

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
MARCH 4, 2020
MINUTES

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on March 4, 2020 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, Philip Zimmerman, William Lewis, Robert Savakinus, David Schuyler, Glenn Miller (Department of Education) and Representative Robert Matzie. Fred Powell, Kate Flessner for Senator Joseph Scarnati, Senator Andrew Dinniman and Representative Parke Wentling participated via conference call.

The following staff were present: Andrea Lowery, Howard Pollman, David Bohanick, David Carmicheal, Andrea MacDonald, Brenda Reigle, Beth Hager and Karen Galle. Rodney Akers and Gerard Leone served as legal counsel. Glenn Holliman represented the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation.

Tony Smith, Hugh Moulton, Suzanne Bush and Former State Representative Kate Harper represented The Highlands Historical Society. Charlene Bashore, Esq., Republican Legal Staff. Liz Weber, consultant for PHMC Strategic Planning.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Chairwoman Nancy Moses announced that Cassandra Coleman, Executive Director of America250PA will report on her project – Semiquincentennial for the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States.

II. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 4, 2019 MINUTES

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2019 meeting. MOTION: (Zimmerman/Turner) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from December 4, 2019 meeting was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

III. CHAIRWOMAN'S REMARKS

Chairwoman Nancy Moses thanked commissioners and staff who work together on different issues the commission confronts.

IV. PHMC AND PHF REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Cultural and Support Grants – PHMC received 153 applications. All 153 applicants are eligible. This is an increase of two applicants from Fiscal Year 2018-2019. There were five new applicants this year. 56 County Official Historical Societies applied for support grants and 12 qualify in the Museum category. The number of counties to receive funding increased from 57-58 of the overall 67 counties.

MOTION: (Chambliss/Schuyler) Motion to approve the Cultural and Historical Support Grant Program as presented was approved. (See attached) 13 in favor/0 opposed/5 abstention. The following commissioners abstained from voting: Senator Andy Dinniman - Chester County Historical Society, William Lewis - Luzerne County Historical Society, Andrew Masich - Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Ophelia Chambliss - York County History Center and Robert Savakinus - Lackawanna Historical Society.

Historic Marker Approval Criteria – Revisions to the Historical Marker Approval Criteria include Criterion #2 “The person, place, event, organization, or innovation to be marked had a

significant impact on its times, and has statewide and/or national, rather than local or regional, historical significance. The significance of the subject, particularly for continuing events and organizations, must be historically established rather than of contemporary interest. Continuing scholarship may help validate the subject's impact on its times or its significance from a more recent historical perspective.”

Criterion #4 from this day forward shall read, “Persons must have been deceased for five years, unless the subject was a Pennsylvania governor or U.S. president. The significance of an individual's accomplishments must have had a measurable impact on history and sufficient time has elapsed to evaluate that impact based on documentation.”

MOTION: (Miller/Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Revisions to Historical Marker Criteria as presented was approved. (See attached) 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

Approval of Historic Marker Recommendations – William Lewis reported that PHMC received 48 marker nominations this year. The panel is recommending approval for 24 new historic markers and not recommending approval of 24 nominations. Applications are reviewed internally by staff who have subject matter expertise; applications and staff comments are sent out to the external committee members for review. The external committee convenes as a panel to develop recommendations, which are brought before the Commission.

MOTION: (Lewis/Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Historic Marker Recommendations was approved. (See attached) 13 approve/ 0 opposed/ 0 abstain

HISTORIC SITES AND MUSEUMS

Volunteer of the Year Award - Brenda Reigle announced The Volunteer of the Year Awards and luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2020 at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. The following nominees will receive a 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award:

James Shemanski – Anthracite Heritage Museum/Anthracite Heritage Museum and Iron Furnaces Associates

Stephanie Demon – Brandywine Battlefield/Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates
Jean Saunders – Bushy Run Battlefield/Bushy Run Battlefield Heritage Society
Garry Zerbe – Conrad Weiser Homestead/Friends of Conrad Weiser Homestead
Bruce Chadbourne – Cornwall Iron Furnace/Cornwall Iron Furnace Associates
Bruce Peterson – Drake Well Museum and Park/Friends of Drake Well
Georgia Nause – Eckley Miners’ Village/Eckley Miners’ Village Associates
David Heffley – Ephrata Cloister/Ephrata Cloister Associates
Larry Kisielewski and Brian Bailey – Erie Maritime Museum and Flagship Niagara/Flagship Niagara League
Bob Bradley – Hope Lodge/Friends of Hope Lodge
George Godlewski – Joseph Priestley House/Friends of Joseph Priestley House
Sam Wise and Connell O’Brien – Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum/Landis Valley Associates
Coralee Syrko – Old Economy Village/Friends of Old Economy Village
Peggy Lehman – Pennsbury Manor/The Pennsbury Society
Dan Davis – Pennsylvania Lumber Museum/Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates
Michael Poorman – Pennsylvania Military Museum/Friends of the Pennsylvania Military Museum
George Swartz – Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania/Friends of the Railroad Museum
Chris Zanoni – Somerset Historical Center/Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County
Patricia Sabold – The State Museum of Pennsylvania/Friends of The State Museum
Myretta Anderson – Pennsylvania State Archives

Outstanding Service Awards

Jack (in memoriam) and Maxine Gold – Erie Maritime Museum & U.S. Brig Niagara/Flagship Niagara League

MOTION: (Savakinus/Lewis) Motion to approve the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Awards as presented. 13 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

STATE MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA

Beth Hager updated commissioners on programs and exhibits at the State Museum of Pennsylvania:

Picturing a More Perfect Union: Violet Oakley’s Mural Studies for the Pennsylvania Senate Chamber 1911-1919 closes Sunday, April 26, 2020.

Why Not in Pennsylvania? Campaigning for Women’s Suffrage in the Keystone State and Game Changers Exhibits closes January 3, 2020.

South Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Art Exhibit: Opening ceremony, Saturday, March 8, 2020; exhibit closes April 26, 2020.

National History Day in PA Displays and Future City Displays: Saturday, March 8, 2020; exhibit closes April 26, 2020.

Charter Day is Sunday, March 8, 2020 – Charter Week runs Friday, March 6th through Friday, March 13, 2020 at 1pm.

The State Museum partnered with the Pennsylvania State Archives to present a combined PHMC booth at the 2020 Farm Show where the exhibits team provided a terrific visual, highlighting several collections and exhibits.

STATE ARCHIVES

David Carmicheal reminded commissioners that Charter Day is Sunday, March 8, 2020. In addition to displaying William Penn’s original 1681 Charter, we will also have on display the Pennsylvania’s Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery (1780) and our state’s ratification of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (1869).

Groundbreaking for the new State Archives building is delayed and we hope to have an update for everyone at the PHMC Commission meeting in June 2020.

David Carmicheal distributed a summary of the Historical and Archival Records Care (HARC) Grants that were approved at the last commission meeting. He encouraged commissioners to contact an organization in their area to congratulate them on receiving a grant and to see their progress on the project. David asked that before commissioners contact an organization let him know so that he could give that organization “heads up”.

LEGAL

Rights and Reproduction Policy – Gerard Leone reported PHMC is the administrator of the Commonwealth’s archives (37 Pa.C.S. § 305), publisher and seller of the Commonwealth’s publications (§ 306), and custodian of the artistic and historical objects of the state (§ 304), the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (“PHMC”) intends to clarify its positions and obligations with regard to the intellectual

property it owns and manages as well as the intellectual property of those artists, writers, and creators whose works for whom PHMC is the custodian.

After discussion, commissioners would like to add some type of preamble to the Rights and Reproduction Policy to err on the side of openness. Gerard added that commissioners can approve the policy now and attach the preamble later or wait until the June meeting and have a preamble attached and then have the commission adopt the policy.

MOTION: (Zimmerman/Chambliss) Motion to approve the Rights and Reproduction Policy as presented. (See attached) 13 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

Grants Policy - Because the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission did not state its authority to audit and check the eligibility of its grantees. The Grants Policy was updated to include what we can and will do and what our discretions are to our grantees.

MOTION: (Zimmerman/Lewis) Motion to approve the Grants Policy as presented. (See attached) 13 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Executive Director Report – Andrea Lowery announced the following anticipated changes to the commission: Senator Andy Dinniman and Senator Joseph Scarnati are not seeking reelection this November and will be leaving the commission at the end of the year. Andrea thanked them for all their support and work they have done for PHMC. Andy Masich added that both senators helped to advance history around the state with support of PHMC’s grant programs.

A total of \$22.799M has been proposed for General Government Operations (GGO). This is an increase of \$1.24M over last year. The increase will cover costs associated with payroll and HR and IT shared services costs. In addition, it funds two new complement positions for the new Digital Archives. This will put our complement at 211.

Andrea Lowery and Howard Pollman are scheduled to meet with legislators to express our support of PHMC’s budget.

PHMC History Seminar is scheduled for March 18, 2020 at 10am in the State Museum Auditorium. Speakers include Dr. Randall Miller, PhD and Dr. Andrew Murphy, PhD. Dr. Miller, William Dirk Warren '50 Sesquicentennial Chair and Professor of History at St. Joseph's University, has written and edited numerous books on the Civil War and Reconstruction, African American culture and life, religion, social reform, and ethnic and immigrant history. He is also the co-editor of the PHMC publication, *Pennsylvania: A History of the Commonwealth*. Dr. Murphy, Assistant Professor at the Virginia Commonwealth University, studies the intersections between politics and religion in both historical and contemporary contexts, focusing on the emergence of religious liberty and liberty of conscience in early modern England and America, and the ongoing ramifications of these debates in contemporary American politics. Dr. Murphy is the author of *William Penn: A Life* (Oxford, 2019).

The State Museum Master Plan is underway. Ann Beha Architects from Boston, Massachusetts is the architect and Gallagher and Associates from Silver Spring, Maryland is the exhibit design consultant. The project goal is to determine themes and locations of galleries throughout the museum and to develop a program for infrastructure improvements and visitor amenities to support the museum.

Legislative Report – In addition to speaking with legislators about PHMC's budget, Howard and Andrea will talk to legislators about several bills regarding the amendments to the Pennsylvania History Code and keystone funding that impact on the commission.

PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Glenn Holliman distributed a report of the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation (PHF) and reminded everyone that the PHF is the non-profit partner of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. PHF continues to work on the Capital Campaign to identify potential partners and organize information events and tours of the museum in the coming months.

V. NEW BUSINESS

The Highlands Historical Society - Tony Smith, President of the Highlands Historical Society introduced Suzanne Bush, Hugh Moulton and Former State Representative Kate Harper. These representatives of HHS were there to outline a future plan for the HHS's management of the Highlands. The plan proposed that the after a sale of the Highlands to the HHS, HHS would sell a conservation easement to protect the undeveloped land in Whitemarsh Township. The sale of the easement would provide funds for conservation of the Highlands and the ongoing maintenance.

Gerard Leone read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, PHMC administers the historic property known as “the Highlands” according to 37 Pa.C.S. § 702(54); and

WHEREAS, in May of 2014, the PHMC resolved to support the direct sale of properties, including the Highlands, “to local organizations...operating and managing the properties for the benefit of the public;” and

WHEREAS, in May 2018, the Highlands Historical Society (“HHS”), a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and PHMC’s current nonprofit partner in administering the property, expressed willingness to acquire the property subject to certain restrictive covenants and a reverter clause; and

WHEREAS, PHMC supports the transfer of properties to those local organizations with sufficient resources to preserve them and maintain them as publicly available historic sites; and

WHEREAS, the HHS has proposed an agreement with Whitemarsh Township that, if HHS becomes owner of the property, such agreement would provide HHS with funds appropriate to restore and maintain the property.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission supports the sale by legislative action of the Highlands to the Highlands Historical Society provided that the guarantees and assurances of Whitemarsh Township are such that all preservation covenants of the Commonwealth will not be disturbed.

MOTION: (Masich/Schuyler) Motion to approve the Resolution in Support of Sale of the Highlands to the Highlands Historical Society as presented was approved. (See attached) 13
approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania – Chairwoman Nancy Moses reported the Historical Society of Pennsylvania sold their collection of medals that honor George Washington. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania justifies selling the medals because they are an archive and decided long ago to transfer or sell their 3-dimensional objects.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses discussed with Andrea Lowery, Philip Zimmerman and Andy Masich how the Historical Society of Pennsylvania is struggling, and their collections far exceeds their capacity to care for adequately. Nancy would like to think about commissioning a study of all collections in museums and historical societies in Pennsylvania to find out what issues and concerns there are. Our commission can come up with recommendations on actions that can be taken toward addressing these issues.

Philip believes the commission can shine a spotlight on the needs the collections require; and activate its voice to set the building blocks in place to create the argument for Pennsylvania citizens stepping up and acknowledging that we have 3-dimensional objects and written heritage that needs protected.

VI. TASK FORCE REPORTS

Strategic Planning – Andrea Lowery introduced Liz Weber who is helping PHMC with its upcoming 3-year strategic plan. Liz reviewed the following key areas in the strategic plan: Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic Priorities and Goals and asked commissioners for feedback so she can take ideas from the commissioners back to the planning committee.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

PHMC Chairwoman, Nancy Moses adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

202034_1 MOTION: (Zimmerman/Turner) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from December 4, 2019 meeting was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

202034_2 MOTION: (Chambliss/Schuyler) Motion to approve the Cultural and Historical Support Grant Program as presented was approved. (See attached) 13 in favor/0 opposed/5 abstention. The following commissioners abstained from voting: Senator Andy Dinniman - Chester County Historical Society, William Lewis - Luzerne County Historical Society, Andrew Masich - Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Ophelia Chambliss - York County History Center and Robert Savakinus - Lackawanna Historical Society.

202034_3 MOTION: (Miller/Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Revisions to Historical Marker Criteria as presented was approved. (See attached) 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

202034_4 MOTION: (Lewis/Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Historic Marker Recommendations was approved. (See attached) 13 approve/ 0 opposed/ 0 abstain

202034_5 MOTION: (Savakinus/Lewis) Motion to approve the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Awards as presented. 13 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

202034_6 MOTION: (Zimmerman/Chambliss) Motion to approve the Rights and Reproduction Policy as presented. (See attached) 13 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

202034_7 MOTION: (Masich/Schuyler) Motion to approve the Resolution in Support of Sale of the Highlands to the Highlands Historical Society as presented was approved. (See attached) 13 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.