

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
DECEMBER 7, 2022
MINUTES

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on December 7, 2022, in person and via ZOOM. The following Commissioners were present: Nancy Moses – Chair, Fredrick Powell – Vice Chair, Ophelia Chambliss, Senator Tim Kearney, William Lewis, Andrew Masich, Robert Savakinus, Philip Zimmerman, Representative Parke Wentling, Rich Pronesti represented Representative Robert Matzie, and Christi Martone represented Senator Michele Brooks.

The following staff was present: Andrea Lowery, David Bohanick, David Carmicheal, Charles Fox, Andrea MacDonald, Melissa Mann, Alli Davis, and Howard Pollman. Rodney Akers and Gerard Leone served as legal counsel.

Glenn Holliman, Donna Fisher, Jim Newman represented the PA Heritage Foundation, and Rusty Baker represented PA Museums.

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 welcomed everyone to the meeting. During today's meeting, she and Andrea Lowery reviewed some of the major PHMC achievements from 2014-2022 despite facing some very serious challenges.

One of the very first things Governor Wolf initiated was the new State Archives building. Last week, he visited the new archives building and was very excited by its appearance and operations. Andrea Lowery reported that the new State Archives building is very different in appearance from the existing archives building and reflects new approaches to archival storage. The

new State Archives building is a \$69 million project with 145,000 total square feet. The building will have a state-of-the-art warehouse system for storing the records the agency is responsible for stewarding.

Andrea Lowery reported online public access to collections and records is a 21st-century approach to our collections which allows members of the public to access collections where they live without having to travel to Harrisburg. PA-SHARE is Pennsylvania's new online GIS and project management system for working with cultural resources in the Keystone State. Power Library allows users access to Pennsylvania State Archives collections, and PHMC's ARGUS database which provides access to Pennsylvania's online collection of historical objects, archaeological artifacts, and natural history specimens.

21st c. Technology Captures & Stores Digital Records. David Carmicheal is working with the Office of Administration to make sure the commonwealth can collect and maintain digitally borne material. At the moment, the commonwealth does not have the need to ingest and maintain viability of all electronic records that are being created. PHMC is in the process of completing a contract with Libnova, an advanced digital preservation platform, that will enable the archives and State Records Center to manage this activity.

Andrea Lowery reported that revisions to the History Code are important because it modernizes the way that we dispose of properties whether they are moved to community ownership or surplus. Replevin also included in the revisions to the History Code, assists in the recovery of historical government records.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses reported that the Public Comment Policy helps the commission streamline meetings by requiring members of the public to notify the commission when they would like to address the commission during a public meeting. PHMC Commissioner Philip Zimmerman

helped to update the PHMC Collections Policy to make sure items in our care are preserved for future generations. The Diversity Equity Inclusion and Access Policy established guidelines so that every program, our collections, and activities reflect and serve its many constituencies.

Andrea Lowery reported that the State Museum Renovation Study was completed with Ann Beha Architects and Gallagher Associates; this study offers recommendations for improvements to the State Museum that provide amenities and exhibits that meet modern visitor expectations. These changes will not only provide exhibits that are dynamic and compelling but they will tell a more complete history of Pennsylvania.

Staff continues to work with JacobsWyper Architects to determine what the best reuse is for the current archives building. Andrea and staff are looking at new office space for displaced offices from the State Museum and collections storage in the tower, as well as the possibility of public engagement options.

PHMC secured \$45M to complete Phase I of the State Museum and PHMC tower improvements. Andrea Lowery reported that the project includes architectural and physical improvements to the museum, including adding a café, relocating the gift shop, redesigning the ground floor lobby, and including additional restrooms near Memorial Hall. The fifth-floor area will be opened for event facility use with an outdoor terrace area. Included in this project is a large artifact storage area between the state museum and archives buildings on the ground floor. This project is slated to be completed in 2026.

Andrea Lowery thanked Commissioners for their help in raising the profile of this project and for their assistance in bring resources to this important project. Chairwoman Nancy Moses thanked Senator Michele Brooks, Representative Robert Matzie, Representative Park Wentling, and

Senator Tim Kearney for their help and support in getting the State Museum and Archives funds released.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – Chairwoman Nancy Moses called to hear a motion to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2022 meeting. There was no discussion on the minutes.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2022, meeting. MOTION: (Powell/Zimmerman) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the September 7, 2022, meeting was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention

State Historic Records Advisory Board - David Carmicheal thanked commissioners who nominated people to the State Historic Records Advisory Board (SHRAB). The nominated board members are Nick Hartley, Cara Curtis, Rachel Dreyer, Ryah Levy, Kathy Hass, Bruce Laberty, and Bill Whitaker. Reappointments: Adam Bentz, Richard Jenkins, and Jack Ertell 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: (Masich/Chambliss) Motion to approve the State Historical Records Advisory Board Nominations was approved. 11 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 (HARC) Grants. MOTION: (Zimmerman/Powell).

At this time, the following commissioners recused themselves from voting. Robert Savakinus (Lackawanna County Historical Society) and Andrew Masich (Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania).

David Carmicheal reported that these grants target the smallest historical societies and counties in the state for small projects and have done a lot of good over the years. This year, projects include the Nakashima

Foundation for Peace, Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites and the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Historical and Archival Records Care Grants. MOTION: (Masich/Chambliss) Motion to approve the Historical and Archival Records Care Grants as presented was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/2 abstention.

Cultural and Historical Support Grants – Rusty Baker reported that PHMC received 161 applications. All applicants are eligible, and 56 counties in Pennsylvania are represented. Grants are awarded on a formula based on a percentage of the operating budget with a maximum grant of \$40,000 and a minimum grant of \$4,000.

The following commissioners recused themselves from voting: William Lewis (Luzerne County Historical Society), Robert Savakinus (Lackawanna Historical Society), and Andrew Masich (Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania).

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Cultural and Historical Support Grants as presented. MOTION: (Powell/Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Cultural and Historical Support Grants as presented. 8 in favor/0 opposed/3 abstention (Lewis, Savakinus, Masich)

Historic Preservation Board Retirement Resolutions – Andrea MacDonald recognized the following outgoing Historic Preservation Board members for their contributions and assistance in promoting historic preservation throughout Pennsylvania: Christine Ussler, Megan Tooker, Jayashree Shamanna, and Lynne Calamia

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Historic Preservation Board Retirement Resolutions. MOTION: (Chambliss, Savakinus) Motion to approve the resolutions for the outgoing Historic Preservation Board members as presented was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

Historic Preservation Board Members – Andrea MacDonald reported that due to board rotation or members leaving for employment in other states there currently are four vacancies on the Historic Preservation Board. Her office recommended the following candidates for consideration: Martina Bacarella, registered architect and currently the President of the Architectural Heritage Association of Lackawanna County; and Matthew Rader, President of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Historic Preservation Board Member recommendations. MOTION: (Powell, Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Historic Preservation Board Member recommendations was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

Historic Markers Approval – William Lewis reported the Historic Marker committee met to review new nominations to the Historic Marker Program. A total of 91 nominations were received, 36 nominations are recommended for approval and 55 nominations were not approved. The unapproved nominations will be encouraged to reapply with additional documentation or modifications to the nomination.

Representative Parke Wentling asked if the wording under the “Marker Evaluation” column the specific language that is used on the installed marker. William Lewis reported that the language used in the “Marker Evaluation” is for internal use only and to help commissioners understand what the marker is about. The language used on the historical marker is different than what is on the report. Staff will work with the nominator to come up with the verbiage that will go on the historic marker. Representative Wentling cautioned PHMC for utilizing vernacular language on historical markers and that history is and should be a recollection of facts not altered based on current attitudes.

Christie Martone from Senator Michele Brook's office asked if the unapproved nominations would have the opportunity to work on their language and be able to reapply for a historical marker. William Lewis reported that all unapproved markers will be encouraged to reapply with additional documentation and in some cases, staff can assist them in strengthening their application. Christine Martone reported that Senator Michele Brooks would like to abstain from voting on the Historic Marker Recommendations.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Historic Marker Recommendations as presented. MOTION: (Lewis, Powell) Motion to approve the Historic Markers Recommendations was approved. 10 in favor/0 opposed/1 abstention (Brooks).

Retirement Resolutions - Charlie Fox reported that Lonnie Weimer served the PA Historical and Museum Commission for over 18 years as the Building Maintenance Foreman. Throughout his tenure at the State Museum, Mr. Weimer became the expert on the State Museum and Archives complex and its operations.

Melissa Mann reported on the retirement of Nick Siegert who served the PA Historical and Museum Commission for over 15 years as a Custodial Guide Supervisor at the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum, and Ephrata Cloister where he maintained a professional, welcoming, and courteous demeanor with everyone he interacted with. Throughout his tenure at Ephrata Cloister, Mr. Siegert conducted extensive research into the theology of the Ephrata Cloister and relating that knowledge to his guided tours as well as his conference papers and other programs.

Chairwoman Nancy Moses called for a motion to approve the Retirement Resolutions for Lonnie Weimer and Nick Siegert. MOTION: (Zimmerman/Savakinus) Motion to accept the Retirement Resolutions as presented was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention

VI. REPORTS

State Historic Preservation Office – Andrea MacDonald recognized staff in the SHPO office for their dedication and creativity, who are responsible for the bureau’s accomplishments over the past eight years. SHPO highlights include:

- reviewed over 33,000 Federal Projects that had the potential to affect historic properties
- listed over 200 properties in the National Register of Historic Places
- reviewed nearly 2,000 Federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit Projects
- 172 historical markers were dedicated including one in Estonia, marking the birthplace of Philadelphia architect, Louis Kahn
- assisted seven Certified Local Governments through the federal designation process
- awarded nearly 400 Keystone Historic Preservation grants totaling over \$16 million
- added over 40,000 new documented resources to Pennsylvania’s Inventory of Historic Places
- engaged over 130,000 people in SHPO programs

PA-SHARE changed how people do business with the State Historic Preservation Office. It started with the digitization of over 1 million pieces of paper of our records representing our historic properties and architectural sites. It is a very innovative platform, and other states are looking to Pennsylvania for advice on creating similar tools.

In 2015, the Disaster Planning for Historic Properties Initiative was established. PHMC was awarded \$1.5 million of a special congressional appropriation following Hurricane Sandy.

Pennsylvania did not suffer a lot of the devastation that some of our neighboring states did with flooding and high winds. Pennsylvania’s number one hazard is flooding, mostly along our creeks and rivers, and that puts our historic river towns in jeopardy of repetitive flooding. The SHPO office was able to develop tools to integrate historic preservation into hazard mitigation planning.

The SHPO office developed a partnership with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to help our flood-prone communities mitigate future disasters. As part of that effort, staff documented over 3,000 historic properties that are subject to repetitive flooding. The SHPO office held design workshops to model a historic property could be adapted to take on water instead of just being elevated or moved. Because of this effort and SHPO's relationship with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the standard operating procedures were changed to require all counties to have historic preservation considerations in their hazard mitigation plans.

In 2016, the SHPO office celebrated the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. As a result of that celebration, the Community Initiative award was created to recognize groups who redefine what historic preservation means in the 21st century. Sixteen recipients to date have received the Community Initiative award.

In 2016, Pennsylvania's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan #PreservAtionHappensHere commenced, and it reflects the philosophy, hopes, and dreams of forward-thinking ideas that take place in Pennsylvania.

In 2018, Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed, May as Pennsylvania Historic Preservation month.

Historic Sites and Museums – Melissa Mann thanked her staff in the bureau of Historic Sites and Museums for their hard work. She thanked other staff within the PHMC she works with daily such as Architecture and Preservation, and the Collections Management staff.

Melissa reported on the preservation and infrastructure projects that were completed during the Wolf Administration; collections and exhibits highlights as well as the 21st Century Museum Initiatives.

The PA Lumber Museum Capital project was a multi-year capital project that doubled the size of the visitor center and installed a new interpretive exhibit. Capital projects also completed at Old Economy Village - Rapp House; Daniel Boone Homestead - removal of wastewater treatment plant

and connect to the local wastewater authority's system. Graeme Park - completed a major window restoration and roof replacement at the Keith House; Pennsbury Manor – installed geothermal heating in the visitor center and the Manor House; and at Landis Valley – major infrastructure project.

Collections and Exhibits highlights include adding just over 10,000 artifacts to the Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums collections during the Wolf Administration. New acquisitions include the Davidson *Battle of Lake Erie* painting, Civil War artillery carriage, and the 1902 Coal Strike collection.

The 21st Century Museum Initiative allows PHMC's historic sites and museums to be more welcoming and relevant to all Pennsylvanians. IMLS-funded projects include Accessibility Excellence program that focuses on improving accessibility in all areas of museum operations and defining best practices and tools for museums to improve their accessibility, and an IMLS CARES Act Grant that is used for "Pennsylvania History to Go" initiative. PHMC will film, edit, and produce virtual tours of museums on the Pennsylvania Trails of History and create infrastructure to produce live digital programs.

State Archives – David Carmicheal reported that the new archives building will make an impression on visitors and is a game changer that will welcome everyone to do research in the new building. The current archives building was built in the 1960s and was built to convey a monumental impression of government, as the authority and exclusivity of scholarly research. At one time, not everyone was allowed to research unless they had a letter of introduction.

A few Archives highlights 2014 – 2022 include:

2016 – The Archives logged more than 6 million online users

2019 – First Historical and Archival Records Care (HARC) grants awarded

- 2020 – Community History Dialog program launches
- 2021 – The Archives uploads its 20 millionths online image
- 2022 – History Code Bill passed
- 2022 – Contract for Digital Archives and Digital Records Center is finalized
- 2023 – New State Archives Building will be completed
- 2023 – Digital Archives and Digital Records Center implementation will begin

State Museum of Pennsylvania – Charlie Fox reported on State Museum highlights over the past eight years: Art of the State, Learn at Lunchtime, Student Achievement Awards, and Archaeological workshops. Behind-the-scenes work: Collections Management, Zoology and Botany, Archaeology and staff lending their expertise to various agencies around the commonwealth.

Visible events that took place in the State Museum include the Pennsylvania Turnpike exhibit honoring the 75th anniversary of the turnpike; “*We’re Here: Pioneering LGBT Rights in Pennsylvania*”; restoration of the Carboniferous rainforest; *Pennsylvania at War, the Saga of the USS Pennsylvania*; rollout of the Argus Collections Management Software, restoration of Mammal Hall, and *Game Changers: Pennsylvania Women Who Made History*.

In 2019, the State Museum of PA opened a new exhibit on Violet Oakley’s Studies for PA Capitol Murals, commemorating 100th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage; Moon Madness was held in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo landing. The State Museum of PA also received the theater Harrisburg Award for distinguished service to the arts and capital region.

In 2020, *Why Not in Pennsylvania? Campaigning for Women’s Suffrage in the Keystone State, 1910-1920* exhibit opened in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the United States.

Art of the State continued through the pandemic as a virtual exhibit. Staff continues to use innovations from the pandemic to create exhibits online to reach new audiences.

In April 2021, the State Museum reopened to the public on an adjusted schedule and as of December 2022 is at about 85% of pre-pandemic attendance. In 2022, *A Place for All: Three Stories of Integration in Pennsylvania* exhibit opened, interpreting three stories of the Civil Rights Movement in Pennsylvania.

Museum staff are excited about the implementation of the State Museum of PA Master Plan in 2026, and Charlie attributed the accomplishments to previous State Museum Directors: Jack Leighow, David Dunn, and Beth Hager.

Legal Report – Rodney Akers stated that it is his and Gerard Leone's job to support the commission and staff. Rodney highlighted projects he and Gerard assisted PHMC with over the past five years: PA History Code, PA-SHARE, and the digital archives and records project which will allow the preservation of electronic records and archival documents.

Legislative Report – Howard Pollman reported that the Amendments to the Pennsylvania History Code were passed. Key provision of this legislation include:

- adding definitions for “Archival Records”, “the State Archives”, and “State Archivist”
- Modernizing the sale and disposition of property, as well as adding language on abandoned property on loan to PHMC.
- Opening access to older public records after 75 years, unless specifically prohibited by law.
- Extending the maximum term of leases to 25 years, adding the term “residential” to listing of purposes, thus allowing for residential curators, who invest in/restore the property in exchange for living there.

Howard thanked commissioners and legislative commissioners for their continued support.

PA Heritage Foundation – Glenn Holliman, President of the PA Heritage Foundation (PHF) introduced Donna Fisher, Vice President of PHF; and Jim Newman, Board Member of PHF.

Donna Fisher reported that PHF continues to strengthen and restructure the board. PHF is currently made of up 16 members and 2 PHMC Commissioners. PHF currently has 3 vacancies and are looking to have them filled within the next six months.

On October 27, 2022, the board met to continue working on a strategic plan for the foundation. Much progress has been made, and additional meetings will be held after the new year.

Jim Newman reported that it is important for PHF to complete its strategic plan soon and part of that is taking a major step to identify and hire an Executive Director/Development Officer. The Development Officer would spend 75% of their time fundraising and 25% of their time managing the office and leading the foundation according to the strategic plan.

PHF is committed to supporting the needs of the commission. The board met with Andrea and other leaders of the commission earlier this year, where they provided a list of possible projects PHF might be able to assist with. PHF hopes to develop a case statement in advance of hiring an executive director who can then with the help of the PHF board successfully secure funds for several commission projects.

Andrea Lowery reported that PHMC is involved in America250, the 250th anniversary of the United States on the national and statewide levels. Andrea Lowery, Nancy Moses, and Andrew Masich serve on America250PA commission as well as several appointees and other secretary's state agencies. A lot of work to date is focused on the backbone work of listening, promoting the effort, and trying to do some fundraising. Some projects and podcasts focus on talking about the broad Pennsylvania history. PHMC is putting together a new exhibit about the American Revolution at Brandywine Battlefield for 2026. National thinking about the 250th anniversary is that the

commemoration is not about a moment in time but rather the journey we've taken. We are looking for opportunities to explore the big ideas around revolution at our sites and museums.

PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses reported that PHMC is also working with the Department of Education to update the history curriculum and publish a new history book of Pennsylvania history that will be for the public as well as used in colleges and universities.

Andrea Lowery reported that PHMC is looking to reintroduce the Pennsylvania History Conference that would take place in Harrisburg. PHMC is partnering with the Museum of American Revolution and the Heinz History Center in conversations about Native American history.

PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses reported that with Andrew Maisch's support and vision, PHMC is finding ways to reimagine and broaden the information on our historical markers so that tourists can get a much-enhanced story.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

At this time, there was no old business to discuss.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses called on commissioners to comment on their aspirations for PHMC.

Ophelia Chambliss came to the commission with a mild appreciation for history and preservation and over the last seven years she developed a good understanding of what the commission does and what it is responsible for. Ophelia is happy to be involved with everyone at the table and PHMC staff. She is proud of PHMC because it is embracing and recognizing the broader and diverse spectrum of history. Ophelia is excited about what was done at the State Museum; we have recognized, and broadened our reach. She spoke about the importance of art and the role it has played in contributing to the historical record. Art of the State is a big part of

continuing the process of collecting history that cannot be captured on a camera or in a news story, but through someone's vision.

William Lewis remarked that the last three years have been the strangest everyone has lived through and that he is impressed how PHMC not only survived it but thrived during the pandemic. He attributed the success to PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses, Executive Director Andrea Lowery, PHMC Commissioners, and staff. He believes the commission has the greatest opportunity in the generation to help educate and inform people about the history of our commonwealth as we lead into 2026. In 1976, people became focused on the history of our country and state, and hopefully, as we go into the 250th Anniversary of the United States, we can once again have that kind of focus. It is a great point in time to get better as our history evolves and as the focus of our agency is on both history and tourism to help the economy. Bill thanked his colleagues for everything they've done to contribute to PHMC's accomplishments.

Andrew Masich remarked that he has served on the PHMC Commission for nearly 12 years under two administrations. He is most impressed with the institutional cultural shift of PHMC. PHMC is more responsive to its audiences and renewed its dedication to diversity in collections, participation, and interpretation. He attributes this to having the right people in the right place at the right time. PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses' leadership has been inspirational over the last eight years. Andrea Lowery was hired as Executive Director following the retirement of Jim Vaughan who helped begin the shift of a more abundant agency into a dynamic and important force in our community. David Carmicheal was hired to help re-envision what an archives could be by connecting people virtually as well as a state-of-the-art new library and archives facility. The change in staff has been strategic and directed towards the future and our future audiences. He believes PHMC is doing a much better job reaching its audiences and that PHMC should stick to the strategic plan that was developed because it is working. Continue its partnerships with other

historical organizations. PHMC has the right staff and leadership. Under both Republican and Democratic administrations, PHMC received a great deal of support from the legislature. He believes that speaks well, not only to those elected officials but to our mission that we can make a difference.

Fred Powell congratulated and commended Andrea Lowery and her leadership team for their outstanding work in the face of undeniable obstacles. In addition to the things such as budget squeezes, staff shortages, and others, this leadership team has battled the very real covid enemy. Because museums and historic places are “show and tell”, it dilutes their impact to simply “go online” as many organizations have done. Our leadership team has done an outstanding job of working to bring us back to normal. PHMC has the good fortune to soon open a “space age” archive. His aspiration is that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will have this outstanding team around for some time to continue to fulfill aspirations of future PHMC’s.

Fred would like to see the PA Heritage Foundation in cooperation with PHMC build and expand its reach to effectively be engaged with all of our sites. He would also like to see PHMC work to make the State Museum more accessible to all individuals and groups. In this case, the Commission would need to speak to the issue of convenient parking or transportation to the museum.

Robert Savakinus first got involved with the Anthracite Heritage Museum many years ago. The Scranton Iron Furnace associate group as a board member, eventually serving as Board President for several years. He would like to note the importance of thanking all of the sites, volunteers, and associate groups for the money that they raise, and the time and hours they put in to keep the sites relevant. Everyone should spend some time at our sites and attend events that the friends’ groups organize.

As the 250th anniversary of the United States approaches, he remembers the things our country did in 1976 to commemorate its history. There were special coins and unique newspapers created. Companies changed their marketing and created bicentennial logos on seven-up bottles in 1976. He hopes we as a commission and the state can facilitate that somehow and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Bob also thanked Governor Wolf for what he has done for PHMC and for inviting us as an organization to be at the Governor's Residence for receptions and allowing us the accessibility to meet with his staff.

Philip Zimmerman remarked that given his professional interests and experiences, his aspirations emphasize collections. His comments intentionally do not address the many other matters that his colleagues raised. His aspirations are nudges rather than critiques or suggested redirections.

A basic function of a museum, such as the State Museum and the various historic buildings in PHMC, is to collect, maintain, and share collections. We have now extraordinary funding that creates an extraordinary opportunity to reinstall the permanent collection in the State Museum in a way that will provide fertile ground for growth of purpose and value in the public's eye for many years. He hopes that reinstallation will focus on the State Museum's holdings and that installations will revolve around real, tangible things, providing visitors with an experience available in the State Museum (and historic sites) and nowhere else.

Such installation aspirations demand significant time and energy from the professional staff. The more they can devote to this project, the better the outcome will be because staff alone have the requisite familiarity with collections that allows better themes to grow out from them.

As for how themes and other interpretative ventures move forward, that brought Philip to a related topic. He hopes the Commission will significantly increase its engagements and exchanges with other professional staff throughout the state and nationwide. He has little concern for the Commission's ability to develop and work with various public audiences; his concern is to enhance the potential of capturing and developing fresh, accurate, and compelling content that can subsequently drive broader programming.

Philip's last concern addresses a few points of public engagement with collections. In terms of reinstallation designs, they should allow and invite occasional re-presentations and/or re-conceptualizations, re-interpretations, and re-labelings to keep exhibit content fresh and relevant. This kind of activity should be easy to accomplish within gallery designs, as long as it is identified as an objective.

A related aspiration of his is that the collections, especially those not on exhibit and whether at this facility or at one of the historic sites, be accessible, not only visually in an easy-to-use digital format, but collections should be made physically accessible to the public upon reasonable request. Philip has been in the museum world a long time and knows all of the concerns such public accommodations raise, but rather than verbalize reasons why the public cannot access collections, he would like to see PHMC find ways that they can. Collections are massive; they embody many expenses, security, and conservation concerns, and other obligations. If they are not sharable and shared, he questioned why they should be kept.

Senator Tim Kearney a relatively new commissioner, remarked that he has the pleasure of participating in these meetings and being a part of something he has known about his whole career as a practicing architect. When he became a state senator, the biggest, unexpected thing for him was the sheer breadth of issues that had to be dealt with at any one time. He thanked the commission

because PHMC gave him sort of a breath of fresh air in the middle of all the hectic work in the legislature. He appreciates working with the commissioners and believes the leadership of PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses and Executive Director Andrea Lowery is amazing. Senator Kearney concurs with everything commissioners mentioned earlier particularly Ophelia Chambliss and Andrew Masich's comments and is interested in continuing to be a pillar of support in the legislature.

PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses thanked commissioners for their comments. Today's meeting was about the accomplishments PHMC staff and commissioners achieved over the last eight years. It is an honor for her as chairwoman to serve Pennsylvania history and has enjoyed working with commissioners and staff.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

PHMC Chairwoman Nancy Moses adjourned the meeting at 12:03 pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

2022127_1 MOTION: (Powell/Zimmerman) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the September 7, 2022, meeting was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention

2022127_2 MOTION: (Masich/Chambliss) Motion to approve the State Historical Records Advisory Board Nominations was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention

2022127_3 MOTION: (Masich/Chambliss) Motion to approve the Historical and Archival Records Care Grants as presented was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/2 abstention.

2022127_4 MOTION: (Powell/Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Cultural and Historical Support Grants as presented. 8 in favor/0 opposed/3 abstention (Lewis, Savakinus, Masich)

2022127_5 MOTION: (Chambliss, Savakinus) Motion to approve the resolutions for the outgoing Historic Preservation Board members as presented was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

2022127_6 MOTION: (Powell, Zimmerman) Motion to approve the Historic Preservation Board Member recommendations was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

2022127_7 MOTION: (Lewis, Powell) Motion to approve the Historic Markers Recommendations was approved. 9 in favor/0 opposed/2 abstention (Wentling, Brooks).

2022127_8 MOTION: (Zimmerman/Savakinus) Motion to accept the Retirement Resolutions as presented was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention