

Maryland Military Monuments Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 11, 2017
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Present: Chair McDowell, Commissioners Balkoski, Dooley, Jewitt, Kurtz, Martel, McKown, Schnell, Soderberg, Sprague, Toomey, Wisniewski, Staff Karen Kennedy

Absent: Commissioners Plumb, Stone, Morrill (excused), Villanueva

Guest: David Craig, Executive Director of the Maryland World War I Centennial Commission

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

Chair McDowell:

- Introduced himself, asked attendees to introduce themselves.
- Presented and described handbooks to commissioners. Included are Executive Order of 6.13.2016, member list, completed projects list, project status report, MD monuments list, MD WWI monuments list, and a section for meeting notes.
- Asked if everyone had reviewed the Minutes.
 - Commissioner McKown made a motion to accept minutes as written.
 - Commissioner Jewitt seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Report

- Commissioner Kurtz gave funding update.
 - A total of \$16,175 of FY 2016 funds were encumbered.
 - \$14,765 are encumbered for Eastern Shore monuments maintenance to be done and invoiced spring 2017.
 - \$1,410 was invoiced and paid for the Fifth Regiment Armory WWI Memorial condition assessment of Feb 2016.
 - \$17,000 FY 2017 funds are available; IFBs to be issued for Western Shore maintenance (est. \$14,000); Midland WWI/II repointing (est. \$5,000); and Elkton WWI repointing via potential matching grant from USWWICC.
 - Other: \$5,937 from MDVA transferred to Planning (MDP) MMMC fund.
 - MMMC can fund private entities for approved projects with a purchase order when provided with an invoice.
 - Discussion: transferred money is in a separate account from budgeted MDP funds; donated money will be added to that separate account and is not tied to a fiscal year.
 - Donate button is now on MMMC webpage; featured projects to be added.

- Commissioners discussed creation of a finance committee, tabled from previous meeting.
- Discussion of whether current funding level is adequate for needs; it is adequate for maintenance, but needs vary, as for 5th Regiment Armory memorial.
- Discussion ensued about fundraising. We will talk with Preservation MD for advice or assistance with fundraising for the Armory. The Military Department also may support. In 2014 we solicited donations by letter and MDVA website to raise \$5,000 for Baltimore City's Federal Hill Park monuments for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.
- Money raised will be kept in a separate account from the annual budget. If people donate to specific projects, that would be tracked in the account.
- There were questions about the MMMC mission from Commissioner Wisniewski. The MMMC is not charged with creating new monuments; we advise creation of an endowment by those who do create new monuments. We would not change or add new plaques or features to existing historic monuments.
- Donations are managed by MDP; fundraising efforts would focus on driving people to our website for donations. We can use social media and possibly the Preservation MD website. We can apply for grants to the national WWI Centennial Commission who now offer \$2,000 matching grants for WWI monuments – we plan to apply for such a grant for the Elkton WWI monument repointing. Veteran service organizations (VSOs) have helped, most recently for the War of 1812 monuments; in the past we had a paper newsletter and VSOs donated regularly. A potential role for a finance committee would be to approach VSOs.
- The identified need is for fundraising rather than tracking finances via a finance committee. Commissioner Balkoski suggested commissioners pursue potential donors on our own and not create a finance or fundraising committee.
- Commissioner Sprague asked if letters could be sent to counties for contributions. This would require Governor staff approval. Commissioner Kurtz suggested soliciting donations per need, as for the 5th Regiment Armory memorial. Maintenance costs are now sustainable with annual budget of \$17,000.
- Commissioner Jewitt noted there could be potential concerns for federal employees doing fundraising.

Ongoing Business

- Discussion of the 5th Regiment Armory project scope and costs. The memorial and door were repaired and refurbished in 2001 with paint removal and new

Incralac protective coating. Coating has deteriorated and must be removed and renewed.

- Laser technology will allow for removal of underlying black paint from bronze elements and a traditional wax coating application that can be maintained. Estimated cost for overall chemical removal of Incralac; laser removal of underlying black paint from bronze sculptural group, eagles and plaques; application of maintainable wax coating to bronze sculptural group, eagles and plaques; application of Incralac to copper door: \$90,000.
- Compare to estimate of chemical removal of Incralac and reapplication of Incralac to all elements: \$67,000.
- Expected maintenance of bronze is every four years at minimal cost compared to overall removal and reapplication of Incralac needed in around twenty years.
- Discussion of fiscal years and funding from Military Department. Military Department supports funding the work contingent on availability of end of fiscal year funds and MMMC developing the procurement. Commissioners Kurtz and Balkoski to meet with Military Department staff re scope and costs.
- Chair McDowell asked David Craig, Executive Director of the Maryland World War I Centennial Commission, to address the group.
 - The first Commission meeting was in December. He has asked for reports from commissioners on what they want to achieve.
 - To meet first Monday of every other month.
 - Monuments and Sites Committee to focus on needs for monuments.
 - History and Education Committee to focus on getting the history out.
 - Fundraising Committee. On July 1 administration of Commission is to move from Planning to Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. No funding to come from Planning.
 - Website/Social Media Committee.
 - 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.
 - Asked if there will be new builds, Craig said he is waiting for commissioners to say what they want. He suggests a new WWI state monument with figures representing service branches/diversity.
 - Director Craig is to meet with Governor's grant coordinator. Plans to ask for a \$250K grant program for match and cap program.
 - Discussion of WETA for publicizing. MMMC website can link to MWWICC site.
- Hammann-Costin Monument
 - Military Department Museum wants to display trench mortars (rare, made in England) from the Hammann-Costin Monument across the street from the 5th Regiment Armory.

- Commissioner Balkoski is working with City of Baltimore to remove the mortars to museum. CHAP will clean the marble monument. Paving will be repaired by Military Department. Target time is April.
- Monument is dedicated to two 1918 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from Baltimore, Charles Hammann and Henry Costin. The 29th Division Association had a big role in putting up the monument in 1939 and may make a donation to its cleaning. Need cost from CHAP. Military Department will fund moving the mortars inside. Need letter from Baltimore to proceed. No funding from MMMC.

New Business

- Commissioner Kurtz asked to add Mount Pleasant Jewish Hospital for Consumptives WWI Monument to the FY 2017 contract. Commissioner Sprague made motion to add. Commissioner Wisniewski seconded. Motion carried.
- Kurtz showed photos of the Pikesville Armory World War I memorial gate and the WWII monument. The site will be transferred to private ownership but will be under easement with Maryland Historical Trust.
- The Commission voted to meet next at the 5th Regiment Armory on Monday, April 3, at 1 pm. Commissioner Balkoski will give us a tour of the new exhibit. The MMMC also is 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.
- Chair McDowell announced we will explore taking interested commissioners to the Maryland 400 commemoration activities at Battle Week in Brooklyn, NY, in late August.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm.