

Maryland Military Monuments Commission Meeting
Wednesday, July 13, 2016
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Present: Chair Peters, Commissioners Balkoski, Kurtz, Martel, Sprague, Schnell, Villanueva, Soderberg, Dooley, Morrill, Stone, Rostkowski

Absent: Commissioners Cooper, Toomey, Plumb, Schnitzker, Siddique, McKown

Guest: Maj. Larry Leone, Director of Installations, MD Military Department

Chair Peters called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

Chair Peters:

- Introduced herself, announced the transfer of the Commission to the MD Department of Planning, asked attendees to introduce themselves.
- Asked if everyone had reviewed the Minutes.
 - Commissioner Rostkowski made a motion to accept minutes as written.
 - Commissioner Balkoski seconded. Motion passed.

Nancy Kurtz:

- Gave funding update, as we do not currently have a Treasurer.
 - A total of \$16,175 of FY 2016 funds have been encumbered.
 - \$14,765 have been encumbered for 14 monuments primarily on the Eastern Shore TBD spring 2017.
 - \$1,410 have been encumbered for assessment of 5th Regiment Armory Memorial over the main doors.
 - \$5,937 remain in the donated funds account in the Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) at the MD Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - Chair Peters said the Planning fiscal office is working on transfer of the donated funds to the Department of Planning.

Ongoing Business

- Nancy Kurtz gave an overview of the Commission's history and work since 1989.
 - Commissioner Sprague asked if we could put the presentation on public television. Commissioner Soderberg said she has done an Emmy-winning television program for Heritage Montgomery about the county during the Civil War.
 - Discussion ensued on garnering publicity for the program and Chair Peters said we will explore this further. Commissioner Soderberg suggested we ask monuments owners to link to our program from their websites. Commissioner Sprague suggested we add the monuments highway map to our website.

- Nancy Kurtz presented photos of the 14 monuments and tablets to be maintained and treated in spring 2017 under the new contract, which includes the Western MD Railway WWI Monument in Hagerstown and the Gen. Smallwood Monument in Charles County, both to be treated for the first time.
- The Condition Assessment for the WWI Memorial at the Fifth Regiment Armory was discussed and the estimated costs provided. Total estimate is \$67,000, but will vary depending on treatment selected and source of scaffolding.
 - Major Lawrence Leone, Director of Facilities at the MD Military Department, spoke to the Commission about the possibility of using Federal funds for such a project.
 - The State would pay first and then would be reimbursed via a voucher for approximately 50% credit from the Federal government.
 - The best timing for funds availability would be at the end of a fiscal year. The Commission will look into phasing the project and potential funding sources.
- Town of Salisbury is raising funds for repairs to the 1955 War Memorial. MMMC maintains the bronze on the monument.
 - The time capsule with scroll of 100 names has been removed by conservator at MD State Archives and new names will be added.
 - Overall goal is \$150,000, with \$12,000 raised. They have applied for a Lowe's Hero's 2016 project grant and hope for donated labor and materials.
 - Discussion ensued about how to allocate a donation to the monument, which is budgeted at \$19,300, and whether the monument will be the priority if the larger goal is not reached.
 - Commissioner Soderberg offered a motion to monitor their fundraising for now, then pursue targeted fundraising for only the monument. Peter Morrill seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- Repointing of the WWI/WWII Monument in Midland, Allegany County, will be the next solicitation . Cost estimate is \$10-20,000 depending on the amount of repointing needed.

New Business

- The MMMC website is to be updated and moved from MDVA to Planning/MD Historical Trust
 - There will be a donation button for electronic fundraising.
- Maryland World War I Centennial Commission and monuments
 - Commissioner Kurtz noted there is to be a volunteer program and a grant program of monuments preservation. She has informed the program manager that most of the WWI monuments in Maryland are maintained by MMMC and the City of Baltimore.

- Chair Peters suggested we meet with David Craig, the new chair of the Centennial Commission, to discuss the monuments and programs.

Announcements

- Commissioner Balkoski asked about the number of meetings that will be held under the new Executive Order. At least two are specified with 50% attendance required. Discussion ensued about the number of meetings.
 - Commissioner Villanueva moved the MMMC stay on track with our quarterly meetings. Commissioner Martel seconded the motion and it was carried.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for October 12 at 2:00 pm in Crownsville.
- Commissioner Kurtz updated the Commission on the condition of former Secretary and Chair Edward Chow, Jr. A card was provided for notes.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Martel, seconded by Commissioner Soderberg.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 pm.