

Maryland Military Monuments Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 3, 2017
Fifth Regiment Armory
219 29th Division Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Present: Chair McDowell; Commissioners Balkoski, Dooley, Jewitt, Kurtz, Morrill, McKown, Rude, Schnell, Soderberg, Sprague, Toomey, Villanueva, Wisniewski; Staff Karen Kennedy

Absent: Commissioners Plumb, Stone, Martel, Sprague

Guests: Steve Hammond, Bill Soderberg, Hall Worthington, Larry Leone, John Coleman, Adam Gruzs

Chair McDowell called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Chair McDowell:

- Introduced himself. Welcomed commissioners and guests.
- Noted updated list of commissioners to be added to handbook.
- Asked if everyone had reviewed the Minutes. Commissioner Jewitt asked for correction to spelling of his name in list of attendees.
 - Commissioner Jewitt made a motion to accept minutes with correction.
 - Commissioner McKown seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

- Commissioner Kurtz gave funding update.
 - A total of \$16,175 of FY 2016 funds were encumbered.
 - \$14,765 of total are encumbered for Eastern Shore monuments maintenance to be done and invoiced spring 2017.
 - Commissioner Kurtz asked for vote on including cleaning of the World War I Memorial gateway and World War II Monument at the Pikesville Armory in new contract. The armory is to be transferred out of the Military Department but will carry a historic preservation easement under the Maryland Historical Trust. Per Larry Leone, Baltimore County is interested in the property. Commissioner Balkoski moved to support cleaning of the two monuments, Commissioner McKown seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Of the \$17,000 FY 2017 funds, \$10,577 were encumbered in contract for maintenance of 14 Western Shore monuments. Award was made to Howard Wellman Conservation.
 - Midland WWI/II Monument repointing (est. \$5,000); and Elkton WWI Monument repointing (est. \$5,000) to be issued in coming weeks.

- \$5,937 remain in MMMC fund transferred from MDVA to Planning (MDP).
- To date, no donations have been made to website. Commissioner Soderberg asked about adding tags to website to get search hits. Commissioner Wisniewski suggested MMMC join with other events to solicit funding.
- Commissioner Toomey suggested there be MMMC representation on MD WWI Centennial Commission. Commissioner Kurtz attends meetings as MHT advisor.
- Commissioner Kurtz described meeting with Baltimore County Monuments Commission who plan to raise funding to improve surroundings of Towson Wayside Cross Monument, maintained by MMMC. They will fund repointing to be done as MMMC project.
- Chair McDowell described interest of American Legion for funding projects.
- Commissioner Kurtz noted the Military Department plans to fund the maintenance of the WWI Memorial entrance to the Fifth Regiment Armory, estimated at \$80-90K.

Ongoing Business

- Major Larry Leone, Director of Installations with the MD Military Department, gave an overview of long term planning for use of the Fifth Regiment Armory. The facility will be modernized, with the museum moving to the basement. He noted it is the largest enclosed space in the State.
- Commissioner Kurtz gave update on WWI Memorial maintenance solicitation. The memorial and door were repaired and refurbished in 2001 with paint removal and new Inccralac protective coating. The coating has deteriorated and must be removed and renewed. She recommended that the commission look at the existing items while on site.
- We are waiting for input on bird netting design to make it removable for maintenance.
- Commissioner Balkoski gave update on Hammann-Costin Monument in front of armory. He expects the City to approve transfer of trench mortars to Military Department Museum. City reports the monument is scheduled to be cleaned this spring.

New Business

- David Craig, Executive Director of the Maryland World War I Centennial Commission, was unable to attend the meeting to brief us due to his morning commission meeting running long.

- Commissioner Kurtz reported on Doughboy sculpture found at grave of Pvt. Otto Phillips in Baltimore Cemetery, the eighth Doughboy monument we know of in the State. A motion was made to support moving forward to work with the family to determine how to stabilize the sculpture. Commissioner Balkoski seconded the motion and it was passed.
- Commissioner Soderberg reported the Rockville Confederate Soldier Monument was purchased by owner of White's Ferry, where it will be moved and accessible to the public.

Announcements

- WWI Centennial kickoff in state is on April 6 at 5th Regiment Armory at 10 am, then at City Hall in Baltimore for wreath laying.
- The next meeting dates are Wednesday, July 12, at 1 pm in Crownsville and Wednesday, October 11, also in Crownsville.
- Chair McDowell noted the MMMC is looking into the Commission attending the Battle Week commemoration of the MD 400 in Brooklyn, NY, in late August.
- Chair McDowell asked visitors and Commissioners to introduce themselves, and welcomed new Commissioner Dennis Rude.
- The Commission was asked to adjourn to the front of the armory to look at the WWI memorial before moving on to a tour of the new WWI exhibit at the Maryland Museum of Military History led by Commissioner Balkoski. The MMMC also was invited to attend the open house at the 5th Regiment Armory on April 6, starting at 10 am with a ribbon cutting for the exhibit and the playing of Taps by Commissioner Jari Villanueva.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:20 pm.