

Michigan Freedom Trail Commission

Meeting Minutes

Location: In-person & Virtual meeting

Date: December 17, 2021

Roll call

Present for the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission:

- Amanda Campbell, Chair
- Melinda Babarskis
- Neil Barclay
- Angela Dillard
- Rochelle Danquah
- Jamon Jordan
- Deidre Mayweather
- Robin Peebles
- Pricilla Robinson

Present for the Michigan History Center staff:

- Sandra Clark
- Rachel Clark
- Tobi Voigt
- Sheri Giffin

Guests:

- Dr. Timothy Walker
- Joy Gleason

Meeting Minutes

Campbell called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

Jordan moved to approve the agenda; Babarskis seconded the motion; and it was approved.

Robinson moved approval of the May 14, 2021, minutes; Dillard seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted unanimously.

Public Comment:

Dr. Timothy Walker presented on maritime pathways to freedom. His book *Sailing to Freedom* documents water passages to freedom on the eastern seaboard.

Signage Grant:

Campbell outlined of the signage grant. The current tasks include writing the introductory history of the sites and exploring the options for the website portion of the grant.

Reports from Standing Committees:

Cultural & Heritage Tourism:

Peebles will follow up on the Network to Freedom passport program for the next meeting. Peebles plans to connect the signage grant and website roll out with her work at Travel Michigan.

Preservation & Support:

Campbell highlighted the signage grant as the priority for 2022. The subcommittee is also interested in the possibility of an intern and partnership with Site Identification committee.

Sites Identification, Facilities & Programs:

Danquah and the committee are working on five applications at various stages completion. They are: Robert Garner, Rev. Charles C. Foote, A.L. Power, Historic Quaker Cemetery and Rev. Marcus Swift.

Education:

Dillard and the committee have been connecting with various projects around the state to create partnerships.

Current Business:

Permanent International UGRR Month:

Clark is inquiring about the best path to a permanent designation for Michigan.

New Business:

Support an Intern:

The commission discussed ideas for an intern. The team agreed the position should be a paid role with multiple commissioners offering potential revenue streams through their organizations. Possibly assignments could include: research for site nominations, GIS and mapping projects, data and content review, archaeology tasks and expanding site nominations to programs.

Danquah, Barclay and Campbell offered to work on outlining options and opportunities for review at the March meeting.

MHC Staff Updates

Clark described the Michigan Historical Commission's to audit the marker program to find gaps in Michigan's stories. With an NEH grant, MHC will have a dedicated employee located in Detroit, who will work partially on the audit goal.

Adjournment:

Dillard moved to adjourn; Barbarskis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra S. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Sandra Clark, Chairperson