

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
September 4, 2019
MINUTES

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on September 4, 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, Andrew Masich, Fred Powell, Philip Zimmerman, William Lewis, Robert Savakinus, Kate Flessner for Senator Joseph Scarnati, Glenn Miller (Department of Education) and Senator Andrew Dinniman. Representative Robert Matzie, Kenneth Turner, and Representative Park Wentling participated via conference call.

The following staff were present: Andrea Lowery, Andrea MacDonald, David Bohanick, Howard Pollman, Brenda Reigle, Beth Hager and Merrick Berg. Rodney Akers and Gerard Leone served as legal counsel. Glenn Holliman represented the Pennsylvania 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 and on the phone to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 5, 2019 MINUTES

Nancy called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2019 meeting.

MOTION: (Powell/Lewis) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the June 5, 2019 meeting was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.

III. CHAIRWOMEN'S REMARKS

PHMC Chair, Nancy Moses announced that Fred Powell and Ophelia Chambliss have agreed to serve as Executive Committee Members of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Both Fred and Ophelia served on numerous committees, performing important supporting functions, and provided advice to fellow commissioners and staff. Because of Fred's senior status, Nancy appointed him to service as Vice Chair to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

PHMC Chair, Nancy Moses reported on the 400th Anniversary of the introduction of slavery in the United States. Senator Hughes joined the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in leading the #400yearsPA project. This project highlights more than 30 of the 200 existing markers in the commonwealth where the blue and gold roadside markers introduce travelers to the people, places, events and innovations of African Americans around the commonwealth.

PHMC Chair, Nancy Moses provided an update to commissioners on the Philadelphia History Museum. Over a year ago, The Philadelphia History Museum closed. Staff from the museum were invited to speak at the March 6, 2019 commission meeting. In June, Drexel University proposed to assume ownership of the collections. An expert was hired to process each object in the collection and make recommendations to the collections committee who would make a final determination to keep the objects or be deaccessioned. A community meeting will be held to review the proposal, and the proposal will then be sent to Orphans Court. Once the transfer of the collections is approved, some objects will be available on loan to other significant institutions.

IV. PHMC AND PHF REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE - Andrea MacDonald reported on the PAShare Program, a new tool in the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Development of the system is being funded through mitigation resulting from the federally permitted Shell petrochemical project in Beaver County. PAShare will transform the SHPO office and will integrate all processes into one state-of-the-art system; provide greater public accessibility; facilitate the electronic submission for most PA SHPO program and emailed responses resulting in decreased response times. PA SHPO researched what other states are currently charging for access to their online systems. Some states are charging an annual or recurring fee to users. We will use some of that information to help form our model in the future.

HISTORIC SITES AND MUSEUMS - Brenda Reigle gave a brief update on the transition of properties. In January 2012, we started with 18 placed properties, we now have the following six properties remaining:

French Azilum – The deed to transfer the property to the French Azilum, Inc. has been signed by the Management Group and is currently being routed for signature in Harrisburg. This is the final step in moving this property to local ownership.

Peace Church (Cumberland County) – The site is managed by a non-profit group that has been in existence for many years. We are working with the group to help strengthen the board before they take ownership of Peace Church.

Curtin Village – The board requested PHMC help them with a business plan before they take over the property. We are currently working with Penn State and with the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations to find a consultant who will, for a small fee, work with this board to help prepare a business plan before they take over the property.

Mather Mill – Designs from a successful charrette held for Mather Mill by the State Historic Preservation Office will be attached to a proposal this year to move the Mill from Commonwealth to other ownership. The challenge is to develop a solution to make the Mill more marketable and effective for the flood-prone structure.

The Highlands – Discussions regarding transition of the property have temporarily stalled while we wait for further confirmation from Whitmarsh Township regarding whether they are willing to execute a conservation easement on the property.

Old Chester Courthouse – a collation of stakeholders was formed in Chester and Delaware County to discuss a potential 99-year lease of the Courthouse from the Commonwealth. PHMC will work with the Bar Association, the City, and the County to assist in putting together 501(c)3 sub-lessee organization, which would oversee the management of the property.

STATE MUSEUM – Beth Hager reported on the partnerships that help make the programs at the State Museum of Pennsylvania successful. Over the summer, the State Museum of Pennsylvania hosted a reciprocal free general admission for Susquehanna Art Museum members. Another collaboration with the Susquehanna Art Museum is The Great Summer Switch where Tina Sell gave a tour of Art of the State and PHMC Commissioner Ophelia Chambliss went to their gallery to interpret *Picasso: A Life in Print*.

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing the week of July 15th, the Education and Outreach section showcased their own Moon Madness program with special displays and games for people attending the 3rd in the Burg party.

STATE ARCHIVES – Andrea Lowery reported that the State Archives has been hard at work to develop plans to preserve the archival electronic records of commonwealth agencies. Recently, the Office of Administration/Office of Information Technology agreed to partner with the Archives on a multi-year project to develop and implement a formal digital archives for the commonwealth. We secured an agreement with the Governor’s Budget office to fund the program through regular, modest chargebacks to state agencies. PHMC will initially underwrite two positions to help with this project.

The new State Archives Building project continues to move along. Construction bids were received, and we are in the process of completing technical review and will be awarded best value through the Department of General Services. Selection of contractors to begin soon.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Legislative Report – Andrea Lowery reported that the budget was passed and is good news for PHMC, an increase of \$1.2 million from the current year from \$20,353,000 to \$21,555,000. Personnel costs (\$17.6 million) account for most of the money and the rest is operational expenses (fixed assets, supplies). The approved budget also includes \$2,000,000 for Cultural and Historical

Support Grants. PHMC complement is up from 184 to 210 largely due to the Governor's Budget Office incorporating existing wage position in the complement. PHMC Chair, Nancy Moses suggested a meeting for commissioners to better understand the budget be scheduled the morning of December 4th before the regular PHMC Commission meeting.

Andrea Lowery reviewed the Summary of Keystone Fund Allocations for PHMC which are based on the Real Estate Tax. Keystone Fund allocations are \$12,717,000, she noted the amount for Keystone Grants is now \$2,650,000.

As part of PHMC's budget advocacy campaign, Andrea and Howard Pollman, Director of External Affairs continue to meet with legislators or their staffers.

Andrea reported that she will meet with staff to discuss how to keep them on the Diversity Exclusion Inclusion and Access policy moving forward. This year, PHMC is offering 15 paid Keystone Summer Internships. The Keystone Summer Internship Program is designed to provide preprofessional training to students interested in pursuing a career in history or museums.

PENNSBURY – DELAWARE AGREEMENT (ACTION)

MOTION: (Masich/Dinniman) Motion to approve the Pennsbury – Delaware Agreement as presented was approved (see attached). 13 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.

PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE FOUNDATION – Glenn Holliman reported that the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation is working with David Carmicheal and the chair of the Pennsylvania Historical Association to coordinate fundraising efforts to fund interns. Preparations for America's 250th Birthday in 2026 are underway gathering resources and putting together a vision statement.

The Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation will host a VIP reception for the Violet Oakley exhibit at the State Museum of PA on Tuesday, November 19th at 5:30pm.

PHMC Chair, Nancy Moses reported on the idea and initiative to reimagine the State Museum of Pennsylvania in the 21st Century. Experts have been hired to look at the stories we are going to be telling and to think about how they can be reconfigured in the space we have. Once we know the total amount needed, the PA Heritage Foundation will be able to help to make the renovation happen.

V. NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION BYLAWS – A copy of the PHMC Bylaws was distributed for the commission to review and approve.

MOTION: (Zimmerman/Lewis) Motion to approve the PHMC Bylaws as presented was approved (see attached). 13 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.

VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

SITE VISITS - PHMC Chair, Nancy Moses reported to the commission on her recent visit to the Landis Valley Museum and Joseph Priestly House. Andy Masich reported on his recent visit to the PA Military Museum.

TASK FORCES – PHMC Chair, Nancy Moses reported the following members on the Marketing Task Force: Nancy Moses, Ophelia Chambliss, Kate Flessner, Andrea Lowery and Howard Pollman. The objective of the task force is to produce an agency-wide marketing strategy that will set the framework for expanding audiences, public recognition, and enriching visitor enjoyment and learning. The task force will discuss the existing condition analysis, marketing audit and marketing strategy.

STRATEGIC PLANNING - Andrea Lowery reported on the Strategic Planning Task Force. The current strategic plan runs through 2020. Andrea is working on putting together a task force and asked if any commissioners are interested to serve on the committee to let her know. The Commission will also engage a facilitator to assist with the strategic plan. Andrea has spoken with the Department of General Services, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA

Game Commission and the PA Fish and Boat Commission to see how they managed their strategic plans in the past.

HISTORIC MARKERS - William Lewis reported on historic marker meeting with Senator Andrew Dinniman and Kenneth Turner. The group reviewed the criteria for approval of markers including what do we do with markers that have been nominated for for-profit organizations. A five-year timeline was discussed except for former governors or presidents who could be nominated after their death. He hopes to have policy recommendations for review and approval at the next Commission Meeting in December which would take effect in 2020 cycle.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

PHMC Chair, Nancy Moses adjourned the meeting at 12:25 pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

201994_1 MOTION: (Powell/Lewis) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the June 5, 2019 meeting was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.

201994_2 MOTION: (Masich/Dinniman) Motion to approve the Pennsbury – Delaware Agreement as presented was approved (see attached). 13 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.

201994-3 MOTION: (Zimmerman/Lewis) Motion to approve the PHMC Bylaws as presented was approved (see attached). 13 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.