

Michigan Freedom Trail Commission

Meeting Minutes

Location: In-person & Virtual meeting

Date: October 14, 2022

Roll call

Present for the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission:

- Amanda Campbell, Chair
- Melinda Babarskis
- Angela Dillard
- Roy Finkenbine
- Jamon Jordan
- Deidre Mayweather
- Pricilla Robinson
- Jason Young

Present for the Michigan History Center staff:

- Sandra Clark
- Sheri Giffin

Guests:

- Adelaide Lancaster

Call to Order

Campbell called the meeting to order at 11:14 a.m.

Public Comment:

Adelaide Lancaster introduced herself and noted her interest in joining subcommittee work.

Signage Grant:

Giffin reported that 12 applications have been received to date. The final proof of the sign has been approved and ordered. The signs are scheduled to arrive on 11/9/22. The webpage was previewed at the meeting. Giffin requested images and content for the webpage. A call for volunteers to assist with publicizing the completed project.

Heritage Gathering

The commission discussed the overall of success and addressed the challenges from the 2022 Heritage Gathering. The commissioners recognized the diversity of the attendees from professionals to those interested in personal enrichment.

The group discussed topics for 2023 included debunking myths, the role of the railway system in the UGRR movement, accuracies and inaccuracies in recent movies and documentaries along with reviewing the topics suggested by Heritage Gathering attendees.

Reports from Standing Committees:

Preservation & Support:

Campbell noted the work of the subcommittee continues on the signage grant.

Education:

Dillard reported the subcommittee is still reviewing options for a larger project.

Current Business:

Interns and Student Projects:

Campbell renewed the discussion. The commission indicated the importance of a paid internship and the challenge of consistent supervision of the student. The group indicated research and drafting site nominations would be a valuable project for an intern.

New Business:

New Chair and Vice Chair:

Campbell and Robinson nominated Barbaskis for Chair with Robinson to Vice Chair. The vote will take place at the next meeting with a quorum.

Dates for 2023

Dates for next year were reviewed and tentatively approved.

MHC Staff Updates

DNR will be funding historical work in state parks starting in 2023. The Archives of Michigan was given one-time only funding to digitize older resources such as microfilm.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

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

Sandra Clark, Chairperson