museum from Mark Lingenfelter, who was the artistic director for the State Museum portion of the awards ceremony. Nancy and the Commission recognized Beth and the Museum for this achievement.

Beth also noted that Art of the State will be opening at the Museum on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **BUREAU OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARCHIVES**

**Bureau Director Report** - David Carmichael reported on the progress of the new archives building. Final construction documents have been received. The team anticipates the documents being released for bid in the next week, groundbreaking in September, and occupancy in early 2022.

David noted that at the upcoming December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, members of the State Historical Records Advisory Board will need to be appointed. He encouraged commissioners to submit nominations if they know of qualified interested candidates. David will email the criteria and relevant information to all commissioners.

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**Executive Director Report** – Andrea Lowery reported that she and Howard Pollman have met with House Appropriations Committee members, Senate Appropriations Committee members and key leadership. The current proposed GGO budget for the agency is \$21.555M, with a complement of 184 and an additional \$2M line item for support for cultural institutions. An on-time budget is anticipated.

Andrea reported that the agency is beginning to prepare for the anticipated performance-based budget review by the Independent Fiscal Office, which will begin this summer, with revised performance metrics being put in place and an assessment of the progress of the inventory project underway. In addition, agency core values will be presented to staff in the next few weeks.

Andrea also welcomed the State Library to PHMC, as they have begun sharing space with PHMC while their building is being renovated.

**Legislative Report** – Howard Pollman reported on Senate Bill 372, which affects the History Code, mainly in terms of replevin. It is with the House State Government Committee. Andrea and Howard will meet with Chair Garth Everett on Monday, June 10 to ask his committee to consider the bill and vote it out of committee.

House Bill 223 to transfer French Azilum to the associate group continues to move forward. There was a technical amendment in the Senate, so the bill must return to the House.

Howard also reported on a co-sponsor memo submitted by Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill that focuses on abandoned properties; this legislation does not affect PHMC, and PA Museums is monitoring this bill on behalf of its members.

**Legal Updates** – Gerard Leone presented the Ethics and Fundraising policy updates, both of which date to 2005.

**The ethics policy** is targeted toward employees and contracted groups and focuses on best practices and compliance with AAM standards. Andy Masich brought up a question of how deaccessioning proceeds would be managed; the collections policy is referenced, and direct care is defined within its glossary.

MOTION: (Powell/Turner) Motion to adopt the Ethics Policy as presented was approved. 14 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention (See attached).

**The fundraising policy** has been modified to clarify when executive director approval is needed and to reflect best practices for fundraisers.

MOTION: (Turner/Schuyler) Motion to adopt the Fundraising Policy as presented was approved. 14 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention (See attached).

**Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation** – Fred Powell reported on behalf of Glenn Holliman. Fred reported that Senator Franklin Kury's resignation is anticipated at the June 12<sup>th</sup> PHF meeting; recognition will be coordinated with HPF.

PHF is preparing for a capital campaign, which is anticipated to raise \$2M-\$25M for the benefit of the sites and State Museum. PHF is hiring a readiness coordinator for that work. They have also hired Mercedes Avery to assist with membership and the campaign effort. In addition, they are bringing on a part time office assistant. Mary Hull will continue to act as the office director.

Fred also discussed that PHF is discussing partnering with the state Semiquincentennial Commission as their 501(c)3 partner. Andy Masich recommended ensuring that costs and overhead including grant reporting are properly accounted for in any agreement.

Andy noted that the role that PHMC will play as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> Commission needs to be determined. Nancy noted that the first meeting will be held at the State Museum and that other meetings will be held at PHMC sites across the state.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was raised.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**Task Forces:** Nancy Moses thanked commissioners for their participation on previous task forces and announced the formation of three new ones. These will work at a policy level, and commissioners who elect to participate will be expected to attend meetings in person. Nancy requested that commissioners interested in serving on any of these task forces let her know.

**Strategic Planning Task Force** – Andrea Lowery shared the existing strategic plan and outlined some of the global questions that the task force will need to determine in shaping a new strategic plan, including structure and timeframe. She expects the task force to serve for 3-6 months and to be assisted by a facilitator selected from the state contract. While a core group commissioners and senior staff will make up the task force, all commissioners will be engaged as important stakeholders during the creation of the plan.

**Historic Markers Task Force** – Bill Lewis will chair this task force. It will be engaged in discussion regarding a number of issues including the following: What length of time should pass before marking a person/place/event? How should for-profit enterprises be addressed in the marker program? How should applications in areas with markers already in place be treated? What should be done with the existing bronze plaques that may include outdated language?

Ophelia Chambliss suggested that the committee discuss how to manage nominations from marginalized communities that may face challenges due to the type of documentation required. Nancy suggested that commissioners write memos regarding concerns they think the task force should consider.

Scott Doyle will extract information regarding the existing bronze plaques (name, location, date of dedication, text) and supply that information to commissioners. Karen Galle stated she thought there were approximately 150 of these plaques.

Nancy thanked the marker staff for their efforts, and David Schuyler commended them for their assistance to nominators throughout the process.

**Marketing Task Force** – Nancy Moses will chair this task force, which will focus on improving the branding and marketing of the agency, looking across the organization. Preliminary issues she mentioned included logo design, signage, and packaging (Trails of History.) She said the team will look to Howard Pollman to participate as he understands many of the challenges and opportunities the agency faces.

Bob Savakinus noted the issues related to signage costs associated with PennDOT signs.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The regular commission meeting adjourned at 11:28 am.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

**201965\_1** MOTION: (Powell/Turner) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the March 6, 2019 meeting was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention (Andy Masich not present.)

**201965\_2** MOTION: (Savakinus/Chambliss) Motion to approve the award of the Keystone grants as proposed was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention (Andy Masich not present.)

**201965\_3** MOTION: (Powell/Turner) Motion to adopt the Ethics Policy as presented was approved. 14 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention

**201965\_4** MOTION: (Turner/Schuyler) Motion to adopt the Fundraising Policy as presented was approved. 14 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention