

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
MINUTES**

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission met on September 13, 2023, in person and via ZOOM. The following Commissioners were present: Hayley Haldeman – Chairwoman, William Lewis – Vice Chair, Robert Malley, Andrew Masich, Jacob Bausher representing Representative Parke Wentling, Ken Weinstein, Randall Spackman, Caleb Pifer, Representative Robert Matzie, Allison Dorsey and Senator Tim Kearney. Adam Gingrich represented Senator Michele Brooks.

The following staff were present: Andrea Lowery, Melissa Mann, Andrea MacDonald, David Bohanick, David Carmicheal, Angelica Docog, Howard Pollman. Amber Sizemore served as legal counsel.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Chairwoman Hayley Haldeman called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and asked commissioners and staff to introduce themselves. Andrea Lowery introduced Catherine Lantzy; she will serve as PHMC’s new chief counsel starting in October 2023.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairwoman Hayley Haldeman asked commissioners if there were any changes, or comments to the June 7, 2023, PHMC Commission meeting minutes.

MOTION: (Lewis/Spackman) Motion to accept the minutes from the June 7, 2023, PHMC meeting as presented was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

II. CHAIRWOMAN’S REMARKS

Chairwoman Hayley Haldeman thanked Andrea Lowery for updating her on PHMC and is looking forward to getting to know everyone and learning more about the commission. She announced that William Lewis will serve as PHMC Vice Chair.

III. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Resolutions for Outgoing PHMC Commissioners** – Andrea Lowery introduced resolutions acknowledging the service of the following Outgoing PHMC Commissioners: Chairwoman Nancy Moses, Vice Chair Fredrick Powell, Ophelia Chambliss, Robert Savakinus, and Philip Zimmerman.

Chairwoman Hayley Haldeman called for a motion to approve the resolutions for Outgoing PHMC Commissioners. MOTION: (Masich/Weinstein) Motion to approve the resolutions for Chairwoman Nancy Moses, Vice Chair Fredrick Powell, Ophelia Chambliss, Robert Savakinus, and Philip Zimmerman were approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

2. **Grants Policy** – David Bohanick reported on the proposed revisions to the PHMC Grants Policy. The policy was reviewed with legal counsel in advance of the meeting. Proposed Revisions include:

1. Reorder “definitions” so they are in alphabetical order (p. 3)
2. Add a definition of “grants” that expressly includes sub-grantees to clarify that the policy applies to entities that act as, or are referred to as, “sub-grantees” of PHMC (ex: entities that sub-contract with a PHMC grantee, or that receive funding for which PHMC acts as a “pass-through”) (p. 4)
3. Add a definition of “Monitoring and Evaluation Reviews” to clarify the type of compliance matters that PHMC focuses on in that process (p.4)
4. Replace or supplement the term “audit” throughout with “monitor and evaluate” to distinguish PHMC’s oversight role regarding grants from an “audit” that is based on generally accepted accounting or auditing principles and standards
 - a. p. 3
 - b. Sections II.B, II.C, and II.D (p. 4)
5. Add to Section II. A new subsection 6 ("Any other discretionary grant program PHMC may implement") to clarify that the policy applies broadly and is not limited to the grant programs enumerated in Section II.A (p. 5)

6. Add to Section II.B “or period of performance end date, whichever is later” to ensure that PHMC’s ability to monitor and evaluate an applicant or grantee continues throughout, and for a reasonable time after, grants of a longer duration or where grant funds are disbursed up front.
7. For Section II.E
 - a. Add “CHSG and HARC” in the first sentence to clarify that the principal place of operation requirement applies only to those programs.
 - b. Add “Regardless of location,” to the second sentence to clarify that the requirement that non-governmental entities have tax-exempt status applies to all grant programs.
 - c. Strike “(501(c)(3))” and “and be incorporated in Pennsylvania” from the second sentence to clarify that tax-exempt entities incorporated outside of Pennsylvania are eligible for PHMC grant programs other than CHSG and HARC.
 - d. Add “or the equivalent within their state” to the third sentence to reflect that eligible entities incorporated in other states must be registered with their state’s equivalent of the Pennsylvania Department of State’s Bureau of Charitable Organizations.
 - e.
8. Add to Section II.G a new subsection 5 stating “A grant may be rescinded if a grantee fails to sign and return to PHMC its grant agreement within ninety (90) days of it being presented to the grantee for signature” to ensure that PHMC may redirect relevant funds when a grantee does not timely fulfill its obligation to execute a grant agreement.
9. Replace “Audit Consequences” with “Penalties” in the section title of Section II.H to clarify that PHMC may recover funds or bar future grant participation for circumstances including but not limited to negative findings from monitoring and evaluation review (previously referred to as an “audit”)
10. Make miscellaneous clerical and technical edits for clarity, grammar, and style as recommended by the staff.

Chairwoman Hayley Haldeman called for a motion to approve the Grant Policy Revisions as presented. MOTION: (Pifer/Weinstein) Motion to approve the Grant Policy Revision as presented was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

IV. REPORTS

Executive Director’s Report – Andrea Lowery reported that Governor Shapiro signed the budget in July 2023. PHMC’s allocation for FY 2023-24 is \$22.417 million, and PHMC received \$2 million in funding for Cultural and Historical Support Grants. David Bohanick and his staff are currently developing a cost-to-carry budget for the next fiscal year.

The Department of General Services (DGS) is currently in negotiations to select an architect and engineering firm for The State Museum and Archives Tower renovation project.

Andrea reported on PHMC's Professional Development/Speaker Series for PHMC staff. On June 14, 2023, PHMC hosted Thomas Sugrue, author and historian from New York University who discussed Civil Rights in Pennsylvania. On September 19th, Ben Marsh, Professor Emeritus at Bucknell University will kick off the series with the geography of Pennsylvania. On November 14th, Patrick Spero, Executive Director of the George Washington Presidential Library will discuss colonization and the westward expansion of Pennsylvania. Recordings of the speaker series will be available on PHMC's YouTube channel.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania staff helped design a display at both the Governor's Residence and the State Museum of PA in recognition of the 300th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's arrival in Pennsylvania.

State Historic Preservation Office – Andrea MacDonald thanked commissioners who signed up to attend PHMC Historic Marker dedications. The State Historic Preservation Office report highlights the different programs and activities within her office. To learn more about the programs a URL link is provided in the report.

Andrea shared the Executive Summary of the Pennsylvania Statewide Historic Preservation Plan with commissioners. The current plan is set to expire in December of 2023. The development of the plan is a condition of receiving federal funding from the National Park Service. The National Park Service granted an extension for her office to complete a new plan which will include broad public outreach to ensure the plan accurately reflects current preservation trends, challenges, and opportunities. A public survey will be available on SHPO's blog in the next few weeks. Once the plan is drafted, Andrea will present the plan for commission review and approval.

Historic Sites and Museums – Melissa Mann report is organized based on the bureau’s core functions: Connection, Stewardship, Community Service, and Best Practice.

She reviewed Year-End Visitation Data and reported that throughout FY 22/23, visitation to historic sites and museums continued to rebound toward pre-pandemic levels, and annual paid general admission reached 97%. FY 22/23 school tour numbers increased 51.2% over last year’s total and paid event admissions for FY 22/23 increased 204%.

Ephrata Cloister was awarded \$488,816 from the National Park Service for preservation work at the site. These funds will be used to restore the exteriors of six 18th-century buildings and to update the historic site’s National Historic Landmark documentation.

Historic sites and museums serve as critical partners in the development of strong communities, informing community identity through shared history, providing space for community activities and passive recreation, and contributing significantly to the development of local and regional economies via the promotion of heritage tourism. On July 20, 2023, Pennsbury Manor hosted a naturalization ceremony where 43 people from 26 different counties swore their oath of allegiance to the United States of America.

Ephrata Cloister was awarded subsequent accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. This is the site’s fourth time receiving this recognition, an honor held by only 20 other museums.

State Archives – David Carmicheal reported that the collection move into the new building is 86% complete. The remaining collections waiting to be moved include oversized materials and 37,000 boxes of glass lantern slides. He hopes the move will be completed by mid-October.

The PA State Archives began working with Libnova to implement a Digital Archives as well as a Digital Records Center. Once implemented, the Digital Records Center will be the first of its kind in the United States.

Andrea Lowery reported that a feasibility study was conducted to determine the best reuse ideas for the archives space. The archives offices will be converted to office space to accommodate the 5th-floor State Museum staff due to the State Museum renovation project, and the tower will be repurposed for collections storage.

State Museum of PA – Angelica Docog reported over the summer, museum educators presented family gallery tours, PA State Symbols Series, and other programs on Pennsylvania History, natural science, and art topics for families and visitors to enjoy. State Museum staff continue to monitor trends in attendance and adjusting programming to best fit the needs of our diverse audiences and are looking at ways to promote the museum during the renovation. State Museum staff are also planning on the upcoming AAM reaccreditation.

Art of the State, a juried exhibition opened on September 10, 2023, and highlights 86 artists from 29 counties across the Commonwealth. Bannered Heroes: Celebrating Pennsylvania’s African American Veterans will open on September 21, 2023. This exhibit highlights individuals with Pennsylvania ties and is intended as a tribute to all of the Commonwealth’s African American veterans. This display is presented by Beta Pi Boulé.

To help mark the anniversary of Benjamin Franklin in Pennsylvania, a display was designed to showcase artifacts inspired by Franklin’s many innovations. On display through April 2024.

Angelica announced Paul Nasca accepted the position of Senior Curator of Archaeology. Paul will be responsible for moving the collections forward with digitization, exhibit updates, revising curation standards, and promoting and developing research.

In partnership with the Governor’s Office of Digital Strategy and PHMC’s Digital Director, The State Museum of PA launched a new website. The new website provides visitors with a clean and easily navigable way to learn about the museum.

Legislative Report – Howard Pollman reported on Senate Bill 829, an act authorizing DGS, with approval of PHMC and the Governor to grant and convey certain easements through and across lands in the Township of Manheim, county of Lancaster, for purposes of a road realignment project near Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum. Senate Bill 829 was signed by the Senate and now waiting on signatures from the House and Governor.

House Bill 724, amends the Tax Reform Code, providing for historic homeownership preservation incentive tax credit; imposing duties on DCED and HMC, and establishing the Historic Homeowner Preservation Tax Credit Administration Fund. State Historic Preservation staff met with the bill's sponsors and suggested edits be included in the amendments to the bill prior to being voted on.

Upcoming land conveyance bills include Peace Church in Cumberland County and Curtain Village in Centre County.

Legal – Amber Sizemore reported that she will no longer serve as counsel to PHMC. Catherine Lantzy will serve as PHMC's Chief Counsel. Catherine is from the Department of Labor and Industry and is knowledgeable in grants, contracts, counseling commissions, and boards. Andrea Lowery thanked Amber for her work with PHMC.

PA Heritage Foundation – William Lewis – Vice Chair reported there has been tremendous turnover with the PHF board and staff. Donna Fisher now serves as President, Sam Sweet, Executive Director, and Connie Zimmerman as Administrative Assistant. He believes PHF is now able to help support PHMC in its fundraising efforts. Fredrick Powell was nominated to serve as Emeritus Director.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Andrew Masich commented that 2026 will mark the United States' 250th anniversary. America250PA was established to coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the

United States, Pennsylvania's role, and its impact on its people. He would like PHMC as the official history agency of Pennsylvania to determine its role in the 250th anniversary moving forward.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Representative Robert Matzie asked for consideration when scheduling dates and times for future PHMC Commission meetings. If commission meetings fall on a session day, sometimes it is a challenge to attend in person or virtually. Dates for meetings will be reconsidered accordingly.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Hayley Haldeman adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

20230913_1 MOTION: (Lewis/Spackman) Motion to accept the minutes from the June 7, 2023, PHMC meeting as presented was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

20230913_2 MOTION: (Masich/Weinstein) Motion to approve the resolutions for Chairwoman Nancy Moses, Vice Chair Fredrick Powell, Ophelia Chambliss, Robert Savakinus, and Philip Zimmerman were approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.

20230913_3 MOTION: (Pifer/Weinstein) Motion to approve the Grant Policy Revision as presented was approved. 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention.