

Michigan Freedom Trail Commission

Meeting Minutes

Location: Michigan History Center, Lansing

Date: March 31, 2023

Roll call

Present for the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission:

- Melinda Babarskis, Chair
- Amanda Campbell Crawford
- Rochelle Danquah
- Roy Finkenbine
- Jamon Jordan

Virtual for the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission:

- Priscilla Robinson

Present for the Michigan History Center staff:

- Sandra Clark
- Sheri Giffin

Guests:

- Katie Kolokithas, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Call to Order

Babarskis called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

Chairperson Comments

Babarskis shared the sad news that commissioner Vivian Ritter passed away. The commission expresses its sympathy to the family and its appreciation of Vivian Ritter's willingness to serve.

Approval of Agenda

Danquah moved to approve agenda; Finkenbine seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Approval of Minutes

Finkenbine moved approval of the December 9, 2022, meeting minutes as amended; Campbell Crawford seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted unanimously.

Public Comment:

Katie Kolokithas outlined potential grant applications for SHPO projects. She suggested a partnership between the SHPO and the MFTC for projects such as National Register and Network to Freedom nominations. Discussion of the opportunities to share information and resources for multiple nominations processes followed.

Signage Grant:

Giffin reported that the grant is officially finished with the final report submitted and the payment received.

Interns and Student Projects:

Clark updated the commission about the partnership with the University of Michigan for student interns. Clark requested suggestions for nominations that the two students could get done during their time. The commission determined the leading nomination options are: Laura Haviland burial site (Adrian), Finney Barn (Detroit), Oakridge Cemetery for the Crosswhites' burial site (Marshall), Greensky Church, and Perry Sanford burial site in Oak Hill Cemetery (Battle Creek).

Clark asked those with knowledge and research to send brief summary notes to introduce the topics to the students. Danquah will send permission letters to the sites in preparation for the nomination process.

Heritage Gathering & Webinars

Campbell Crawford announced the donation of an honorarium from the National Network to Freedom for the two authors proposed for the Heritage Gathering. Babarskis will connect with the two authors to check availability for the event.

Campbell Crawford mentioned the challenge of finding a speaker for the webinar project. She will continue to work towards finding some options.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 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