

Michigan Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2016

Michigan Historical Center

702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI

Board Room

Commissioners in attendance: Joe Calvaruso (by phone), Joan Capuano (by phone), Timothy Chester, Jack Dempsey, Brian James Egen (by phone), Kimberly Johnson, Susan Safford (by phone), Thomas Truscott, and Larry Wagenaar.

Staff: Sandra Clark, Michelle Davis

Others: Mark Hoffman, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Chief Administrative Officer (by phone)

President Dempsey called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Approval of Agenda: Johnson moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Truscott, and was unanimously adopted.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Safford moved to approve the April 7, 2016, meeting minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by Johnson, and was unanimously adopted.

Resolution for Richard Micka and Introduction of new Commissioner Timothy J. Chester:

- Calvaruso moved to approve the resolution for Richard Micka as presented. The motion was seconded by Wagenaar, and was unanimously approved.
- Dempsey welcomed Timothy Chester to the Commission.

Legislative Update:

- **Marker Act Amendments Process**
 - ◆ Prior to the meeting Clark sent out the Marker Committee's final draft of the marker act amendment. Calvaruso thanked everyone for their time and effort spent working through this process. The Commission in turn thanked Calvaruso for leading them through the process. After discussion, Calvaruso made a motion to move forward with the Marker Act document as discussed and revised with the proviso that if anyone has any further comments they should be provided to Sandra Clark with a copy to Calvaruso and Dempsey by July 15, 2016. The motion was seconded by Wagenaar, and passed with Truscott abstaining.

Nomination and Election of Officers:

- Prior to the meeting the Committees and Workgroups list was distributed. Wagenaar agreed to serve on the Milliken/Adams/Kelley Award Committee, filling the vacancy left by former Commissioner Micka. Capuano agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee, filling the vacancy left by former Commissioner Micka.
- Nominating Committee - Johnson reported that no one had proffered their name for role of president or vice president. Truscott moved to support the nominating committee's recommendation to re-elect Dempsey as president and Capuano as vice president for the

coming year. The motion was seconded by Safford and was opened for discussion. A question was posed on whether or not any Commissioners were contacted about putting forth their name for nomination. Truscott requested to withdraw his motion and Safford supported. After discussion, Truscott moved to support the nominating committee's recommendation to re-elect Dempsey as president and Capuano as vice president. The motion was seconded by Wagenaar and was approved with Capuano and Dempsey abstaining.

Marker Program:

- **Approval of Marker Applications** – Rebecca Schmitt provided written background on five new marker applications. (Appendix A)

Wagenaar moved to accept the following five applications as recommended; the motion was seconded by Truscott, and they were unanimously approved:

- ◆ **Covington Township Hall, Covington, Baraga County**
- ◆ **Old Shaftsbury School/Woodhull Township Hall, Shaftsbury, Shiawassee County**
- ◆ **J.J. Deal & Son Carriage Factory/Kiddie Brush and Toy Company, Jonesville, Hillsdale County**
- ◆ **Gaines Station Depot/Village of Gaines, Gaines, Genesee County**
- ◆ **Nowlin Cemetery, Dearborn Heights, Wayne County**

- **Approval of Marker Texts:**

Six new marker texts were presented to the Commission for review and approval:

- ◆ **Alma College/Old Main Fire, Alma, Gratiot County**
- ◆ **Bellevue Gothic Mill, Bellevue, Eaton County**
- ◆ **David Whitney Building, Detroit, Wayne County**
- ◆ **Francis Metallic Surfboat, Douglas, Allegan County**
- ◆ **Saugatuck Pump House, Saugatuck, Allegan County**
- ◆ **Scandinavian Lutheran Society/Norwalk Lutheran Church, Manistee, Manistee County**

Johnson moved to approve the Alma College/Old Main Fire marker text; the motion was seconded by Wagenaar, and the text was unanimously approved. Truscott moved to ratify the e-mail approval of the Bellevue Gothic Mill marker text; the motion was seconded by Wagenaar, and the text was unanimously approved. Safford moved to approve the David Whitney Building marker text; the motion was seconded by Capuano, and the text was unanimously approved. Safford moved to approve the Francis Metallic Surfboat marker text; the motion was seconded by Calvaruso, and the text was unanimously approved. Wagenaar moved to approve the Saugatuck Pump House marker text; the motion was seconded by Chester, and the text was unanimously approved. Calvaruso moved to ratify the e-mail approval of the Scandinavian Lutheran Society/Norwalk Lutheran Church marker text; the motion was seconded by Safford, and the text was unanimously approved.

- **Requests to move/replace markers;**
 - ◆ Request to move Union Pump Company marker – Battle Creek, Calhoun County, L1225C. The Commission received a plan showing how the marker will be displayed at the new location. It included a label with a picture of the marker at its original location. The Commission gave the sponsor approval to move the marker.
- **Conservation Heritage Marker Trail Report, Database Project, Marker Fund and Status Reports**
 - ◆ The marker database project continues to move forward with inputting, reviewing and updating the information in the database. Johnson asked if it is timely for Commissioners to begin adding marker information when they attend a dedication. Clark responded that instructions need to be finalized.
 - ◆ The Marker Fund and Marker Status reports were distributed prior to the meeting. The Saline Salt Springs marker is moving forward and Rebecca should have a final draft text done soon. The United Sounds Systems Recording Studios marker sponsor has been informed that the marker will not be completed by the requested date. Further primary source documentation is needed before Rebecca can proceed with the text.

Historic District Study Reports

- Detroit City Airport/Coleman A. Young International Airport Local Historic District, Detroit
- B’Nai David Cemetery Local Historic District, Detroit
- St. Clair Inn Local Historic District, St. Clair
- Elimination of David Simmons House Local Historic District, Farmington Hills

Safford moved to accept the Historic District Study Committee Reports. The motion was seconded by Calvaruso and was unanimously approved.

Commission Projects

- **Milliken/Adams/Kelley (MAK) Award**
 - ◆ Capuano noted that the MAK Award invitations were sent out for the ceremony taking place on July 9, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., State Capitol, east steps. This coincides with the 150th Anniversary of the First Return of the Battle Flags and the 25th Anniversary of the Save the Flags program.
 - ◆ It was agreed that Commissioners should review the MAK nomination packet and discuss it at the next Commission meeting.
 - ◆ Clark agreed to check on the request for a Governor’s Resolution for the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission that was discussed at the previous meeting.
- **Civil War Sesquicentennial** - The official end date of the Civil War Sesquicentennial celebration as previously approved by the Commission is July 9, 2016. In order to include all events/activities that continue to take place during 2016 in the Civil War Sesquicentennial report that Egen is preparing, he requested an extension to the due date. The Commission agreed to extend the due date to the date of the first Commission meeting to be held in 2017. The RFP is in draft format for the Michigan Monument at

Antietam and will be emailed to Commissioners. Any comments should be sent to Egen by September 17, 2016.

- **Grant House Relocation** – Clark distributed an update prior to the meeting.

Response to Director’s Request for Input on FY18 Budget: Hoffman stated that Director Creagh is expected to resume his role as DNR Director in July or August 2016. Hoffman recapped the timeline and process for budget recommendations for FY18. The Governor will make his final recommendations for the FY18 budget in February 2017. DNR Chiefs are responsible for developing Proposals for Change (PFC), the government term used to reflect any requested budget changes that are different from economy-based increases. The draft PFC concepts will be presented to the DNR Directors, who decide what will be presented to the Governor. Approximately 90% of the DNR’s budget is restricted funds that can only be spent on specific programs, such as parks, fishing, forests, wild life or recreation. The General Fund budget, some of which supports history programs, is relatively small. Any requests for support of new projects or ideas must focus on ways that history and cultural resources align with the DNR and the Governor’s priorities.

Johnson asked about the two-year budgeting process. Hoffman stated it has never been implemented. She also asked about “lame duck” budgets. Hoffman noted the FY18 will be the final full fiscal year of the Snyder administration. Lame Duck action is more likely to affect policy legislation than budget legislation. Johnson asked how budget projects that appear to take more than one fiscal year to be completed are handled. Hoffman stated that multi-year projects normally are noted as “ongoing” for budget purposes. He noted that priorities for the Governor’s office have not necessarily changed; however, infrastructure has moved up the list. The DNR has large infrastructure needs especially within State Parks. There are also significant infrastructure needs within the MHC system. Current DNR conversations include infrastructure that results in tourism and support for public health and safety. Johnson stated that the Commission needs to focus on investing in current assets, getting them up to where they need to be, and then leveraging them.

Saying the marker program is in an immediate state of crisis, Johnson asked how that fit into the Governor’s priorities. Hoffman responded that it is important to develop the understanding among citizens that a trail does not necessarily mean connecting geographic points; it can also mean connecting a story.

Hoffman also believes it is important to focus on ways the government can be more efficient. Preservica plays an important role in preserving state government documents. Hoffman noted that as the Commission moves forward, it is essential to align ideas with DNR themes, all while staying aligned with the Governor’s priorities. He urged trying to find ways to connect with trails, tourism and infrastructure needs. He also said public health and safety issues are priorities that are constantly pushed to the top.

Johnson asked if there is a way that passport funds could be used to make the 80 or so markers in state parks and recreation areas more accessible. Hoffman responded that this sort of thing is more of an internal balancing act and not necessarily a proposal for change to present to the budget office.

Truscott noted past successes, such as the MHC collaboration with West Michigan beach towns to bring tourism and history to the coastline in West Michigan. It was a successful program that could be followed in other areas.

Safford asked what percentage of funds in the DNR budget are restricted. Hoffman said approximately 90% of both federal and state; MHC is almost 100% general fund.

Dempsey asked about ways the Commission should move forward to align with the department. Hoffman responded that the Commission needs to discuss the following: ways they connect with the DNR; what they feel passionate about; and what role do they see history playing in Michigan's future. The ideas need to align with MHC's mission and DNR's priorities.

Clark asked if any state during the past decade has done something significant on a state-wide basis related to history. Chester mentioned that Florida has increased its funding in the state budget for investing in infrastructure, research and access, and marketing. The increase has been focused on the outcome of increased tourism. When visiting Florida, you will see history material on mobile devices and in welcome centers all throughout the state. Maine is another state supporting history. Collectively Michigan needs to do a better job marketing what it has to offer as a state, guiding people to these resources and then making them accessible. As a State, the focus should be on finding ways to leverage resources in the private sector, with natural resources and state historic sites, in order for the visitor to have access, enjoyment and a quality level of experience.

Safford asked if there is any current collaboration taking place among multiple state departments that relates to the overall infrastructure that is needed for historical tourism. Hoffman stated that Travel Michigan, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Transportation all understand and have interest in the states cultural resources and collaborate with DNR on many things. Hoffman noted more help is needed locally and regionally.

Old Business:

- **Director's Report** – The Director's Report was distributed prior to the meeting. Clark shared a *Lansing State Journal* article about the Sanilac Petroglyphs. Güd Marketing has launched the summer campaign for MHC, which includes radio ads and billboards. Linda Endersby, Museum Director, will be leaving MHC to return to Missouri. The search for a new museum director will begin very soon. The Heritage Trail coordinator is working with several land and one water trail. Clark offered an explanation on the new Memorandum of Understanding with state parks. The day-to-day management of interpretative staff in state parks is handled by the Parks and Recreation Division; MHC develops the interpretive plans, signs and exhibits and trains the interpretive staff.
- **Meeting Locations** – The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2016, and will be held in Plymouth at the Plymouth District Library. Dates and locations for 2017 Commission meetings need to be scheduled. Commissioners should notify Michelle Davis of any dates in 2017 that may cause conflicts.

New Business: There was no new business discussed.

Public Comment: No public comment.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2016, in Plymouth.

Truscott moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Johnson, and the meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra S. Clark". The signature is written in black ink on a white background. The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Sandra S. Clark, Executive Secretary