

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
JUNE 1, 2022
MINUTES

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on June 1, 2022, in person at Pennsbury Manor in Morrisville, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Nancy Moses – Chair, Ophelia Chambliss, Sam Arnold represented Senator Tim Kearney, William Lewis, Andrew Masich, Philip Zimmerman, Kenneth Turner, Representative Parke Wentling, and Diane McNaughton represented Senator Michele Brooks.

The following staff was present: Andrea Lowery, David Carmichael, Beth Hager, Andrea MacDonald, Melissa Mann, Scott Doyle, and Howard Pollman. Rodney Akers served as legal counsel. Katie Kovalsky, Office of General Counsel Legal Extern also attended.

Members of the public included Attorney John J. McGee, President of Anthracite Region Vintage Base Ball Organization; Barry Loveland, Chair LGBT Center of Central PA; Senator John DiSanto, and Alex Myers.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

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

II. REMARKS

Chairwoman Nancy Moses reported on a historical marker dedication she and William Lewis attended for Louis Kahn in his hometown of Kuressaare, Estonia on May 5, 2022. The event was sponsored by the Louis Kahn Estonia Foundation, Norwegian Embassy, Estonia Cultural Ministry and City of Kuressaare. Also sponsored by the U.S. Embassy because 2022 marks the 100th anniversary of Estonia/U.S. Diplomatic relations. Louis Kahn is one of the most significant

architects of the 20th century. He was born in Estonia and lived nearly his entire life in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Andrea Lowery gave a brief update on the budget. The Senate Appropriations hearing was held on March 7, 2022. PHMC supports the number that is proposed right now by the governor's office of \$22.979 million for General Government Operations. There is an additional \$2 million line item proposed for the cultural and historical support grants. The \$22.979 represents an 8.6% increase over the current year budget; 39% of the increase is associated with bringing the new archives online; 24% with personnel maintaining current operations and 17% operating costs largely Human Resources and Information Technology increases through the Office of Administration.

We are currently going through a re-budget and plan to add 2 positions for the new digital archives which will bring PHMC's complement to 216. A contract was recently awarded to JacobsWyper Architects to help us look at the current archives building which will be vacated to help us understand what the best and highest use of the facility would be.

PHMC is currently negotiating a lease to move the artifacts from the Cherrywood facility at the Harrisburg State Hospital to Mechanicsburg sometime this fall.

Andrea reported that she and Howard Pollman have met with most of the staff from the Appropriations Committee and have had positive feedback.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes

Chairwoman Nancy Moses asked if there were any changes or revisions to the minutes.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2022 meeting. MOTION: (Turner/Zimmerman). Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the March 2, 2022 meeting was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.

2. Public Comment Policy

Rodney Akers, Chief Counsel reported that the proposed Public Comment Policy is designed to make sure that PHMC has a formal public comment period during its public meeting of the Commission. There are a couple of intentional blanks in Section 3 of the proposed policy. If approved, PHMC would establish a resource account for the public to use who wishes to address the commission.

Commissioner Masich commented on Section 4 of the proposed policy. He believes it is very prescriptive in terms of who can speak at the meeting and thinks this would be the time you would want to hear from someone who has an interest in PHMC. He asked if the proposed policy could be amended to include something like “unless invited to do so by PHMC”?

PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses remarked that if Commissioner Masich would like the text changed in Section 4 of the proposed policy that it deserves further discussion and PHMC should not vote on the policy at today’s meeting.

The Commission decided not to vote on the Public Comment Policy and to discuss the proposed policy at a future meeting.

3. PA Heritage Foundation Membership Rate Increase

PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses reported that the PA Heritage Foundation Membership Rate Increase would also be tabled for a future meeting.

4. Historical Marker Review

Andrea MacDonald reported that the Historical Marker Review Panel met on May 13, 2022, to review the citizen request submitted by Senator John DiSanto concerning the Richard Schlegel Historical Marker. The marker panel's recommendation to the Commission is to retire the Richard Schlegel marker.

Commissioner Bill Lewis reported that the Historical Marker Review Panel is comprised of five professional historians or practitioners of public history and is approved by the Commission. Commissioner Bill Lewis provides oversight of the Historical Marker Review Panel but does not get a vote. He reported that the decision by the Historical Marker Review Panel (4-1 vote) is that the Richard Schlegel historical marker is retired. The nominating group is invited to submit a new marker nomination that would commemorate the actions, history, or activities that have statewide, national or international significance of the LGBTQ plus community in Central Pennsylvania. A nomination must meet PHMC historical marker approval criteria.

Senator John DiSanto addressed the members of the commission regarding his request to remove a historical marker that was dedicated in the City of Harrisburg in October 2021 recognizing Richard Schlegel who was born in the northern end of the county in 1927. Senator DiSanto said his reasoning reflects thorough reading of an oral interview with Richard Schlegel and concerns arising from Mr. Schlegel's documented statements.

Barry Loveland, Chair LGBT Center of Central PA addressed the commission in favor of the retention of the Richard Schlegel historical marker.

At this time, Diane McNaughton addressed the commission on behalf of Senator Michele Brooks in support of Senator John DiSanto's request to remove the Richard Schlegel historical marker.

PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses called to hear a motion regarding the recommendation of the historic marker review panel.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion for PHMC to adopt the peer review panel's recommendation that the Richard Schlegel historical marker be retired, and the nominating group is invited to submit a new marker nomination that would commemorate the actions, history, or activities that have a statewide or national significance of the LGBTQ plus community in Central Pennsylvania and must meet PHMC historical marker approval criteria. MOTION: (Lewis/Chambliss). Motion approved to retire the Richard Schlegel historical marker. 9 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.

5. Certified Local Government Grant Awards

Andrea MacDonald reported that PHMC administers the Certified Local Government grant program under the National Historic Preservation Act. The federal law requires a set aside of 10% of our annual Historic Preservation Fund allocation for distribution to Certified Local Governments in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania currently has 49 Certified Local Governments. The National Park Service allocation is just over \$1.5 million for the Federal Fiscal year 2022. The required 10% set aside that we pass through to our Certified Local Governments is just above \$150,000. PHMC also sets aside funding for mini-grants, scholarships, and training for those representatives of Certified Local Governments each year. Certified Local Government grants are awarded on a competitive basis and require a local government cash match.

The following applicants/projects are recommended for funding:

City of Harrisburg, Dauphin County
Borough of Sewickley Heights, Allegheny County
Borough of Bellefonte, Centre County
City of Erie, Erie County
Borough of Lower Merion, Montgomery County
Borough of Carlisle, Cumberland County
City of Williamsport, Lycoming County
Borough of Tredyffrin, Chester County

City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Certified Local Government grants as presented. MOTION: (Turner/Lewis). Motion to approve the Certified Local Government grants as presented was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.

6. Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program

Andrea MacDonald reported that PHMC received 93 applications for the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program with requests of \$5,158,464.65 for the fiscal year 2021-2022. PHMC received applications in both the construction and planning categories. These applications were considered separately by three external peer review panels.

Grants requests may range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for planning projects and \$5,000 to \$100,000 for construction projects. The SHPO office and Keystone Grant panelists recommend Keystone Grant support for 47 applications of our allocation of just over \$2.6 million of which 30 are construction projects and 17 are planning projects.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant program for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 as presented. MOTION: (Chambliss/Zimmerman). Motion to approve the Keystone Historic Preservation grants as presented was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.

V. RESOLUTIONS

Retirement Resolution for Mary Ellen Kunz – Melissa Mann thanked Mary Ellen Kunz for her work at Pennsbury Manor. As an educator for 29 years, Mary Ellen developed, refined and reinvigorated the interpretation of Pennsbury Manor. She led hundreds of volunteers whose interpretation touched thousands, and whose volunteers' hours equated to millions of dollars in donated service to the commonwealth. Mary Ellen remained steadfast in putting the visitor first in

all aspects of Pennsbury Manor and throughout her career accommodated three quarters of a million guests to the site.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the following retirement resolution for Mary Ellen Kunz:

WHEREAS, Mary Ellyn Kunz has dutifully served the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for 29 years at Pennsbury Manor; and

WHEREAS, in the course of her work as a Museum Educator, she developed, refined, revisited, and re-invigorated the interpretation of Pennsbury Manor, moving the site to tell more diverse stories and present a broader version of Pennsbury Manor; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kunz led hundreds of volunteers whose interpretation, developed by her, touched thousands and whose volunteer hours equate to millions of dollars in donated service to the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kunz conducted extensive primary research on people enslaved by William Penn and brought their untold stories to the public and recently coordinated a virtual Juneteenth event with an emerging African American Museum in Bucks County; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kunz brought primary sources into volunteer training and into interpretive spaces to improve volunteer interpretation and to share these items with the public; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kunz remained a fierce advocate for accessibility of all peoples coming to Pennsbury Manor and the Commission; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kunz stewarded staff and volunteers through the construction and opening of a new visitor center, serving the public throughout the construction period; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kunz led the development and creation of the current visitor orientation video; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kunz twice substantially contributed to Pennsbury Manor's standing for subsequent museum accreditation with the American Alliance of Museums; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kunz played a key role in the site's development efforts, leading to the successful acquisition of grant funding, including grants from IMLS and most recently from The PEW Charitable Trusts for work with a Native American artist; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kunz repeatedly fulfilled the role of acting site administrator at Pennsbury Manor and other PHMC sites and served as a leader on BHSM's Education Committee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kunz remained steadfast in putting the visitor first in all aspects of Pennsbury Manor and throughout her career substantively helped accommodate three quarters of a million guests to the site; 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 Mary Ellyn Kunz and extends warm wishes for her retirement.

MOTION: (Turner/Zimmerman). Motion to approve the retirement resolution for Mary Ellen Kunz was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.

Retirement Resolution for Susan Latin – Howard Pollman thanked Susan Latin for her work at PHMC. Sue served at the PA Historical and Museum Commission providing administrative support to several of PHMC offices and programs since 1995. Sue provided support on the Pennsylvania Quarter Committee which was responsible for designing the 1999 Pennsylvania State Quarter. Sue assisted in developing many policies and procedures for PHMC. She developed visitor's policies to the Commission's office, resulting in increased security. Sue also served as the Human Resource liaison to the Office of Administration and was instrumental in communicating and coordinating Human Resource policies and procedures throughout all the Commission's Bureaus. Sue retired from PHMC in June 2021.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the following retirement resolution for Susan Latin:

WHEREAS, Susan Latin has served the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, providing administrative support to PHMC's offices and programs since 1995; and,

WHEREAS, Susan Latin has provided clerical support on the Pennsylvania Quarter Committee responsible for designing the 1999 Pennsylvania State Quarter; and,

WHEREAS, Susan Latin has served in several capacities and most recently as Administrative Assistant in the Bureau of Management Services; and,

WHEREAS, in that capacity Susan Latin was responsible for updating the Commission's badging

system and serving as the liaison to the Department of General Services; and,

WHEREAS, Susan Latin has coordinated travel and vehicle usage for the Commission; and,

WHEREAS, Susan Latin has assisted in developing many policies and procedures for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Susan developed visitor policies to the Commission's offices, resulting in increased security; and,

WHEREAS, Susan Latin has served as the Human Resource Liaison to the Office of Administration; and,

WHEREAS, in that capacity Susan Latin was responsible for timekeeping, hiring requests, and new employee onboarding; and,

WHEREAS, Susan Latin has established procedures for background checks for employees and volunteers who work with the public. Her assistance has helped keep children and visitors to the State Museum and other historic sites safe; and,

WHEREAS, Susan Latin was instrumental in communicating and coordinating Human Resource policies and procedures throughout all of the Commission's Bureaus; and,

WHEREAS, Susan Latin has announced her retirement from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, effective June 18, 2021;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission wishes to recognize the personal and professional contribution of Susan Latin to the operation of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and extends warm wishes for her retirement.

MOTION: (Zimmerman/Turner). Motion to approve the retirement resolution for Susan Latin was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.

Resolution for Ken Turner

Chairwoman Nancy Moses reported that PHMC Commissioner Kenneth Turner is resigning as commissioner.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses read the following resolution for Kenneth Turner.

WHEREAS Kenneth Turner earned a BA and MBA in history and political Science from West Virginia University and began his career at the West Virginia University Regional History Center.

WHEREAS Kenneth Turner was a licensed PA funeral director who served as deputy coroner for over twenty-six years.

WHEREAS Kenneth Turner became a distinguished authority on the Civil War. He has been a Civil War reenactor, collector, and interpreter and worked with numerous Civil War preservation groups.

WHEREAS Kenneth Turner is a respected author in the field of Pennsylvania Civil War history. Along with Michael Krause and David Neville, Kenneth Turner authored *The Civil War in Pennsylvania: A Photographic History* that was the official publication, by the Commonwealth and Heinz History Center, for the 150th Centennial of the Civil War. He served as a writer and advisor for the Time-Life Civil War series, contributed to *the Civil War in Pennsylvania: The African American Experience*, and was part of the Governor's Civil War Speakers Tour.

WHEREAS Commissioner Turner has served as a member of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission since August 2016, appointed by Governor Tom Wolf and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

WHEREAS since his swearing in by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Debra McClosky Todd in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, Commissioner Turner has been an active and contributing Commission member, participating in its deliberations, serving on its Historic Sites Task Force, and providing leadership for the historical community of Western Pennsylvania.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission duly notes and records for posterity some of the accomplishments and achievements of Kenneth Turner and extends to him its thanks for his service to Pennsylvania and its illustrious past.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the resolution for Kenneth Turner: MOTION: (Masich/Lewis). Motion to approve the resolution for Kenneth Turner was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstention.

VI. REPORTS

State Historic Preservation Office – Andrea MacDonald updated Commissioners on the current statewide Historic Preservation Plan, #PreserAtionHappensHere. The SHPO office is responsible for updating every five years as a condition of our federal funding for the National Park Service. SHPO staff completed an extensive review of the current plan and feel that a lot of its issues are still valid. Therefore, SHPO is requesting an update to our existing plan from the National Park Service rather than devising a new plan. The update will include very broad public outreach and input plans to ensure this update will reflect the current preservation trends,

challenges, and opportunities for Pennsylvania's historic resources. Commission review and approval will be sought at a future commission meeting sometime in 2023.

The SHPO office recently announced its 2021 Community Initiative Award Winners. We had over 70 candidates who were considered this year from different communities across the Commonwealth. This year's projects and recipients showcase a wide range of preservation success stories demonstrating the power of perseverance, collaboration, and partnerships. The three awardees are: Wilkesburg Train Station Restoration Project in Allegheny County, Preservation and Discovery by the Friends of Fort Halifax Park in Dawson County, and the Walkitecture Tour in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County.

Historic Sites and Museums – Melissa Mann updated Commissioners on visitation numbers. Sites moved from winter hours back into full seasonal hours in March 2022. Currently, through March 2022, we are at 58% total visitation (paid and unpaid) and 75% total paid visitation for the same period in FY 2018/2019 at fully administered sites. National projections show that exhibit-based cultural organizations will rebound to 95% by the end of the calendar year. Current inflation and high gas prices are a challenge, but Melissa is optimistic that things are rebounding well at sites.

Melissa announced that Michael Knecht, formerly the site administrator at Old Economy Village is now the site administrator at Drake Well Museum in Titusville, PA. The Fort Pitt Museum received the 2022 S.K. Stevens Award from PA Museums in recognition of its temporary exhibit *Pittsburgh, Virginia*. In April, the Erie Maritime Museum was ranked No. 7 in *USA Today's* Top 10 History Museums Poll.

State Archives – David Carmicheal updated the commissioners on the construction of the new State Archives Building. He believes the building will be completed pretty much on schedule, except for some of the environmental equipment that is needed to maintain the temperature and

humidity which means the archives can't move in until the equipment is in place. As of now, archives staff hopes to move in early 2023. David thanked his staff for completing the work to prepare the oversized materials for the move despite the pandemic.

The State Archives is working with members of the Governor's Policy Office and other agency executive offices to identify and preserve historically significant records from the Covid19 pandemic.

David reported on the success story of Charles Cogbill, a historical ecologist who is studying the composition of forest states in the eastern United States before widespread settlement. Mr. Cogbill used the PSA online land office map collections for his research. Throughout these early warrantee maps, surveyors marked and recorded the corners of surveyed lots with trees, constituting a site-specific and unbiased sampling of the species composition at that time. Mr. Cogbill's research procedure is to mine these survey records and tally the trees mentioned at lot corners (witness trees) within individual town boundaries. Mr. Cogbill remarked how invaluable this group of records held by the State Archives is for completing his research.

State Museum of Pennsylvania – Beth Hager reported that school groups have returned at a steady rate, though visitation this spring is still almost 50% down from recent pre-pandemic years. The lighter school tour season this year has enabled the museum educators to try new programs in Nature Lab and work hands-on directly with more students. The Curiosity Connection and the Planetarium will reopen to the public on July 1st. As a thank you to members who have continued with us patiently throughout the pandemic, the Curiosity Connection and Planetarium will reopen exclusively to members on June 15th for two weeks.

The museum will open a new exhibit, *A Place For All* on June 17th that focuses on stories of the Civil Rights Movement in the state. Originally curated by Eric Ledell Smith, a noted African American scholar who was a historian on the museum's staff, these displays focused on mid-20th

century integration efforts in Pennsylvania-housing, education, and public accommodations through the lens of personal struggles and first-person remembrances. PHMC Commissioners are invited to attend a reception that evening from 5 pm – 7 pm. The museum will unveil a display of Mr. Calobe Jackson, Jr's recently donated Korean War-era U.S. Army overcoat, honoring his contributions to preserving Harrisburg's African American history.

Legal Report – Rodney Akers reported that Assistant Chief Counsel, Gerard Leone transferred to the Department of State. His office is currently seeking a replacement and hopes to have a replacement hired by the September meeting.

Legislative Report – Howard Pollman updated commissioners on Pennsylvania History Code HB284/SB116 and property transfer bill HB 2343 – Mather Mill.

PA Heritage Foundation - Bill Lewis updated commissioners on the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation (PHF) board retreat and new board members to the foundation.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Chairwoman Nancy Moses reported on the status of the Atwater Kent Museum.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Attorney John McGee, President of the Anthracite Region Vintage Base Ball Organization, addressed the commission during the public comment session regarding his efforts to organize vintage base ball program at Eckley Miners' Village.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses adjourned the meeting at 11:42 am.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

2022061_1 MOTION: (Turner/Zimmerman). Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the March 2, 2022 meeting was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

2022061_2 MOTION: (Lewis/Chambliss). Motion approved to retire the Richard Schlegel historical marker. 9 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

2022061_3 MOTION: (Turner/Lewis). Motion to approve the Certified Local Government grants as presented was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

2022061_4 MOTION: (Chambliss/Zimmerman). Motion to approve Keystone Historic Preservation grants as presented was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

2022061_5 MOTION: (Turner/Zimmerman). Motion to approve the retirement resolution for Mary Ellen Kunz was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

2022061_6 MOTION: (Zimmerman/Turner). Motion to approve the retirement resolution for Susan Latin was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

2022061_7 MOTION: (Masich/Lewis). Motion to approve the resolution for Kenneth Turner was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.