

# Michigan Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2018

Michigan History Center

702 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing

Board Room

**Commissioners in attendance:** Laura Ashlee, Joe Calvaruso (by phone), Timothy Chester, Jack Dempsey, Brian James Egen, Eric Hemenway (by phone), Thomas Truscott, and Larry Wagenaar

**Excused Absence:** Susan Safford

**Staff:** Keith Creagh, Mark Hoffman, Sandra Clark, and Michelle Davis

President Calvaruso called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

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

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Ashlee moved to approve the February 22, 2018, meeting minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by Truscott, and was unanimously adopted.

## Marker Program:

- **Approval of Marker Applications** – Written background information was provided on two new marker applications. (Appendix A)
  - ◆ **Alfred Day Hershey, Owosso, Shiawassee County**
  - ◆ **Tau Beta Community House, Hamtramck, Wayne County**

Wagenaar moved to approve the Alfred Day Hershey application; Egen seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously. Chester moved to approve the Tau Beta Community House application; the motion was seconded by Ashlee and it was adopted unanimously.

- **Approval of Marker Text** – One new marker text was presented to the Commission for review and approval.
  - ◆ **The Pulver Brothers/The Filling Station, Lansing, Ingham County**

Truscott moved to approve the The Pulver Brothers/The Filling Station marker text as amended; the motion was seconded by Wagenaar, and the text was unanimously approved.

- **Marker Committee Report**
  - ◆ **Resolution – Clifford Russell** – Ashlee noted that Mr. Russell spent many years of his life supporting the Michigan Historical Marker program. Due to his sudden death in February 2018, Ashlee urged the Commission to show its appreciation for Mr. Russell's years of support through a resolution. Ashlee moved to approve the Clifford Russell resolution with minor changes; the motion was seconded by Dempsey, and it was unanimously approved.

- ◆ **War of 1812 Dead** – At the February 22, 2018, Commission meeting, a request that the Commission provide the additional funds needed for a large two-post replacement marker for the smaller War of 1812 Dead marker was denied. The War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission had raised \$2,000, the cost of a one-post marker. Jim McConnell asked the Commission to reconsider its decision. After discussion, Dempsey moved to provide \$1,400 toward the purchase of the War of 1812 Dead replacement marker on the basis that this would help a fellow state-appointed Commission complete its task; the motion was seconded by Wagenaar, and it was unanimously approved.
- ◆ **Review of Mackinac Island markers** – The marker committee distributed a list of questions for discussion before it makes a recommendation about replacing or removing any markers. After discussion, the Commission agreed that a structured plan should be established prior to replacing or removing any markers or creating new ones to tell neglected stories. The marker committee agreed to meet and prioritize the markers in question and discuss possible markers that currently don't exist but should. It will also consider possible partnerships, grants, marker fund match or other funding sources. The Commission agreed that Phil Porter needs to be included in the decision making. The marker committee will update the Commission at the June 2018 meeting.
- **Conservation Markers** – Ashlee moved to spend \$5,942 of the marker fund in FY18 for the Genevieve Gillette/Genevieve Gillette marker (text approved on April 7, 2016), Edith C. Munger marker (text approved on September 14, 2017), Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Charles W. Garfield/Charles W. Garfield, Edward K. Warren/Warren Dunes State Park, and the State Board of Fish Commissioners/State Game and Fish Warden markers (texts approved on April 17, 2017); the motion was seconded by Dempsey and was unanimously approved. Clark asked for guidance from the Commission on placement of the conservation markers. After discussion, the Commission agreed to have Clark ask for permission for the following: placement of the Charles W. Garfield marker at the Kirtland Community College branch in Grayling that is located on the Iron Belle Trail; placement of the State Board of Fish Commissioners/State Game and Fish Warden marker at the Oden State Fish Hatchery in Alanson. Calvaruso thanked Clark for her continued work on this project.
- **Future management of program** – MHC's short-term goal is to work with Eastern Michigan University on finding a candidate to fill the vacancy for the graduate marker assistant. MHC has a long-term goal of hiring a full-time research historian to serve several roles, which would include assisting with the marker program. This is dependent on staff vacancies and prioritizing the immediate needs of the Center. Ashlee noted that if a consultant is hired to work with the marker review process that would require staff leadership as well. Clark responded that for the immediate future, she will continue to manage the program.
- **Reports**
  - ◆ The Marker Status report was distributed prior to the meeting. Dempsey noted his term expires in May 2018, and he will not be able to attend the dedications he previously agreed to do.

- ◆ The Marker Fund Report was distributed prior to the meeting. Clark and Dempsey will move forward with transferring the funds from the Michigan History Foundation to the State of Michigan account.
- ◆ Arthur Hendrick Vandenberg marker, Grand Rapids, Kent County – Clark provided Chester with copies of the 2017 Annual Report to aid in his fund raising efforts for correcting this marker.
- ◆ Marker promotional piece – Clark distributed a draft of a leave-behind, postcard-sized Michigan Historical Marker promotional piece. Commissioners were asked to notify Clark of any suggested edits.

### **Historic District Study Reports:**

- West Grand Boulevard African American Arts and Business District, Detroit
- Delisting of 361 E. Maple, Birmingham

Ashlee recused herself prior to any discussion. Wagenaar moved acceptance of the West Grand Boulevard African American Arts and Business District Historic District Study report; Chester seconded the motion, and it was unanimously. Egen moved acceptance of the Delisting of the 361 E. Maple, Birmingham Historic District Study report; Truscott seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accepted.

**Milliken/Adams/Kelley (MAK) Award:** Chester agreed to chair the MAK committee and will move forward in finding a recipient for 2018.

### **Director's Report**

- The Director's report was distributed prior to the meeting. Clark noted that Suzanne Fischer is overseeing the IMLS evaluation project. Chester gave kudos to Clark and her organization for making the evaluation process a priority and writing the grant.
- Grant Home - Clark reported that she is working with the Attorney General's Office on the terms of the agreement with Eastern Market.

**June Commission Meeting:** After discussion, it was determined that the June 13, 2018, Commission meeting will be held at the Michigan Historical Center.

### **Meeting with Director Creagh**

- Creagh noted the progress made on the Historical Marker database. He understands the need for additional work to complete the project, but was pleased with staff's progress to date.
- Creagh noted there is still additional money set aside for conservation markers and that heritage trails continue to be a large priority for the department. He asked if the Commission had any other areas of focus that the DNR should consider in the next eight or nine months.
- Dempsey noted the Commission would like to see a concrete plan moving forward with the conservation marker project. The DNR previously committed \$10,000 toward this project and the Commission would like to see those funds put to use. Clark distributed a handout outlining the current standings of the conservation marker project. Currently there are five conservation markers with approved text waiting for final decision on

location placement and appropriate department approval. After discussion, Clark agreed to share any problems implementing the current plan with Director Creagh.

- Dempsey noted there are two types of trails – physical and virtual. There is an opportunity for someone to connect the dots for thematic trails and encourage the public to visit them. Hoffman noted the marker database currently has this type of search capability and the best strategy may be to look at additional ways to promote the marker database. Creagh noted that the DNR has numerous ways of promoting its various programs.
- Egen asked for Creagh’s advice on how the Commission can maintain its current direction during the transition to a new governor in 2019. Creagh noted a DNR transition team is in place and that Hoffman is leading it. During the current administration, all of the work done by the DNR has been bi-partisan. This will help when changes take place. The department has also worked to improve and develop community relationships that will last so that during transition times, the fundamental relationships will remain the same. Hoffman noted that the incoming administration will have a clear process on how it wants to align with the legislature. It is important to make sure the department is getting the right attention and developing relationships with key representatives. It is important to embrace local engagement and help establish those connections.
- Creagh noted that an Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee made up of recreation business leaders is being formed. This committee will work with the DNR on new and different ways to move forward with outdoor recreation while supporting natural resources.
- Creagh stated current work on his desk include: Flint water supply and issues that surround it; Line Five and utility/energy concerns; Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; Recreation Passport; working with Illinois on Asian carp.
- Hoffman noted that the department was approached by legislators and others regarding relocation possibilities for the war memorial that was dedicated in 1939 and currently sits at the abandoned State Fairgrounds in Detroit. The DNR has prepared a development plan for the memorial to be moved to Milliken State Park.

Calvaruso thanked Creagh and Hoffman for taking time out of their hectic schedules to talk with the Commission.

**New Business:**

- Dempsey noted that his term will expire in May 2018 and he will not seek reappoint. He valued the experience and wished the Commission his best. In turn, the Commission thanked Dempsey for his years of service and wished him the best.
- Ashlee distributed Historic Lighthouses maps.
- Truscott commended Mary Patrick for her 39.3 years of service with the state, her dedication to the Commission and the Marker program. Truscott moved to have Clark prepared a resolution for her years of dedication; the motion was seconded by Ashlee, and it was unanimously approved.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

Egen moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Chester, and the meeting adjourned at 12:40 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 first name "Sandra" is written in a large, flowing cursive, followed by "S." and "Clark" in a similar but slightly smaller cursive style. The signature is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Sandra S. Clark, Executive Secretary

Michigan Historical Marker Application Synopses  
Michigan Historical Commission  
April 18, 2018

**Alfred Day Hershey**

Applicant: Rep. Benjamin R. Frederick and Bill Ballenger  
Marker Location: 515 East Mason Street  
Owosso, Shiawassee County  
Requested Marker Type: 1-post, different text each side

Alfred Day Hershey, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1969. The prize was given jointly to him and Max Delbruck and Salvador E Laria, with whom he collaborated in work on the genetic structure of viruses—work that is the foundation of our knowledge of DNA and genetics. Hershey's unique contribution was the discovery that DNA, not protein, was the genetic material in the viruses that infect bacteria.

Hershey was born in Owosso in this house in 1908. Hershey's family moved to Lansing during his youth, and he graduated from Lansing Central High School. He received his Bachelors and Master's degrees from Michigan State College. He ended his career as head of the Genetics research Unit at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on Long Island (1962-1972). Hershey died in 1997.

This is a commemorative marker. The house his family lived in when he was born, much altered over time, still stands but is not of historic architectural significance. The home owner has granted permission to erect the marker, but the applicants will need to see if city permission is required to put it in the right-of-way between the sidewalk and the street.

Recommend approval

**Tau Beta Community House**

Applicant: Hamtramck Public Schools  
Marker Location: 3056 Hanley, between Jos. Campau Ave & Gallagher St.  
Hamtramck, Wayne County  
Requested Marker Type: 2-post, text not specified

In 1916 the settlement house social reform movement, the Dodge Main auto factory and a social club founded in 1901 by four Detroit high school girls came together in Hamtramck. The eventual result was the Tau Beta Community House, which opened in 1928. The social club, called Tau Beta or The Bunch, decided in 1906 that it needed a higher aim and began supporting the Visiting Nurses Association, cooking in the Liggett High School kitchen and delivering the food. In 1916, Tau Beta created its first settlement House in Hamtramck. The rural community of 3,500 in 1910 had grown to more than 21,500 by the time President Wilson ordered a special federal census in 1915. Most of the growth was from Polish immigrants coming to work in the new Dodge Main and other factories.

Tau Beta began with a rented flat where they provided legal aid, medical assistance and other social services. In 1920, they moved into a larger building with space for public laundry, a day care center and a library of donated books that eventually became the Hamtramck Public Library. Needs continued to grow, and in 1928 this building, designed by Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, opened with space for a medical clinic, dental services, cooking classes, a gymnasium and an auditorium.

In 1958, adjusting to changing needs for private social services, Tau Beta, sold the building to the Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic parish for a school. Over time it had other uses. Hamtramck Public Schools purchased Tau Beta in 2017 to serve an expanding school population fueled by a new wave of immigrants.

Recommend approval