

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION  
MARCH 2, 2022  
MINUTES**

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on March 2, 2022, in person and via ZOOM. The following Commissioners were present: Nancy Moses – Chair; Fred Powell – Vice-Chair, Ophelia Chambliss, Senator Tim Kearney, William Lewis, Andrew Masich, Philip Zimmerman, Representative Robert Matzie, Kenneth Turner, Robert Savakinus, Christie Martone represented Senator Michele Brooks and Vickie Leap represented Representative Park Wentling.

The following staff was present: Andrea Lowery, David Bohanick, David Carmichael, Beth Hager, Andrea MacDonald, Melissa Mann, and Howard Pollman. Pat Morrison, Site Administrator at Railroad Museum of PA. Rodney Akers and Gerard Leone served as legal counsel. Glenn Holliman represented the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation.

Members of the public include Ryan Cook, Erie Maritime Museum Flagship volunteer and Barbara Benedett, Archivist Curtis Institute of Music.

**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 December 8, 2021 meeting. MOTION: (Powell/Lewis). There was no discussion on the minutes.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2021 meeting. MOTION: (Lewis/Zimmerman) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the December 8, 2021 meeting was approved. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

### III. CHAIRWOMAN'S REMARKS

Chairwoman Nancy Moses welcomed everyone to the meeting. She announced that the Consulate General of Estonia and the Louis Kahn Estonia Foundation has invited the commission to attend the installation of a historical marker dedicated to Louis Kahn at his place of birth on May 5, 2022. This Spring will reach an important cultural milestone in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Estonia-US diplomatic relations and Louis Kahn's 120<sup>th</sup> birthday. PHMC Chair Nancy Moses, William Lewis and Andrea Lowery are planning to attend.

During past commission meetings, representatives from the Philadelphia History Center, Drexel University and the City of Philadelphia addressed the commission about the collections at the Philadelphia History Museum. At that time, the Philadelphia History Museum had closed its doors because it was not being supported by the City of Philadelphia. Since closing the doors of the Philadelphia History Museum at the Atwater Kent, the Board of Trustees have worked with the City of Philadelphia and Drexel University to transfer the collections and its trusteeship to Drexel University. The proposed transfer requires approval by the Court of Commonwealth Pleas, Orphans' Court. If the Court approves the transfer, more Philadelphians and visitors will have in-person and digital access to the collection then before.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called to hear a motion to approve a Statement to Orphan's Court regarding the Transfer of Atwater Kent. MOTION: (Kearney/Lewis).

Commissioner Philip Zimmerman read the following regarding Atwater Kent. "The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission is responsible for overseeing the commonwealth's historical assets, including its collections. From time to time the Commission is called upon to assist in complex collections issues similar to this one. The following statement was approved by the Commission at its March 2, 2022 meeting.

1. The Commission endorses the Court's decision to require a detailed transfer plan to assure the Atwater Kent Museum collection remains intact, in Philadelphia, and available to diverse public

- users before approving the transfer of collection to Drexel University. We understand the plan will be prepared on or before March 21, 2022 and posted for public comment.
2. We believe Drexel's plan will achieve the best and highest use of the Atwater Kent Museum collection. To that end, we offer our expertise and experience in order to assist Drexel by reviewing and commenting on the draft and providing other resources as available.
  3. Finally, it is important to note the historical significance of this matter, for this Court's actions will set an important precedent. Museums, historical societies, and other collecting institutions in Pennsylvania and beyond are challenged to properly care for their holdings. Now and long into the future, courts, museum professionals, board members, and patrons will be looking to what this Court decides, and how it ultimately benefitted the collection, the public, and its steward, Drexel University. We are confident that this plan will be comprehensive and transparent.”

Ken Turner commented that he is concerned about the short notice on this issue and would have liked to have more time to assess the situation. Philip Zimmerman believes the statement offers assistance to Drexel University and acknowledges whatever the Court decides. Andrea Lowery added the hearing on Monday ended at 2 pm and didn't give a lot of time for us to give advance notice of the issue for commissioners to review.

Andy Masich remarked that Nancy Moses, Philip Zimmerman and Andrea Lowery put a lot of work into this over the years. This issue has been going on for a long time and no other organization other than Drexel University has come up with a thoughtful and comprehensive plan. He believes the commission should support Drexel University and that the statement to the Court is appropriate.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Statement to Orphan's Court regarding the Transfer of Atwater Kent. MOTION: (Masich/Turner). Motion to approve the Statement to Orphan's Court as read by Philip Zimmerman was approved. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

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

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE** – Andrea MacDonald reported that her office receives an annual allocation called the Federal Historic Preservation Fund that fund administers the Federal Historic Preservation Programs on behalf of the National Park Service in Pennsylvania. Each year, Congress appropriates up to \$150 million to distribute to State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices based on a formula. The formula is calculated based on population, size of the state and total number of historic residential properties as defined by the U.S. Census.

Pennsylvania historically has received the 4<sup>th</sup> highest allocation behind Texas, New York and California. Support for the Federal Historic Preservation Fund has increased over the past decade. This year we are anticipating a \$1.5 million award pending the passage of the federal budget. A minimum of 10% of our annual allocation must be redistributed to Pennsylvania Certified Local Governments. Additional monies are available through the Historic Preservation Fund on a competitive basis made available by the National Park Service through a variety of grant programs. States are required to match 40% of the money received from the Historic Preservation Fund. The end of year report focuses on last year's federal fiscal year accomplishments.

In addition to the routine administration of our programs the SHPO launched PA-Share, completed the African American Churches and Cemeteries Multiple Property Documentation Form, and three new Certified Local Governments were added in Pennsylvania (Borough of Sewickley, Borough of Milford and City of Erie).

**HISTORIC SITES AND MUSEUMS** - Melissa Mann reported that Troy Grubb, formerly a Museum Educator at the Railroad Museum of PA was selected as the new Historic Site Administrator at Brandywine Battlefield Historic Park. Sites and museums have been busy over the past few months reintroducing traditional in-person holiday events and winter programming. Overall these events were successful and in a number of cases attendance numbers outperformed pre-pandemic attendance numbers.

Hope Lodge's guided holiday mansion tours and Holidays at Hope Lodge event brought over 1,000 people to the site in December. Over 1,175 people experienced the Home for the Holidays event in

December at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. Old Economy Village hosted Christmas at the Village in December where over 1,780 people in attendance.

Historic Sites and Museum properties continue to operate under pandemic conditions safely and successfully and are gearing up for the regular visitation season that includes deep cleaning at the sites, exhibit updates, volunteer training, and scheduling of group visits. The bureau office is working with Flagship Niagara League and Erie Maritime Museum to finalize the Brig Niagara 2022 Sailing Schedule. Throughout the summer, the Brig Niagara will host sail training programs and participate in the Festival of Sail events in Sandusky, Ohio; Alpena, Michigan; Marquette, Michigan; and Two Harbors, Minnesota. The season will end with Tall Ships Erie August 25th through 28<sup>th</sup> and throughout September, the Brig Niagara will provide school tour sails and public day sails.

Melissa congratulated Ephrata Cloister for being selected to receive a 2022 Special Achievement Award from PA Museums in recognition of its 2020 Christmas at the Cloister virtual program.

Commissioner Ophelia Chambliss asked if PHMC has ideas to capitalize on marketing to bring more visitors to historic sites and museums. Melissa reported that she and Howard Pollman are working to improve marketing strategies by looking at who is visiting the museums, who is interested in visiting, and how to take advantage of that.

Commissioner Andrew Masich asked about the difference in attendance for outdoor events verses indoor events. Melissa reported that visitation at outdoor events at sites has increased while regular visitation is slowly rebounding.

**Volunteer of the Year Awards 2020 – 2021** – Melissa Mann read the following names of individuals who are receiving the Volunteer of the Year Awards for 2020 and 2021:

*Justin Skavery* – Anthracite Heritage Museum/Anthracite Heritage Museum & Iron Furnaces Associates

*Noah Lewis* – Brandywine Battlefield/Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

*Joe Ramus and Larry Gesner* – Bushy Run Battlefield/Bushy Run Battlefield Heritage Society

*David Sonnen* – Conrad Weiser Homestead/Friends of Conrad Weiser Homestead

*Michael Weber (2020) and Kathy Donaldson (2021)* – Cornwall Iron Furnace/Cornwall Iron Furnace Associates

*William Jewell* – Daniel Boone Homestead/Friends of Daniel Boone Homestead

*Richard Paul (2020) and Jean Riddle (2021)* – Drake Well Museum and Park/Friends of Drake Well

*Dave Matsinko* – Eckley Miners' Village/Eckley Miners' Village Associates

*Bonnie Hackman Martin* – Ephrata Cloister/Ephrata Cloister Associates  
*Bruce Miller* – Erie Maritime Museum and Flagship Niagara/Flagship Niagara League  
*Melissa Kurek* – Graeme Park/Friends of Graeme Park  
*Mark Matt* – Hope Lodge/Friends of Hope Lodge  
*Laurie McCants* – Joseph Priestley House/Friends of Joseph Priestley House  
*Robert Haas (2020) and Sharon Kozjar (2021)* – Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum/Landis Valley Associates  
*Warren Kinner, Joe Pulgini, and Ted McAuley* – Old Economy Village/Friends of Old Economy Village  
*James Pagliaro* – Pennsbury Manor/The Pennsbury Society  
*Dr. Michael Callahan* – PA Lumber Museum/PA Lumber Museum Associates  
*Victor Campbell* – PA Military Museum/Friends of the PA Military Museum  
*James Cleveland* – Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania/Friends of the PA Military Museum  
*Jeffrey Shaffer and Michael Rhoades* – Somerset Historical Center/Historical & Genealogical Society of Somerset County

**Outstanding Service Awards**

*Alan Mochnick* – Bushy Run Battlefield/Bushy Run Battlefield Heritage Society  
*David L. Weber (in memoriam)* – Drake Well Museum and Park/Friends of Drake Well  
*Jo Ann Long* – Joseph Priestley House/Friends of Joseph Priestley House  
*Norman Oelschlegel* – The State Museum of Pennsylvania

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called to hear a motion to approve the Volunteer of the Year Awards for 2020 and 2021. MOTION: (Masich/Chambliss). There was no discussion at this time.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the minutes from the Volunteer of the Year Awards for 2020 and 2021. MOTION: (Lewis/Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Volunteer of the Year Awards for 2020 and 2021 as presented was approved. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

**Retirement Resolution for Jim Cawley and Mike Gladwin** – Melissa Mann read the following retirement resolutions for James F. Cawley:

WHEREAS, **James F. Cawley** dutifully served 15 years and 24 weeks with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) as of his last workday on February 11, 2022; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the PHMC, Mr. Cawley worked at Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum, Ephrata Cloister, Pennsbury Manor and for the past 10 years at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, in the course of his work as a Custodial Guide Supervisor at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, Mr. Cawley recruited, supervised, and mentored a diverse visitor service workforce and served as a positive mentor, always mindful to acknowledge the successes of others on his team; and

WHEREAS, in the course of recruiting, supervising, and mentoring this diverse workforce, Mr. Cawley developed a highly efficient process of advertising, interviewing, and hiring new Visitor Service staff that has

served as an effective model for fair and equitable recruitment for other departments at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania and other sites and museums; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cawley maintained a professional, welcoming, and courteous demeanor with all staff, volunteers, contractors, and visitors, providing excellent customer service to all with whom he interacted and serving as an exemplary ambassador of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in his role, not only at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania but also at several other historic sites; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cawley, through his position in the Visitor Services Department of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, made it a top priority to share his vast historical and site knowledge through tours, interpretation of rolling stock, and daily interactions, enhancing the overall visitor experience; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his tenure at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, Mr. Cawley accrued an impressive historical and institutional knowledge of Pennsylvania's railroad history, with a particular emphasis on how it relates to one of his favorite eras of American history – the Progressive Era –, and used his knowledge to enhance the site's educational offerings through innovative interpretive programs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cawley took great pride in his work and provided strong leadership through an exemplary work ethic, taking an active and full participatory part in all site activities and events, and offering to assist maintenance staff in various projects, from groundskeeping to housekeeping, wherever and whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cawley earned the respect and friendship of his fellow museum staff and volunteers and was a positive influence in their lives, as well as in those of the visitors to PHMC's museums; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission recognizes the extraordinary service rendered to the Commonwealth, its citizens and visitors by James F. Cawley and extends warm wishes for his retirement.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Retirement Resolutions for James F. Cawley. MOTION: (Powell/Savakinus) Motion to approve the Retirement Resolution for James F. Carley as presented was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

and Michael J. Gladwin:

WHEREAS, **Michael J. Gladwin** dutifully served a total of 6 years and 24 weeks with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, beginning his service with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and transferring to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), in April 2016; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the PHMC, Mr. Gladwin worked as a Laborer at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, in the course of performing custodial and groundskeeping duties at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, Mr. Gladwin maintained a professional, welcoming, and courteous demeanor with all staff, volunteers, contractors, and visitors, providing exemplary customer service to all with whom he interacted; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gladwin demonstrated considerable leadership qualities when overseeing the work of community service workers and volunteers on numerous indoor and outdoor groundskeeping and housekeeping projects; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gladwin demonstrated an exemplary work ethic, taking an active role in numerous site activities and events over the years, as well as assisting maintenance staff, restoration staff, and other museum departments on various projects, ranging from groundskeeping to housekeeping to light carpentry and painting work, wherever and whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gladwin conscientiously assured a safe working environment, addressing issues he could tackle, and reporting all issues to the site administrator and other staff as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gladwin kept good watch over, and inventory of, the museum's cleaning supplies, working with other staff to place orders to maintain an adequate stock of these materials; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gladwin took great pride in his work and his contribution to visitor services, effectively cleaning restrooms, mopping and waxing floors, vacuuming the interior and exterior of the museum, cleaning windows, and numerous other housekeeping tasks; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gladwin took great pride in maintaining a safe and attractive landscape for all the museum's patrons, effectively removing snow, weed trimming, planting flowers, and mulching flowerbeds among other tasks; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission recognizes the exemplary service rendered to the Commonwealth and its citizens by Michael J. Gladwin and extends warm wishes for his retirement.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Retirement Resolutions for Michael J. Gladwin. MOTION: (Lewis/Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Retirement Resolution for Michael J. Gladwin was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

**STATE ARCHIVES** – David Carmicheal reported that the construction of the new State Archives building continues and is pretty much on schedule. We have not experienced major supply chain issues but there are rumblings of supply chain issues that could still occur. We are targeting a move-in date in the fall to move the collection. A Facility Manager was recently hired for the new building.

Archives Without Tears (AWOT) is a course for historical repositories on the care of archival collections that is held as a two-day workshop. A version of AWOT was held online in October due to the pandemic. Staff created 10 online modules where participants were invited to view the online modules and then attend an online session in which they asked questions regarding what they had seen in the modules.

The format was very popular and more productive than previous formats. The Archives plans to continue the format in the future, even if in-person sessions resume.

**STATE MUSEUM** – Beth Hager reported that the Learn at Lunchtime Zoom series was a great success in 2021. Nature and science-related programs are replayed on the large TV monitor in Nature Lab throughout visiting hours whenever live programs are not offered. Education and Outreach staff are producing two virtual programs per month for audience audiences – Adventures in Nature Lab and Curator’s Choice.

The museum is open to school groups this spring, visitation is about 50% down. The Planetarium and Curiosity Corner remain closed; we hope to reopen both locations this summer. A smaller gallery is soon to be the location of the popular Scholastic Art exhibition which showcases student works from southcentral Pennsylvania and is organized by the Commonwealth Charter Academy. The Art of the State will again be shown in the fall of 2022. The Civil Rights exhibit completed by in-house staff is scheduled to open in June.

Beth reported to commissioners that she notified staff that will be retiring the end of June 2022.

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**Executive Directors Report** – Andrea Lowery reported that Governor's proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 calls for \$22.9 million in funding for General Government Operations (GGO). This represents an 8.6% increase over last year’s budget. This increase is attributed to the cost-to-carry PHMC staffing (\$1,120,000) and the commonwealth’s new State Archives facility (\$709,000). The budget also includes \$2 million for Cultural and Historical Support Grants.

Andrea reported that PHMC is in the process of awarding a contract to a design firm to help give PHMC an idea of what the best reuse of the current Archives building would be. The building will continue to be served by the Department of General Services in terms of infrastructure. Andrea does expect capital projects to renovate the building.

Andrea reported to commissioners that the hearing with the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) went well. The performance base budget looks at how our agency spends its money based on full-time employees and dollars; how that translates into performance metrics.

**Legislative Report** – Howard Pollman reported on SB116 – Amendments to the Pennsylvania History Code have moved out of House State Government Committee and can now be considered by the full Senate when they return later in March. HB2343 – was introduced to transfer Mather Mill to private ownership and the Senate Appropriations hearing is scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Howard reported that during the last calendar year, 3800 hours of PHMC content was watched on YouTube. The year prior was about 2000 hours.

**Legal Report** – Rodney Akers reported that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission transacts its official business in public forms in accordance with the Pennsylvania History Code and the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. PHMC is required by statute to provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to comment and participate in its meetings. To facilitate public participation and comment in its meetings, PHMC would like to adopt a Public Comment Policy. The draft policy was distributed to commissioners and will be voted on at the June PHMC Commission meeting.

**Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation** – Glenn Holliman reported the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation (PHF) added four new board members to the foundation. The PHF board members are eager to raise money and hire a Grants Writer to enhance the financial strength of the commission. PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses thanked Glenn and the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation for their continued support of the commission.

Glenn reported to the commission that PHF could like to implement a rate increase for its memberships. The rate increase schedule was distributed to commissioners and will be voted on at the June commission meeting.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**Anthracite Vintage Base Ball Update** – Andrea Lowery reported that at the last commission meeting, Attorney John McGree requested that PHMC consider entering into a new contract with his organization to develop a vintage base ball program at Eckley. PHMC plans to move forward with a new version of that agreement which will be sent to Attorney John McGee for review.

**America250PA** – Jaclyn Victor , Director of Partnerships and Engagement for America250PA gave an overview of the America250PA project to PHMC Commissioners. The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) comprises current and past leaders of Pennsylvania, private citizens, and industry leaders, celebrating the rich history and diversity of the state. All living Pennsylvania Governor’s serve as honorary co-chairs. Leading up to the 250th Anniversary of the United States to the celebration in July 2026, America250PA will launch programs and initiatives geared towards engaging every Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Commission has been able to combine its platforms and focus areas to host engagement sessions to connect with stakeholders across the commonwealth. America250PA projects include: The Liberty Tree Project - Planting a certified Liberty Tree in each of the 67 counties in partnership with the Pennsylvania Freemasons and "Start Here, America Did" Podcast - Telling the unique stories that make up the diverse fabric of Pennsylvania. Jaclyn thanked PHMC for their support of America250PA.

Andy Masich is excited about the potential for partnerships between American250PA and PHMC concerning legacy projects. Believes there is a tremendous opportunity with PHMC priorities as it relates to the historical marker program and how we bring it to the next generation of Pennsylvanians. Andrea Lowery reported that she and Andrea MacDonald discussed the possibilities of the program. Chairwoman Nancy Moses suggested the commission form a small task force of staff and commissioners who have an interest in developing this idea further. PHMC Commissioners Andrew Masich, Philip Zimmerman, Robert Savakinus, and Ophelia Chambliss volunteered to be on the task force.

Ken Turner asked if there was an update on Conneaut Lake Park. Gerard Leone reported that there are no new developments and that PHMC’s position relative to the covenant remains the same.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

PHMC Chairwoman, Nancy Moses adjourned the meeting at 11:53 am.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

**2022032\_1** MOTION: (Lewis/Zimmerman) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the December 8, 2021 meeting was approved. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention

**2022032\_2** MOTION: (Masich/Turner) Motion to approve the Statement to Orphan's Court as read by Philip Zimmerman was approved. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

**2022032\_3** MOTION: (Lewis/Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Volunteer of the Year Awards for 2020 and 2021 as presented was approved. 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

**2022032\_4** MOTION: (Powell/Savakinus) Motion to approve the Retirement Resolution for James F. Carley as presented was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

**2022032\_5** MOTION: (Lewis/Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Retirement Resolution for Michael J. Gladwin was approved. 13 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.