

Minutes of the
Seventy First Meeting of the
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority
Sandy Spring Museum
17901 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring MD 20860
April 14, 2016

The seventy first meeting of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) was held on April 14, 2016 at the Sandy Spring Museum, 17901 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring MD 20860.

Authority Members/Designees Present: Wendi Peters, Deputy Secretary, MD Department of Planning and Chair, Maryland Heritage Areas Authority; Bill Pencek (representing MD Department of Commerce Secretary R. Michael Gill), Vice Chair Maryland Heritage Areas Authority; John Wilson (representing MD Department of Natural Resources Secretary Mark J. Belton); Martha (Marty) Baker (representing MD Department of Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn); Peter Leshner (MD Municipal League representative); Wayne E. Clark (President of the Senate representative); Burton Kummerow (President of the Senate representative); Elizabeth Hughes (State Historic Preservation Officer); Robert D. Campbell (Governor's Appointee for Historic Preservation); Amy Seitz (representing MD Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Kenneth C. Holt); Donna Ware (Speaker of the House representative); Lee Towers (representing MD Higher Education Commission James D. Fielder, Jr.); Rowland Agbede (representing MD Department of Agriculture Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder)

Authority Members/Designees Absent: Francis Jack Russell (MD Association of Counties representative); Amanda Conn (Representative for MD State Department of Education Secretary Jack Smith, Ph.D.); Janice Hayes-Williams (Speaker of the House representative); Lisa Challenger (Governor's Appointee for Heritage Tourism); Vacant (Representative for MD Greenways); Vacant (MD Tourism Development Board representative)

Staff Present: Bernadette Pruitt, Richard Hughes, Jennifer Ruffner, Rieyn Deloney (Office of the Attorney General)

Heritage Area Directors/Staff Present: Carol Benson (Four Rivers Heritage Area); Susan Brooks representing (Baltimore National Heritage Area); Gail Owings (Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area); Deidra Ritchie (Canal Place Heritage Area); Liz Shatto (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area); Aaron Marcavitch (Anacostia Trails Heritage Area); Mary Ann Lisanti and Brigitte Carty (Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway); Roz Racanello (Southern MD Heritage Area and Chair, Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas); Sarah Rogers (Montgomery County Heritage Area); Jen Durbin (Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area); Lisa Ludwig (Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area); Mary Catherine Cochran (Patapsco Valley Heritage Area); Amanda Fenstermaker (Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area)

Others Present: Diane Nowak-Waring

CALL TO ORDER (Wendi Peters, Deputy Secretary, MD Department of Planning)

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 10:03 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: The Chair requested that everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

MHAA CHAIR REPORT & UPDATES (Wendi Peters)

Ms. Peters reported the successful legislative session that included passage of Senate Bill 759 regarding Program Open Space (POS), the source of MHAA funding, which will restore certain funding that was rescinded by previous administrations and generally make POS funding more predictable, and a successful effort lead by Elizabeth Hughes to pass helpful amendments and an extension to the Sustainable Community Tax Credit(renamed the Heritage Structures Rehabilitation Tax Credit)., and passage of a FY 2017 Budget with level funding for the Maryland Department of Planning and MHAA.

FY 2017 Budget Reports by Other State Agencies Represented on MHAA

Mr. Pencek reported that the Governor's budget for the Department of Commerce included an increase to a record \$20.3 million to Maryland State Arts Council. There was a slight increase for tourism and a good amount for the film tax credit. Legislation on behalf of the short term on residential lodging industry, extending schools Fall start time through Labor Day, and changing the Maryland State song were not passed.

Ms. Baker reported that the MD Department of Transportation (MDOT) had some high profile bills, but one main bill passed to require MDOT to score all major construction projects for transit and highway transportation programs. The bill was vetoed by the Governor, but the veto was overridden by the legislature. MDOT will be looking at how best to implement the bill requirements and move forward.

Mr. Wilson reported that the Department of Natural Resources received FY 2017 funding for POS Stateside acquisitions of approximately \$14million, \$21.7 million for POS local-side funding, an increase of \$5 million in 2017 for Rural Legacy, Baltimore City was approved for a direct POS \$1.5 million grant and an additional \$4.5 million for special projects, and community parks and playground program will receive 2.5 million.

Ms. Seitz reported that the Department of Housing and Community Development received level funding. She will forward information regarding training to staff about the Community Investment Tax Credit program and the new DHCD on line grant system.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 14, 2016

Ms. Peters called for a motion to approve the January 16, 2016 minutes. The following motion was made by Mr. Leshner.

RESOLVED, that the Authority approves the January 16, 2016 minutes as written.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Pencek and approved unanimously.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund Report (R. Hughes)

Mr. Hughes reported that as of March 23, 2016 the current balance was \$134,429.29 with \$100,000.00 set aside for projected 2016 emergency grants (two emergency grants have been awarded totaling \$71,000.00 to date) leaving a remaining cash balance to \$34,429.29.

Preliminary report on FY 2017 MHAA grant applications received (J. Ruffner)

Ms. Ruffner reported that the grant deadline was April 8th and a record number of 136 applications were received via the on-line system. There were 60 Capital, 60 Non Capital, 13 Management grants and 3 Marketing grants totaling \$5.7 million in requests. The next step is applications will be reviewed by MHAA staff and TAC members with final recommendations completed June 14th.

Legislative Joint Committee Chairmen's requirement for a report on the need and demand for MDP-Maryland Historical Trust preservation, survey and museum grant funding (Elizabeth Hughes)

Ms. Elizabeth Hughes reported that the legislative report issued by the Chairmen of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and House Appropriations Committee (otherwise known as the Joint Chairmen's Report, or JCR) directed that Maryland Department of Planning (MDP/Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) work with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and preservation advocates to identify the need and demand for preservation, survey, and museum (operating and capital) grant funding and future plans to address these statewide needs in a report to be submitted by September 1, 2016.

Ms. Hughes noted that development of this report provides the preservation and museum community with a great opportunity to showcase funding needs and to think creatively about how to meet those needs going forward. She will be reaching out to SHPS in neighboring states and will be coordinating a meeting with statewide advocates, partners in the coming weeks to begin work on this report that will be due to DBM in early August and September 1st deadline to the joint chairman.

Ms. Ware observed that MHT non-capital grants benefit organizations and projects for which very little other funding is available. Dr. Baker suggested coordinating with higher education institutions and non-profits. Ms. Racanello remarked there is no shortage of passion for creating new museums and mentioned that they have no help now. Mr. Wilson indicated that DNR has a large amount of cultural resources. He talked about the Curatorship Program for historic

buildings on DNR lands and supported the idea of additional MHT funds because DNR has a very small budget for historic preservation.

Report on request to amend the Scope of Work, Budget, and Timetable for FY 2015 grant to Phillips Wharf Environmental Center, Inc. (PWEC) for the Oyster House Project Boundary Amendment Requests.

Mr. Hughes stated that PWEC reported their fundraising for the Oyster House project was not going as quickly as they had hoped it would. PWEC met with MHAA staff to discuss an amendment to the existing grant to repurpose grant funds for a temporary classroom modular building. The PWEC Board feels it is critical to continue their educational programming and the classroom building would significantly assist that effort. PWEC is waiting on contractor estimates and will provide those to MHAA staff as soon as possible.

Status report on Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) request to amend boundaries to include portions of City of Bowie, Town of Cheverly, Bell Station Rd. area of Glenn Dale, Folly Branch Stream Valley, and the Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Trail (R. Hughes & A. Marcavitch)

Mr. Hughes reported the ATHA proposal to expand the heritage area was deferred at the last meeting because Prince George's County had not completed an amendment to its comprehensive plan which is required before the boundary amendment can proceed. Mr. Hughes and MHAA legal counsel Rieyn Delony had spoken with the County Council staff person and attorney and it was determined that the best way to complete the amendment was by making it a part of an ongoing amendment to the County's recreation plan. This process will not be completed until November of this year.

Status report on Anacostia Trails Heritage Area request to amend boundaries to include the City of Laurel (R. Hughes & A. Marcavitch)

Mr. Hughes reported that the city of Laurel never completed the process of amending its comprehensive plan. Some recent changes of city staff resulted in renewed interest in completing the process to join the heritage area. ATHA and MHAA staff has been working with Laurel and it is hoped the comprehensive plan amendment process will be completed in May or June.

Status report on Canal Place Heritage Area request to amend boundaries to include the Greene St. National Register Historic District, portions of the Canada/Viaduct Survey District, Candoc & Mason Recreational District/Riverside area of the C&O Canal Preservation District within the City of Cumberland (R. Hughes & D. Ritchie)

The required tour and public hearing will take place May 24th. The 2011 updated Canal Place management plan was structured so boundary expansions could be accomplished in phases, with recommended expansion within the City of Cumberland being Phase 1. Ms. Ritchie mentioned that the City of Frostburg also is now interested in being included in the heritage area.

Mr. Pencek inquired as to the status of recent efforts to examine the future of the Canal Place Heritage Area. Ms. Ritchie replied that a decision has been made to not pursue changes for at least three years to the current management structure or changes in property ownership within the portions of core Heritage Area owned by the State and administered by the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority, an independent unit of State government. This will allow a number of redevelopment projects including the rehabilitation of the Footer Dye Works Building into apartments, offices, and a restaurant to proceed which will provide additional funding to Canal Place through a lease agreement. Ms. Ritchie also reported that all other rental properties managed by the Heritage Area are now fully occupied.

Ms. Ritchie noted that the updated management plan also recommended future phased expansion into other areas of Allegany County, but that this requires County support and that currently that support is lacking. Ms. Seitz suggested inviting County staff and elected officials to visit the Heritage Area so they can see recent developments and some of the projects in the City of Cumberland that have received MHAA funding support. Chair Peters suggested reaching out to County representatives to discuss the proposed expansions, and to answer questions and concerns they may have. MHAA staff will work with Ms. Ritchie to explore this suggestion with the County and other local jurisdictions.

Status report on Southern Maryland Heritage Area (SMHA) request to amend boundaries within Calvert County to include a parcel and structure at the American Chestnut Land Trust property and additional areas of the Biscoe Gray Farm Heritage Park (R. Hughes & R. Racanello)

Mr. Hughes summarized that two relatively small parcels in Calvert County will be proposed for addition to the SMHA and asked Ms. Racanello to explain the proposed boundary amendments.

Ms. Racanello distributed a map and explained that the SMHA consist of clusters and corridors and indicated that both sites proposed to be added would become part of two areas currently within the Heritage Area. The first proposed area is part of a parcel owned by the American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT), the property was not originally included because it is an old farmhouse that was then being rented to a tenant. ACLT now wants to convert the farmhouse to a visitors center and the adjacent land would also allow access to Darius Beach and hiking trails. The second proposed addition is part of the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm owned by Calvert County and is at the bottom of a cluster and along a corridor. The park includes important tobacco growing history, an important African American farmhouse, and a large pre-contact Native American site along the water. The additional parcel was acquired by the County after the original Heritage Area boundaries were approved. It is anticipated the requirement for the County to amend its Comprehensive Plan to include the Heritage Area boundary changes will be completed in time for the October 2016 MHAA meeting.

HERITAGE AREA DIRECTOR – MHAA MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Racanello summarized the 20th year celebration of the heritage area program that was held in Annapolis on February 1, 2016. She especially thanked Ms. Mary Ann Lisanti and Ms. Brigitte

Carty of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Heritage Area for their hard work in organizing the event.

The Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas will be having a retreat the first week in May. Mr. Jeff Buchheit of the Baltimore National Heritage Area is working on the agenda and will host the meeting. Ms. Racanello noted heritage areas are exploring topics such as how to serve new demographics (e.g. Latino, American Indian), social media, marketing, how to support additional historic preservation and museum assistance funding, and working more closely with the Maryland Municipal League and Maryland Association of Counties. She noted that she and Mr. Marcavitch of ATHA have been in touch with Maryland World War I Commemoration organizations.

Southern Maryland Heritage Area

Ms. Racanello reported that the Mallow's Bay clean-up will be April 16 and that SMHA sponsored a "Kids in Kayaks" program in May. She reported that the Piscataway Indian Heritage Trail Master Plan was moving forward with two public meetings scheduled for May. The Master Plan is scheduled to be completed by September 30, 2016. Other upcoming items include a Travel Writers Familiarization Tour in May with the theme "What's new in Southern MD;" a couple of mini-grant projects will open this spring/summer, the Calvert Arts Council "Barn Quilt" trail and the Unified Committee on Afro-American Contributions will open the exhibit "How Women Got the Right to Vote," an exhibit detailing women's suffrage. Other new activities include a Front-Line Tourism Training Update session the first week in May, An application to nominate Historic St. Mary's City a UNESCO World Heritage Site will be submitted later in April, and the Calvert Marine Museum has a new baby river otter named "Bubbles".

Anacostia Heritage Area

Mr. Marcavitch reported on the MHAA funded Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center with a new ATHA office and visitors center Hyattsville will hopefully opening in June.

He invited everyone to the Rivers to Rockets Weekends in the month of May, including the Rivers to Rockets Annual Bike Rally on May 7 at 10am, at Waterfront Park in Bladensburg.

Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Heritage Area (LSHG)

Ms. Lisanti reported that the 16th Annual River Sweep event, a regional shoreline clean-up will take place on April 23rd.

LSHG is working on the Lower Susquehanna River Implementation Plan with the National Park Service (NPS), MD Department of Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Susquehanna Heritage area.

An agreement has been with reached /signed with the Vulcan Quarry to allow for a trail easement that will connect Havre de Grace to the Susquehanna State Park.

Work continues on Heritage Park in Havre de Grace and partnering with the NPS, completed the canoe/kayak launch design phase.

LSHG is assisting to create a monument honoring first American Indian contact with Captain John Smith in Havre de Grace.

Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA)

Ms. Shatto indicated that MHAA should anticipate a boundary amendment from Ft. Frederick State Park requesting to be included in the heritage area boundary and the heritage area is taking this opportunity to look at the whole of Washington County, where some of the unincorporated areas might be recommended for inclusion, and a couple of jurisdictions that never completed the process to be included may elect to do so now.

Ms. Shatto reported that the HCWHA public meeting regarding the Preservation Education Initiative is set for April 19, 6 p.m. at the Frederick Visitor Center. The project is funded by the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Delaplaine Foundation, and will result in an online education portal that will include online lesson plans linked to national standards that may be used in classrooms all over the country. The lesson plans draw on several media projects already supported by MHAA: Maryland's Heart of the Civil War documentary film, the companion app to the film, and www.crossroadsofwar.org. The public meeting will focus on the education content side of the portal. Another aspect of the portal will be trip planning, with the intent being to attract multi-day student groups that come to the area (typically D.C. and Gettysburg at the end of 9th or 12th grades) to use the heritage area as a lodging hub for those trips.

A new series, Porch Programs at the Newcomer House, will launch on April 23. HCWHA operates the Newcomer House at Antietam National Battlefield a visitor center for the heritage area as a whole. The porch programs are intended to help increase visitation at that location. The programs will be varied, including concerts, talks, and children's activities.

Patapsco Heritage Area

Ms. Cochran reported that the Baltimore Metropolitan Council has received \$1.7 million from the Federal Government to study a regional trail that would travel from Sykesville to Baltimore City- traveling through three heritage areas.

Patapsco Trails Fest will be held in September with key partners including DNR. It should be a great visitor attraction.

Howard County released its Bike and trails plan.

Patapsco hosted a retreat with DNR and other key partners with Patapsco Valley State Park.

Heart of Chesapeake Country

Ms. Fenstermaker reported that the Historic Hearn Hardware Building stabilization and renovation that MHA gave an emergency grant for is moving ahead with stabilization measures. She also noted efforts are underway to identify a partner and to rehab the last remaining building of the Phillips Packaging Company, now derelict, at an estimated cost of \$20 million.

Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area

Ms. Owings reported that the Chesapeake Storytelling Festival will take place on April 29 – 30. The Webb Cabin, a free African-American log dwelling, dedication took place in April, MHAA assisted in funding the restoration. The Sultanna Education Center dedication is tentatively scheduled for early September, and the restored Kennard School will have its opening in the Summer or Fall.

Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West

Ms. Durbin reported that the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West will be celebrating its 5th year anniversary in 2016 and has included the celebration as part of their marketing grant application. The celebration will include invitations to dignitaries, MHAA and other special guests for the opportunity to share our successes and funding over the past five years.

They will be offering an educational program for potential step-on tour guides, volunteers and employees of historical/group friendly attractions to learn about the group market and how to welcome a large group. There will be an in classroom morning session and an afternoon in-the-field session for a hands-on learning opportunity. Tiffany Ahalt of Star Spangled Tours will be teaching the program.

Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority

Ms. Ritchie reported that the Footer Dye Works project was ahead of schedule and that the developers have signed their first tenant, a restaurant. Opening is scheduled for December 2016.

Canal Place announced its summer programming series: Canal Place Comes Alive which includes live music and movies that are free to the public. Dates for the events can be found on the Canal Place Heritage Area website. A Youth Summit featuring Braddock Middle School students will be held May 13th at Canal Place. Students will plant native trees and plants, provide clean up on the grounds, see/do a hands on demonstration of the Footers Dye Works windows restoration, tour the Footer, and ride the Western MD Scenic Railroad located at Canal Place.

Four Rivers Heritage Area

Dr. Benson reported that Maryland Day had 30 events in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County on March 18 – 20. The latest round of mini-grants leveraged \$187,000 of cash and in-kind match. She reported that the Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau is launching a new marketing campaign that will include focusing on heritage and heritage destinations. Dr. Benson also commended the City of Annapolis for doing model work on the issue of sea level rise.

Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area

Ms. Ludwig reported on an upcoming annual luncheon meeting with a Civil War theme. Secretary Craig would be attending and will give some opening remarks. A record number of applications going in for heritage area grants. The Village of Allen is very much interested in pursuing heritage area boundary amendment to be part of LESHCA.

Montgomery County Heritage Area

Ms. Rogers talked about the sites that were on the afternoon tour following the MHAA April 14, 2016 meeting, including the Woodlawn Barn Visitors Center and the Oakley Cabin free African American cabin site. She also reported on the African American heritage cookbook they are gathering history and recipes for and are expecting a July printing.

Four new themed area brochures will be coming: nearly ready to print the "Rivers, Roads, and Rails" transportation brochure. It is being edited now; the African American and Quaker brochure will be ready to print and distribute this summer; these will be followed by the new Agricultural Reserve and Heritage Gems brochures. MCHA has completed its new website which includes a partner toolbox, educator's resource, and plan your visit feature will be going live next week, and it will be sponsoring a PastPerfect workshop for partners in May.

Heritage Days will be held June – 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Leshner presented each MHAA member with a copy of *A Broad Reach 50 Years of Collecting* published by the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

ADJOURN

Ms. Peters called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Seitz made a motion to adjourn which approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.