

# Michigan Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2016

Michigan Historical Center

702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI

Commission Room

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

**Excused Absence:** Brian James Egen, Richard Micka

**Staff:** Sandra Clark, Michelle Davis, Rebecca Schmitt

**Others:** Dr. William Moritz, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Director; Trevor VanDyke, DNR, Director of Legislative and Legal Affairs; David Forstat, DNR, Forest Resources Division (FRD), GIS Section Manager and Chief Data Manager; Peter Gamburg, DNR, FRD, Resource Analyst; Jeff Schmidt, DNR, FRD, Resource Analyst; Jim Brennan (public).

DNR Director Moritz was introduced to the Commissioners and met with them informally prior to the meeting being called to order.

President Dempsey called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** Capuano made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Johnson, and was unanimously approved.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Wagenaar made a motion to approve the October 14, 2015, October 29, 2015, and November 9, 2015, meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Capuano, and was unanimously approved.

## Legislative Update:

- **Senate Bill No. 521(SB 521), Senate Bill No. 522(SB 522), Senate Bill No. (SB 523)**
  - ◆ VanDyke updated the Commission on two legislative committee hearings that took place on Wednesday, January 20, 2016. The House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee took up SB 523 for testimony only. The Senate Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Committee took up SB 521 and SB 522 and adopted the substitute that was circulated. Both SB 521 and SB 522 were voted out of Committee and will go before the full Senate for consideration. VanDyke mentioned that Commissioners may want to contact any legislator they may know to emphasize their support of SB 521 and SB 522. The Commission thanked VanDyke for his efforts.
  
- **Marker Act Amendments Process**
  - ◆ Dempsey had previously circulated a working document on the Michigan Historical Marker Act. VanDyke would like to see something introduced for this bill during 2016. The Commission agreed to review the working document and submit responses to Clark by February 5, 2016. Clark, VanDyke, and Mark

Hoffman will assess the proposed changes and respond by February 19, 2016. A Commission Michigan Historical Marker Act working group will then begin working on the details for submission to a bill sponsor. The working group will also review the portion of the State Historic Preservation Act that directs the Commission to review local district study reports.

### **Marker Program:**

#### ➤ **Database and Mobile Accessibility Updates**

Dave Forstat, Peter Gamburg and Jeff Schmidt gave an update on the Michigan Historical Marker database. Prior to the meeting a Historical Marker Database Timeline/Tracking document was distributed to the Commission. The team presented information on the three main components that make up the marker database. The back-end of the database is the tool provided to staff to manage all aspects of the marker data. The collector tool will allow authorized individual's limited access to the database in order to update specific fields. Staff will provide individuals with documentation and training on requirements for using the collector tool. The front-end of the database is what is visible to the public and is being designed with both map and list users in mind. It uses responsive design that works on desk tops, tablets and phones. Commissioners expressed the importance of having marker "tags" in place and having all new markers entered into the database prior to releasing it to the public. They agreed on a soft release prior to the official launch of the program.

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

Safford made a motion to approve the following six applications as recommended; the motion was seconded by Capuano, and they were unanimously approved:

- ◆ **Eastern Liggett School/Detroit Waldorf School, Detroit, Wayne County**
- ◆ **Bellevue Gothic Mill, Bellevue, Eaton County**
- ◆ **Wayside Memorial Park, Litchfield, Hillsdale County**
- ◆ **Saugatuck Pump House, Saugatuck, Allegan County**
- ◆ **Francis Metallic Surfboat, Douglas, Allegan County**
- ◆ **Friendship Baptist Church, Detroit, Wayne County**

The following marker applications were brought to the Commission with questions to consider prior to approval:

- ◆ **Norwalk Lutheran Church & Cemetery/Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church Society of Brown Town, Manistee, Manistee County**

The Commission concluded that although the building has been greatly altered since it was originally built, making it ineligible for listing as a building, the history of the congregation merits an informational marker. Wagenaar made a motion to approve the marker application; the motion was seconded by Calvaruso, and was unanimously approved.

◆ **Saline Salt Springs, Saline, Washtenaw County**

The Commission concluded that although some of the sponsor's statements lack credible sources, enough primary source documentation is available for a one-post marker. Capuano made a motion to approve the marker application; the motion was seconded by Calvaruso, and was unanimously approved.

Johnson presented a provisional marker application on United Sound Systems Recording Studios with a proposed dedication date of August 22, 2016. All of the funds have been raised and they expect to have the completed application submitted by February 22, 2016. They would like to have the text presented at the April 7, 2016, Commission meeting and have the marker ordered by April 15, 2016. Truscott made a motion to approve this provisional marker application of United Sounds Systems Recording Studios contingent on appropriate documentation and adherence to the proposed timeline; the motion was seconded by Safford, and was unanimously approved.

➤ **Approval of Marker Texts:**

Schmitt presented five new marker texts for Commission review and approval:

- ◆ **St. John's Lutheran Church and Schools, Fraser, Macomb County**
- ◆ **Yates Cider Mill, Rochester Hills, Oakland County**
- ◆ **Peter E. Richmond/Peter and Anna Richmond House, Mount Pleasant, Isabella County**
- ◆ **Douglass Houghton, Eagle River, Keweenaw County**
- ◆ **Dougherty Mission House/Rushmore House and Inn, Old Mission, Grand Traverse County**

Johnson made a motion to approve the St. John's Lutheran Church marker text with minor modifications; the motion was seconded by Wagenaar, and the text was unanimously approved. Wagenaar made a motion to approve the Yates Cider Mill marker text with minor modifications; the motion was seconded by Truscott, and the text was unanimously approved. Capuano made a motion to approve the Peter E. Richmond marker text with minor modifications; the motion was seconded by Truscott, and the text was unanimously approved. Wagenaar made a motion to approve the Douglass Houghton marker text with minor modifications; the motion was seconded by Safford, and the text was unanimously approved. Wagenaar made a motion to approve the Dougherty Mission House marker text; the motion was seconded by Johnson, and the text was unanimously approved.

➤ **Requests to move/replace markers;**

- ◆ Request to replace the Alma College marker - Alma, Gratiot County, S181: Wagenaar made a motion to approve replacing the marker text, with encouragement to do a two-sided marker with different text on each side and a preference for a large marker; the motion was seconded by Capuano, and was unanimously approved.
- ◆ Request to move Indian Landing-Charlton Park marker – Hastings Township, Barry County, L215: Historic Charlton Park: Village, Museum and Recreation Area proposed to move the marker approximately 200 yards to make it more visible to visitors and closer to its associated historic site. Johnson made a motion

to approve relocating the marker to the proposed location; the motion was seconded by Safford, and was unanimously approved.

- **Conservation Heritage Marker Trail Report** - The Conservation Heritage Marker Trail Report and a list of Existing Conservation Heritage Markers were distributed prior to the meeting. Calvaruso made a motion to move forward as outlined in the report with four additional markers: Charles A. Garfield and the creation of the state forest system, Edith C. Munger protecting Michigan wildlife in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Edmund K. Warren state parks and the protection of sand, and the Michigan Fish Commission and State Game Wardens. The motion was seconded by Truscott, and after further discussion, was unanimously passed. Clark said the DNR would cover the cost of installation of the markers in State Parks.
- **Marker Fund and Status Reports**
  - ◆ The Marker Fund and Marker Status reports were distributed prior to the meeting. Johnson noted the net marker revenue for 2015 was \$14,315. The Commission approved 24 marker applications in 2015 - which exceeded the goal of 20; and there were 23 marker dedications.
  - ◆ Commissioners should notify Mary Patrick as to which future marker dedications they are willing to attend.

### Commission Projects

- **Milliken/Adams/Kelley (MAK) Award**
  - ◆ DNR is issuing a press release today announcing the MAK Award.
  - ◆ March 1, 2016, is the deadline for the applications.
  - ◆ Kerry Chartkoff will be awarded the MAK Award on July 9, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., State Capitol east steps. This coincides with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Return of the Battle Flags and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Save the Flags program.
  - ◆ Wagenaar made a motion to adopt the resolution presented by Dempsey honoring the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission; the motion was seconded by Truscott, and was unanimously approved.
  - ◆ Capuano will present plans for the MAK Award display at the next meeting.
- **Grant House Relocation** – The lawyer representing the Detroit Edison Public School Academy (DEPSA) has been in contact with Clark to discuss the formal agreement between DEPSA and DNR.
- **Civil War Sesquicentennial**
  - ◆ The January 2016 & Sesquicentennial Conclusion Update report from Brian Egen was distributed prior to the meeting.
  - ◆ Truscott made a motion to make July 9, 2016, the formal end date for the Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and its Michigan's Civil War Sesquicentennial efforts, and the end date for active use of the logo. The motion was seconded by Capuano, and was unanimously approved.

### Old Business:

- **Director's Report** – The Director's Report was distributed prior to the meeting. Clark also included the Michigan Historical Center's Strategic Agenda Evergreen Goals 2016 to give the Commission an idea of what was accomplished by the Center in 2015 and is planned for 2016. In the coming year, the Center will create smaller special exhibits that

change more frequently. She requested Commission ideas on artifacts that would be effective in drawing public attention.

- **2015 Annual Report** – The DNR changed the collection date of these documents to December 15 of each year. The 2015 Annual Report was completed and submitted to the Governor’s office.
- **Historic District Study Reports** – Capuano moved to accept the 38 Historic District Study Committee Reports submitted by the State Historic Preservation Office(SHPO). The motion was seconded by Johnson, and was unanimously passed.

**New Business:**

- **American Association for State and Local History Annual Meeting** – The meeting will be held in Detroit, Michigan, September 14-17, 2016 – Clark and Wagenaar are on the Planning Committee for this meeting. Many volunteers will be needed.
- **National Park Service “Every Kid in a Park” program at Fort Wayne** – Johnson shared information on this program.
- Clark noted that the SHPO will move to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority building by October 1, 2016. The Center will occupy the vacated space.

**Public Comment:** Jim Brennan noted the need to keep the Commission website updated to ensure availability of current meeting agendas and minutes. He also commented on the new Marker Database.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2016, at the Michigan Historical Center, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room.

Wagenaar made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Johnson, and the meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.



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Sandra S. Clark, Executive Secretary