

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 8, 2021  
MINUTES**

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on December 8, 2021, in person and via ZOOM. The following Commissioners were present: Nancy Moses – Chair; Christie Martone represented Senator Michele Brooks, Ophelia Chambliss, Senator Tim Kearney, William Lewis, Andrew Masich, Fred Powell, Philip Zimmerman, Representative Robert Matzie, Ken Turner, Representative Park Wentling, Robert Savakinus, and Susan Banks (Department of Education).

The following staff was present: Andrea Lowery, David Bohanick, David Carmichael, Beth Hager, Andrea MacDonald, Melissa Mann, Howard Pollman, and Scott Doyle. Rodney Akers and Gerard Leone served as legal counsel. Glenn Holliman represented the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation.

Members of the public include Attorney John J. McGee, President of Anthracite Region Vintage Base Ball Organization, and Mary Malone, Greater Hazelton Chamber of Commerce.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

PHMC Chairwoman, Nancy Moses called the meeting to order at 10 am. At this time, she asked commissioners and staff to introduce themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called to hear a motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2021 meeting. MOTION: (Powell/Turner). There was no discussion on the minutes.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2021 meeting. MOTION: (Lewis/Zimmerman) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the September 14, 2021 meeting was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

**IV. CHAIRWOMAN'S REMARKS**

Chairwoman Nancy Moses welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reached out to legal counsel for advice on how to expediate meetings to ensure every commissioner is heard and their comments recorded in the official meeting minutes. Chairwoman Nancy Moses reminded everyone that the meeting will follow

Roberts Rules of Order and adhere to the meeting agenda. The Chair will introduce all action items, motions, and recognize speakers. Participants who wish to speak should direct their question to the Chair as “Madame Chair”. Speakers will limit their comments to statements and motions. Once everyone has had a chance to discuss the motion, the Chair will call for a vote. The meeting agenda includes Reports and Action Items, Old Business, New Business, and Public Comment. Members of the public will have 2 – 3 minutes to address the Commission.

After today’s meeting adjourns, there will be a tour of the Supreme Court Chamber and lunch.

## **V. PHMC AND PHF REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE** – Andrea MacDonald reported that the State Historic Preservation Office is undertaking a three-year effort to collect baseline information about thousands of older and historic places across Pennsylvania that are geographically and thematically underrepresented in Pennsylvania’s statewide inventory. The inventory includes historic and cultural places such as buildings, bridges, farms, parks, neighborhoods, landscapes as well as archaeological findings. This effort is focused on adding new places to the PA Historic Places Inventory which is accessible through the SHPO’s data management system, PA-SHARE.

**Cultural and Historical Support Grants** - Chairwoman Nancy Moses called to hear a motion to approve the Cultural and Historical Support Grants. MOTION: (Zimmerman/Turner).

Andrea MacDonald reported that the PA Historical and Museum Commission received 157 applications, 154 of those applications are eligible. Grants are awarded on a formula based on a percentage of operating budget with a maximum grant of \$40,000 and a minimum grant of \$4,000.

At this time, the following commissioners recused themselves from voting: Andrew Maisch – Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania; William Lewis – Luzerne County Historical Society; Ophelia Chambliss – York County History Center; and Robert Savakinus – Lackawanna County Historical Society

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Cultural and Historical Support Grants as presented. MOTION: (Turner/Lewis) Motion to approve the Cultural and Historical Support Grants as presented was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

**HISTORIC SITES AND MUSEUMS** - Melissa Mann reported that the Historic Sites and Museums properties continue to operate under pandemic conditions safely and successfully. In September, sites and museums expanded their operating parameters, reintroducing large-scale events, groups tours, and facility rentals. Attendance numbers continue to increase, and enthusiasm for our sites and museums is strong. Site staff continues to work diligently and creatively to plan fun, mission-based events.

PHMC Associate Groups continue to see success in acquiring COVID related grants and funding. Friends of Graeme Park received a \$40,000 grant from Montco Strong to help with their 2020-2021 operating expenses. The Ephrata Cloister Associates raised \$100,000 to renovate the amphitheater; construction is scheduled to begin in 2022.

The capital projects at Old Economy Village, Daniel Boone Homestead, and Pennsbury Manor and the restoration of the Pennsylvania Military Museum Boal Monument are near completion. The Flagship Niagara is expected to return to the Erie Maritime Museum in mid-December.

Staff continues to work with partners to find alternative ownership for Placed Properties. A 99-year lease was executed with the Delaware County Historical Society for the 1724 Old Chester Courthouse and the transfer of The Highlands to the Highlands Historical Society will be completed in December 2021.

**STATE ARCHIVES** – David Carmicheal reported that the Pennsylvania State Archives is responsible for records management for all levels of government in Pennsylvania. Last year, archives staff provided records management training for almost 7,000 people.

Construction continues on the new State Archives building; it is slightly behind schedule and could be further delayed because of supply chain issues. To date, we have not experienced supply chain issues but soon we will begin the ordering process for the building fixtures and were told the lead times could be very long.

**State Historic Records Advisory Board Nominations** - Chairwoman Nancy Moses called to hear a motion to approve the State Historic Records Advisory Board Nominations. MOTION: (Masich/Savakinus).

David Carmicheal reported that the three nominations (Cathy Boyer, Molly Tighe, and Barbara Zaborowski) bring a great deal of experience to the State Historical Records Advisory Board.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the State Historical Records Advisory Board Nominations. MOTION: (Lewis/Turner) Motion to approve the State Historical Records Advisory Board Nominations was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

**Historical and Archival Records Care Grants** - Chairwoman Nancy Moses called to hear a motion to approve the Historical and Archival Records Care Grants. MOTION: (Chambliss/Savakinus).

David Carmicheal reported that he is excited about this year's Historical and Archival Records Care Grants due to the wide range of applications from preserving architectural drawings, to the history of Philadelphia organs, history of jazz, immigration, and historic vehicles in York County. 48% of grant applicants received funding.

Commissioner Ophelia Chambliss reported that before the pandemic, the commission discussed visiting institutions that were awarded grants as a follow up to see the work that they are doing. Commissioner Chambliss would like to follow up with the organizations in York and Lancaster Counties and update the commission.

Commissioner Andrew Masich asked for clarification on when commissioners can congratulate institutions that have been awarded grants. Howard Pollman reported that a press release will be issued later in the day following the Commission meeting; once the press release is issued, commissioners can congratulate institutions.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Historical and Archival Records Care Grants. MOTION: (Chambliss/Savakinus) Motion to approve the Historical and Archival Records Care Grants was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

**STATE MUSEUM** – Beth Hager reported that Art of the State 2021 opened in person and thanked Commissioner Chambliss for her participation in the Artist Conversations. The Witness to History exhibit continues to be well received. The 2021 Archaeology Workshop, directed by Dr. Kurt Carr, State Museum Senior Archaeologist was held on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and focused on African American History.

**Kurt Carr Retirement Resolution** - Chairwoman Nancy Moses called to hear a motion to approve the Kurt Carr Retirement Resolution. MOTION: (Turner/Chambliss).

Beth Hager read the following resolution for Kurt Carr:

WHEREAS, Dr. Kurt Carr, has served as the Senior Curator and Supervisor of the Section of Archaeology, at The State Museum of Pennsylvania since 2007; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Carr began his career with the Commonwealth with PHMC's State Historic Preservation Office in 1980 as a review archaeologist, then later served as the Chief of the Division of Archaeology and Protection between 1988 and 2005; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Carr has been an active scholar, servant, and mentor for Middle Atlantic archaeology using and interpreting a wealth of data from State Museum collections in over 25 publications in professional journals and books; over 50 presentations at professional meetings and over 13 technical reports; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Carr is a leader on the topic of Paleoindians in the Middle Atlantic region particularly in the areas of early hunting and gathering cultural adaptations, stone tool technology, settlement pattern analysis, geomorphology, and environmental reconstructions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carr has led extensive archaeological investigations conducted by The State Museum Section of Archaeology and volunteers, including the multi-year excavations at Fort Hunter Mansion & Park, an historic Dauphin County site; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Carr actively researched quarries and lithic production, such as through his work at the King's Quarry site in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and his intensive studies of jasper lithic tools; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Carr co-edited *The Archaeology of Native Americans in Pennsylvania*, the definitive reference guide to artifacts representing 14,000 years of cultural evolution, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2020 and co-authored *First Pennsylvanians: The Archaeology of Native Americans in Pennsylvania*, published by PHMC in 2015; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Carr revived and directed the annual conference *Workshops in Archaeology* at The State Museum, presenting scholars and archaeology experts in a wide variety of prehistoric and protohistoric topics in person and in an online format; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Carr has been devoted to public outreach and education, traveling locally, regionally, and statewide to speak to classroom students and to the public at various conferences and festivals, including the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Carr has been actively involved with service to state and regional archaeological societies, serving in leadership and mentorship capacities with the Eastern States Archaeological Federation, the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, and the Pennsylvania Archaeology Council, and was the recipient of the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018; and,

WHEREAS Dr. Carr retired from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission on November 5, 2021,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission wishes to recognize the extraordinary personal and professional contributions of Dr. Kurt Carr to the

preservation and interpretation of Pennsylvania's archaeological and cultural heritage and sends warm wishes for his retirement.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Kurt Carr Retirement Resolution.

MOTION: (Zimmerman/Savakinus) Motion to approve the Kurt Carr Retirement Resolution was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**Executive Director's Report** – Andrea Lowery reported on the commission's accomplishments over the past year:

State Archives - construction of the new building, move to digitization and creation of digital archives, community history dialogues, and State Archives staff trained citizens in archival practices.

State Historic Preservation Office – baseline survey and its impact on communities in Pennsylvania, three new municipalities (Erie, Milford, and Sewickley) are now Certified Local Governments.

Historic Sites and Museums – Pennsylvania History to Go project and capital projects

State Museum – completion of the master plan

Andrea applauded staff for their continued work and its impact on Pennsylvanians for years to come.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses also thanked Andrea Lowery for her leadership and staff for their continued work during extraordinarily difficult times.

Commissioner Masich requested contact information for the new Certified Local Governments send congratulatory notes.

**Legislative Report** – Howard Pollman reported to commissioners that HB1823 – Amends Title 37 re: Washington Crossing Park passed by the House on November 17, 2021, and is scheduled for Senate consideration by the Senate State Government Committee next week.

The Independent Fiscal Office scheduled a Performance Based Budget Hearing for PHMC on January 24, 2022, and the Pennsylvania Senate Appropriations Budget Hearing scheduled for March 17, 2022.

**Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation** – Glenn Holliman reported on the activities of the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation (PHF). The fall retreat was postponed due to COVID and the board will meet after today's commission meeting. Glenn thanked PHMC commissioners and staff for their efforts in

helping to preserve Pennsylvania History. PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses thanked Glenn and the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation for their continued support of the commission.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**Exhibition Policy Committee** – Philip Zimmerman reported that the Exhibition Policy Committee was created in response to the need to improve the exhibition programming in the renovated State Museum. The committee’s role in the State Museum exhibitions is policy related only. The committee would like to create a written exhibition program that describes what the exhibitions are trying to achieve. The next steps include visiting other museums that may have addressed similar issues in recent years.

**America250PA** – Cassandra Coleman, Executive Director of America250PA gave an overview of the America250PA project to PHMC Commissioners. In the Spring of 2021, the America 250 Foundation announced an official partnership with America250PA to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. The United States will observe the anniversary of its founding in 2026. America250PA continues to partner with counties and local governments in Pennsylvania to become official partners. Cassandra hopes to engage all Pennsylvania counties and asked PHMC Commissioners for their assistance in getting more county and local governments on board.

America250PA hopes to engage all Pennsylvanians and all 67 counties through officially recognized programs, projects and events including:

- Young Hero’s Outreach Program, the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) will place their first commemorative bronze, permanent Semiquincentennial Bell in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026 on the Dennis Farm in Susquehanna County.

- The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and America 250 PA have partnered on The Liberty Tree Project. Liberty Trees were gathering places for the Sons of Liberty during the American Revolution. America250PA will plant a certified Liberty Tree with a commemorative plaque in each of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania.

- In November 2021, America250PA hosted its third annual statewide Direct Effect Innovation Challenge at the State Museum. The challenge encourages college students within Pennsylvania to create

integrated marketing campaigns that provide solutions to real-life challenges impacting Pennsylvania communities.

- On July 20, 2021, Pennsylvania Day, an initiative started by America250PA volunteers helped at 12 Pennsylvania Food Banks across the commonwealth.

- America250PA is accepting design submissions from Pennsylvania artists for the 'Bells Across PA' art series. The selected artists will execute their designs on fiberglass bell sculptures. The goal is to have at least one bell in each of the 67 counties across Pennsylvania.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

2022 Meeting Dates – Chairwoman Nancy Moses announced the following meeting dates for 2022: March 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, September 7<sup>th</sup>, and December 7<sup>th</sup>. All meetings will take place in Harrisburg at 10 am.

Commissioner Ken Turner requested the Commission send an accommodation letter to the Executive Director of the Erie County Historical Society, George Deutsch in honor of his retirement. Commissioner Ken Turner asked if the State Archives going to continue to preserve hard copies of birth and death certificate since they are now digitized. David Carmicheal reported that the State Archives will continue to preserve hard copies of the birth and death certificates. His office will soon name a vendor for the digital archives so they will have the capacity to preserve the digital copies.

Commissioner Robert Savakinus asked if the video projects that are scheduled to be filmed at our historic sites and museums be produced in-house or will it be contracted by a private company. Melissa Mann reported that initial videos will be done with the help of a professional videographer. Part of the grant will be used to create four hubs across the state with the equipment for staff to do this type of work in-house. The grant money will also be used to train site staff and volunteers on in-house production.

Christie Martone, a representative for Senator Michele Brooks asked for clarification on the process of releasing information on the HARC grants. Is it the same as the other grants and should we wait until a press release is sent out? Howard Pollman responded that after the commission meeting, he will notify the four caucuses so that they can begin working on their press releases; once you receive a press release you can reach out to grant recipients.

Commissioner Ken Turner requested that commissioners receive the contact information for the recently hired historic marker coordinator, Alli Davis. Commissioners are looking forward to working with Alli Davis and the historic marker program to encourage qualified historic marker nominations.

PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses asked if there were anyone from the public who would like to address the commission.

Attorney John McGee, President of the Anthracite Region Vintage Base Ball Organization addressed the commission during the public comment session. He requested that PHMC consider entering into a new contract with his organization to develop a vintage base ball program at Eckley as the previous contract (entered into in June 2018) had been terminated as the requisite project funds had not be raised by the established deadline of May 2021.

Mary Malone, Greater Hazelton Area Chamber of Commerce addressed the commission in support of Attorney John McGee and Anthracite Region Vintage Base Ball Organization.

PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses asked if Andrea Lowery if she wanted to comment on the matter now or provide a written comment. Andrea responded that she would provide a written response to Attorney John McGee regarding Anthracite Region Vintage Baseball.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

PHMC Chairwoman, Nancy Moses adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

**20211208\_1** MOTION: (Lewis/Zimmerman) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the September 14, 2021 meeting was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

**20211208\_2** MOTION: (Turner/Lewis) Motion to approve the Cultural and Historical Support Grants as presented was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention

**20211208\_3** MOTION: (Lewis/Turner) Motion to approve the State Historical Records Advisory Board Nominations was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

**20211208\_4** MOTION: (Chambliss/Savakinus) Motion to approve the Historical and Archival Records Care Grants was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

**20211208\_5** MOTION: (Zimmerman/Savakinus) Motion to approve the Kurt Carr Retirement Resolution was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention