

Minutes of the
Fifty Fourth Meeting of the
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority
MD Department of Housing and Community Development
Crownsville MD 21032
January 19, 2012

The fifty fourth meeting of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority was held on January 19, 2012 at the MD Department of Housing and Community Development, 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032 beginning at 9:40 a.m.

Authority Members/Designees Present:

Matthew J. Power, Deputy Secretary, MD Department of Planning (representing Richard E. Hall, Secretary, MD Department of Planning and Chairperson of the Maryland Heritage Area Authority); Hannah Byron (representing MD Department of Business & Economic Development Secretary Christian Johansson); Ann Fligsten (recommended by Speaker of the House); John Wilson (representing MD Department of Natural Resources Secretary John R. Griffin); Amy Seitz (representing MD Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Raymond A. Skinner); Donna Dudley (Governor's Appointee for Heritage Tourism); Burton Kummerow (recommended by President of the Senate); Robert D. Campbell (Governor's Appointee for Historic Preservation); Melinda Vann (representing MD Higher Education Commission Interim Secretary Danette Gerald Howard); Marci Taylor-Thoma (representing MD State Department of Education Interim State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bernard J. Sadusky,); Vanessa Orlando (representing MD Department of Agriculture Secretary Earl Hance); Wayne E. Clark (recommended by President of the Senate); J. Rodney Little (State Historic Preservation Officer); Amy Owsley (Governor's Appointee for MD Greenway Commission)

Authority Members/Designees Absent: Marty Baker (representing MD Department of Transportation Secretary Beverley Swaim-Staley); Hon. Emmett V. Jordan (MD Municipal League representative); Hon. Andrea C. Harrison (MD Association of Counties representative); Donna Ware (recommended by the Speaker of the House); John Fieseler (MD Tourism Development Board representative)

Staff Present: Bernadette P. Pruitt, Richard Hughes, Jennifer Ruffner, Elizabeth Hughes Shannon Marino, Philip Deters

Others Present:

Roz Racanello (Maryland Coalition of Heritage Area and Director of Southern MD Heritage Area); Carol Benson (Annapolis, London Town, and South County "Four Rivers" Heritage Area); Jay Parker (Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area); Mary Ann Lisanti and Brigitte Carty (Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Heritage Area); Deborah Divins-Davis (Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area); Linda Cashman (Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area); Liz Shatto (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area); Jeff Buchheit (Baltimore National Heritage Area); Marci Ross (DBED, Office of Tourism Development, MHAA Technical Advisory Committee Member)

Call to Order

Mr. Power chaired and called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Mr. Power greeted everyone and mentioned that new members were attending the meeting. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Mr. Power reported he had received a letter from MHAA member Mr. Emmett Jordan submitting his resignation due to other work related commitments. Mr. Power expressed his appreciation for Mr. Jordan's outstanding service as a member of the Authority and indicated MHAA will be working with MD Municipal League to forward a recommendation to the Governor on a new appointee. In addition, he noted that Renee Bone, the Executive Director of the Canal Place Heritage Area, has resigned her position. Mr. Power thanked Ms. Bone for her work at Canal Place and indicated the Canal Place Board will be moving forward to advertise the position.

Approval of Minutes for October 13, 2011

Mr. Campbell offered the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Authority approves the October 13, 2011 meeting minutes as presented.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Seitz and approved unanimously.

Introductions

New MHAA members Ms. Amy Owsley (Governor's Appointee for the MD Greenway Commission and Deputy Director of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy) and Ms. Melinda Vann (representing Dr. Danette Gerald Howard, Interim Secretary, MD Higher Education Commission) were introduced and welcomed by Mr. Power.

Management Report

Status of Statewide Heritage Area Recognition and Certification Efforts: (R. Hughes)

Mr. Hughes stated that the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area in Garrett County is now fully staffed and functioning and have selected members of a Heritage Area Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee's first meeting will focus on setting up subcommittees that will address various Heritage Area program areas.

Mr. Hughes reported that Canal Place is moving ahead with looking for a new Executive Director. They have a new consultant on board that will lead a management plan update study. The study will examine the desirability of expanding the heritage area to include the additional areas of Allegany County, the C & O Canal, the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, the National Road and other scenic byways in the County, and other potential heritage resources. The

management plan update study will be conducted over an 18 month period. Mr. Hughes will provide MHAA with periodic updates.

Mr. Hughes also reported that the Baltimore National Heritage Area has incorporated as a non-profit organization and is no longer part of the Baltimore City Mayor's Office. The BNHA completed a move to new offices at 100 Light Street in Baltimore. Mr. Jeff Buchheit, Executive Director, for the heritage area will follow up with all of the details.

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

Mr. Hughes reported that as of November 30, 2011, the MHAA financing fund available balance was \$192,048.04. Funds remain in an interest bearing account. The report summarizes all expenditures of the program.

FY 2012 Legislative Session Report – Matthew Power

Mr. Power reported that the anticipated FY 2013 budget would reduce MHAA funding available for grants by approximately \$1.1 million. The proposed funding reduction would mean there would be about \$1.6 million available for heritage area grants. Seven million dollars will be available for the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit program administered by the Maryland Historical Trust.

Mr. Power is not happy about the proposed reduction to MHAA grant funding, however, he is supportive of the overall effort on the State level as the State tries to get through tough times and other State Agencies are facing even larger cuts than the MD Department of Planning (MDP) and MHAA. Overall these actions will get us through tough times. He appreciated how everyone worked together last year. He knows that it will be a harder sell this year and encouraged everyone to look at the big picture and move forward to an improving budget situation in the future.

Septics Bill/Task Force on Sustainable Growth and Wastewater Disposal

Mr. Power indicated that MDP is working on implementing recommendations presented by the Task Force on Sustainable Growth and Wastewater Disposal ("Septic Task Force"). The task force was headed up by Delegate Maggie McIntosh. The task force worked over a six month period and their recommendations are summarized in four tiers within the comprehensive plan.

Tier I – Priority Funding Areas (PFA's) areas.

Tier II – Designated future growth areas outside of the PFA, clearly defined the county or municipal comprehensive plan.

Tier III – Existing areas not planned for public sewer nor planned for preservation, with a limited amount of development potential.

Tier IV – Areas planned for rural protection: Rural Legacy Areas, Priority Preservation Areas, GreenPrint Areas, County Agriculture Zones and County conservation zoning districts. In some cases, these areas might overlap with the Critical Area.

He is looking forward to a spirited debate and expects the legislation to be introduced within the next couple of weeks.

Sustainable Communities

Passed in 2010, the Sustainable Communities Act maintains the existing historic commercial and residential tax credits at 20% and grants an additional 5% credit for historic buildings that are also certified as LEED Gold, and expands the 10% commercial credit to include qualified rehabilitated (non-historic) structures. As stated previously, the FY 2013 budget will request \$7 million for the program. MHAA will be updated periodically.

Plan Maryland

Mr. Power reported that Governor Martin O'Malley accepted the plan in December 2011. It is the state's first statewide land use plan. There has been some criticism, controversy and concern that the plan will take away authority from local jurisdictions. Mr. Power stated that Plan Maryland does not take remove local authority, but helps better coordinate state programming. He is excited about it moving on to the next phase of implementation.

Additional Discussion

Ms. Racanello asked for Mr. Power to clarify the FY 2013 budget reductions he had summarized earlier. Mr. Power summarized that the full \$3 million is what is requested, but approximately \$1.1 million of these funds would be shifted to support operations within MDP, thus leaving \$1.6 million for the heritage area grants.

Ms. Hannah Bryon, representing the MD Department of Business & Economic Development, Office of Tourism Development (OTD), stated the tourism office is in for the same funding level as last year at \$5 million dollars. Under previously passed legislation, a called-for increase to \$6 million would be eliminated in the FY 2013 budget.

OTD already received \$2 million to assist with matching grants through the Star-Spangled 200 grant program. On November 1, 2012 they received a total of 34 grant applications (27 from Maryland counties and 7 that are multi-state projects). The total requested amount was \$3 million, which will leverage \$13 million in matching funds. The good news is that an additional \$2 million is being proposed, and the next grant rounds are due March 1, 2012 and November 2012 for project proposals. She encouraged those who have not done so to look closely at the program as a possible resource. She extended an invitation to all to attend Tourism Day on Friday, February 3, 2012 in Annapolis, MD and support tourism funding. Ms. Byron mentioned that an additional \$2.5 million of funding for County tourism offices was not proposed for cuts.

Mr. John Wilson was pleased to report that with the support of the Maryland Department of Tourism, the Department of Natural Resources will receive \$26 million in capital funds for park improvements if the FY 13 budget is passed as proposed. Considering the state's fiscal challenges over the past few years there has been very little funding to maintain facilities and

parks. This additional funding will allow DNR to implement some green building improvements to park facilities such as the highly visible Sandy Point and Assateague State Parks, and this is an opportunity to do “green” trail design work. Ms. Byron mentioned that the press release indicated the various parks and projects that will be funding.

Ms. Seitz reported that the Department of Housing and Community Development is in the budget for \$6 million for the Community Legacy program.

MHAA Strategic Plan implementation reports (J. Ruffner)

Ms. Ruffner reviewed the three reports provided on the strategic plan progress. In addition to the usual reports on MHAA progress and Heritage Area progress, a third report that shows where each individual heritage area is in the process was also provided. The Five Year plans have been the primary focus for both staff and the Heritage Areas this quarter. The other big effort is the 360 degree survey, which is being sent to MHAA members, local heritage area boards and staff, and TAC members and MHAA staff. She asked everyone to take some time to complete the survey before February 15, 2012.

Mr. Campbell asked if there was a way to identify areas in the Strategic Plan work items where the Heritage Areas need more assistance and guidance. Ms. Ruffner indicated that Performance Measures and the Development Plan are two items that she is aware the Heritage Areas would like more guidance on. Mr. Campbell indicated that it is important MHAA is able to empathize with the Management Entities and ensure that there is a mechanism for dialogue about progress, difficulties and need for support.

Mr. Power commented that much of this will flow out of the performance measures, particularly once the annual work plans are in place, as it will provide a clear view of what a heritage area set out to accomplish and what was actually accomplished. He also noted that a meeting was held with DBED to try and nail down what performance measures will be used and what we can reasonably expect in terms of data collection, but hope to have a measure throughout the system of heritage areas. The goal is to promote and collect data on the work of the local heritage areas. Ms. Racanello reminded the group that the twelve heritage areas are very different, and trying to put a single grid over all of them and measure consistently across the state could be challenging, which is why each heritage area is submitting its own plan.

Ms. Fligsten asked about the Montgomery County Heritage Area, which has listed that some of the activities for the Strategic Plan aren't feasible because they aren't in their management plan, and wondered if that was an acceptable response. Ms. Erickson responded that when forming their heritage area, they got a lot of pushback from the local municipalities about the heritage area's involvement in planning, so they do not get involved with planning. The group discussed what it means to be involved in planning.

Certified Heritage Area 5-Year Plans – Update on status of staff and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) review & comment prior to MHAA action to approve at April 2012 meeting (J. Ruffner)

The Heritage Areas have been given an extension to complete their five year plans. The TAC reviewed the first drafts, which were received from all but 3 of the heritage areas. The three that did not submit a sufficient first draft are required to submit a draft no later than March 1. Feedback was provided to the other heritage areas, and they will be submitting a final draft of their five year plans no later than May 17. The Authority will approve the plans at the July meeting. Overall progress on the five year plans has been good.

Update on Grants Lifecycle Management Software (J. Ruffner)

Ms. Ruffner reported that the RFP for Grants Lifecycle Management Software would be released on January 31, 2012, and will be due on March 23, 2012. The goal was to select a system by the end of the fiscal year.

Update on initiation of TAC and Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas discussion regarding potential revisions to Target Investment Zone (TIZ) designation criteria (R. Hughes)

Mr. Hughes reported that at its October 13, 2011 meeting, Chairman Matt Power had directed the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and staff to examine the TIZ program and, if need, prepare recommendations for MHAA regarding possible revisions to the program. The MHAA Strategic Plan also calls for MHAA and Certified Heritage Areas to evaluate the program.

Mr. Hughes stated that MHAA staff had solicited input from all Heritage Area Directors for their assessment of the effectiveness of the Target Investment Zone (TIZ) program in encouraging capital investment and in leveraging private investment, and recommendations to improve the program's effectiveness and efficiency. Mr. Hughes reported that 8 of the 12 Certified Heritage Area Directors had submitted comments to date. Mr. Hughes noted that many of the comments received called for revisions to the program. These comments will be summarized and shared with the TAC prior to a special meeting on this issue scheduled for February 9, 2012. It is intended that the TAC's final recommendations will be presented to MHAA at its April 12, 2012 meeting.

Update regarding continuation in FY 2013 of MHAA's FY 2012 policy of providing an extended time period for grantees to provide documentation of grant matching funds. (R. Hughes)

Mr. Hughes reported that in FY 2012 MHAA had approved an extension to the deadline when grant applicants must submit documentation that required grant matching funds are available. Previously applicants were required to submit documentation of match to MHAA staff for review prior to final approval of grant awards by the MHAA at its July meeting. Due to overall economic circumstances that were making it difficult for some applicants to secure match in the FY12 grant round, at its July 7, 2011 meeting MHAA approved a 3month extension of the due

date to October 7, 2011. MHAA also directed the TAC to provide recommendations prior to the FY 2013 grant round on whether this extension should be kept in place.

At its December 8, 2011 meeting the TAC discussed the need for a continuation of the extension and concluded that a continuation of the extension would not be necessary for FY 13 if the new grant applications clearly stated that applicants must provide documentation of match prior to the TAC's June meeting when it finalizes its grant review recommendations to MHAA. Mr. Hughes reported that the TAC recommended that all matching fund be submitted to MHAA staff by June 22nd in order to allow time for review by MHAA staff prior to the July 12th meeting.

Mr. Deters (MHAA legal counsel) stated that adopting the TAC's recommendation would not require a vote by MHAA as it is an administrative action. MHAA members agreed with the recommendation and directed staff to implement it in FY 13.

Action Items

Emergency Grant Request for \$100,000 from the Town of Perryville for completion of the Perryville Transit Pier and Floating Dock at the historic Rodgers Tavern: Grant funds would partially defray additional costs resulting from the required redesign and construction of the final 60' pier connector section due to encountering previously unidentified bedrock deposits.

Mr. Power indicated that this item was no longer on the agenda for a vote. By way of explanation, he stated that there has been an increase in emergency grant requests, and MHAA has always been receptive and conservative to emergency grants. It is important to ensure that there is, in fact, an emergency need, and that everyone is being treated fairly, and that requests coming in outside of the regular grant round are exceedingly compelling if they are to be funded. Mr. Power reminded the group that as a result of an emergency grant application received last year, the emergency grant policy was tightened to ensure that the management entity of the heritage area had been consulted. At the pre-briefing meeting held with staff, Mr. Power asked that the TAC vote on this grant application, and also that Mr. Deters consider if the grant qualified and met the criteria of an emergency grant. Mr. Deters' recommendation was that the grant did not qualify, and the TAC's vote was also not supportive, so the item was pulled from the agenda.

Mr. Power stated that going through this exercise it is clear that how an application gets placed on the MHAA agenda needs to be clarified. A draft resolution has been created to address this, and ensure that only those grants with real emergency need are brought to the full Authority for consideration. Mr. Power then opened the floor to discussion.

Mr. Kummerow asked for clarification as to why the grant project did not meet the qualifications. Mr. Deters stated that there were two concerns: eligibility – it was unclear what the unforeseen need was that prevented this project from being considered in the regular grant round; and concern about the process: it was unclear what evaluation the local heritage area had undertaken with respect to the criteria that have been set forth for emergency grants.

Ms. Lisanti provided some background on the project, which has been underway for eight years with primary funding from a federal earmark. No MHAA funds have supported the project to date. That information was presented to the TAC, who had a number of questions that she was not able to

answer, but that she went back to the partnership got had answered. She stated that there needs to be a greater level of communication, citing the example of the concern that the management entity did not fully vet the project, which she feels was adequately documented within the grant application. She also expressed the concern that the Authority should provide the opportunity for the applicant to be heard, instead of removing the application from the agenda.

Mr. Power reiterated that it was not an issue of the merits of the project, but whether or not it was eligible to qualify as an emergency grant, and counsel had determined it was not. He apologized for the eleventh hour notification, but reiterated that the goal was to be fair and consistent about what is brought forward for a vote by the Authority. Mr. Power also stated that it is important for legal review to take place prior to the TAC review of projects.

The group discussed what specifically constitutes an emergency, and whether or not there was an appeals process.

Mr. Power indicated that there would not be a vote on the revisions to the emergency grant policy, and that he would ask the TAC to look at both how the local management entity should review emergency grants to document a threshold before projects can be sent to the state, and also how the process will flow on the state side once an emergency grant has been received from the local heritage area.

Ms. Lisanti expressed concern over the possible need to have both the director and the board chair of the management entity sign off on an emergency grant, as that is inconsistent with the grant ranking and other application processes, and that anything she, as Executive Director, signs is with the approval or consent of her Board. She does not want there to be a lack of respect for the professionalism of the Heritage Area directors.

Mr. Campbell stated that a compelling statement of emergency need must be the first consideration. Failure to plan does not constitute an emergency. Mr. Clark commented that it is important to discuss how MHAA will respond to true disasters, such as the B&O roof collapse, or the damage from Hurricane Irene, and that the existing policy should remain in place in the interim until a new policy is created. Mr. Power indicated that the intention is that the existing policy stands. He thanked everyone for a healthy discussion on the issue.

Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas (MCHA) Report

Ms. Racanello reported that the Coalition met last month. They discussed the Five Year Plan process extensively. Because each of the twelve heritage areas is very different, with different goals and supervisory structures, they wrestled with the plan different, especially with the measurement tool. There was a discussion of how collecting data would be handled – it is still not clear how that will work, as quantification is always hard. Heritage tourism is more than just filling hotel rooms. The Coalition is hoping they can work with MHAA to get the performance piece figured out soon. The Coalition also had a discussion with Ms. Hughes about potential workshops and webinars for not only the management entities but also heritage area stakeholders. The Coalition also discussed funding advocacy efforts.

Heritage Area Director Reports

Southern Maryland Heritage Area (SMHA)

Ms. Racanello reported that they have been working on getting Intent to Apply forms in. They have lots of new applicants this year, which helps to document the need. One of their mini-grant projects has received an award from the Maryland Historical Trust – the War of 1812 in Your Backyard, which is a high school video project supported by the Daughters of the War of 1812. She also shared that a history class at St. Mary's College is researching and creating a webpage about the War of 1812 in Southern Maryland.

Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA)

Ms. Shatto shared the newest edition of the Bugle Call newsletter with the group. The publication also serves as their annual report, and they included information about economic impact and advocacy in it. The HCWHA Board meeting is meeting tomorrow and will be voting on mini-grants. HCWHA has held three grants workshops, and Ms. Ruffner came to the workshop held in Frederick. Their Intent to Apply forms are due on January 27. They are working on the Master Docent workshops, which are held annually in Frederick County and pre-date the heritage area. This year's workshop will have a strong Civil War component, but also a nod to the War of 1812, and will include content and techniques for docents and interpreters. The Friday event is free and open to the public, and this year's program will feature a South Mountain Battle veteran portrayed by his own great-grandson. Ms. Shatto noted that they are finalizing the Maryland campaign commemoration schedules, with a First Call Weekend June 16 & 17 in Hagerstown (one will be held in each county to align with the three major campaigns). Next year's event will be held in Carroll County. HCWHA is working with the National Park Service to coordinate promotional media for the Maryland campaign, including an umbrella website. They are working to integrate the federal with the non-federal activities so the visitor doesn't have to look in multiple places to plan their visit. They are beginning talks about the Gettysburg Campaign commemoration.

Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (LSHG)

Ms. Lisanti reported that her focus has been on the strategic plan and the five year plan, and how to make their plan the best comprehensive plan for the heritage area to utilize and encompass the myriad of state and federal programs and other hot issues happening in the heritage area. LSHG is doing a 360 survey of the public to help with future planning. They are doing board training as well.

Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area (SCHA)

Ms. Davis reported that SCHA has come a long way this year. A year ago they had to delay her salary for six months and had been faced with problems from creditors. Now they have money in reserves, have engaged the public and local counties, and their board meeting next week will include new members who will help them to reach their strategic and financial goals. They have ramped up communications, improved their website, have regular e-communications, and are working with the media. Their committees are expanding, so the timing of the strategic plan is good, as they put a lot of time and effort into the draft plan. They are still vulnerable, and the economy is still bad, so the reserves are limited, and if they do not get county support, they are not sure they will be able to support a viable management grant application with match in-hand. Ms. Davis stated that they were excited about their new board members, as the previous board was largely county personnel who couldn't get involved in fundraising. The hope is that as new members come on board they can work to become more sustainable and more proactive.

Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area (ALTSCHA)

Dr. Benson shared that in October ALTSCHA celebrated their 10th year. They marked the milestone with a video that included comments from Mr. Little and Mayor Josh Cohen. They also had an event and gave out their annual heritage awards. ALTSCHA awarded eleven mini-grants to great projects, including some great projects pairing schools with sites and getting kids to create projects – posters, oral histories, including one on Rosenwald schools. ALTSCHA is undergoing a 2 month period working with consultant on a development plan, which has had some challenges. They are also working on their marketing grant, and have a good working relationship with the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Their committees are working hard on Maryland Day, Stewardship, Education and Marketing, generating good work and ideas. Maryland Day is entering its fifth year, and will be a weekend-long event from March 23 through 25. There are new partners, including a partnership with the Girl Scouts to complete a Maryland badge. Dr. Benson reported that a number of their TIZs have expired, but they still have a great deal of capital need, which presents a problematic situation, and she had hoped the TAC would meet quickly to discuss the issue – the delay has been problematic for ALTSCHA. She noted that Mr. Hughes has advised her not to apply to have expired TIZs reinstated, so she is hoping that the capital grants that will be coming in will be considered as exceptions. Dr. Benson also shared that ALTSCHA received an award from the Maryland Historical Trust for outstanding organizational leadership at the local level.

Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area (LESHA)

Mr. Parker shared that Princess Anne had a muskrat drop from a fire truck for their New Year's celebrations. The Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council's annual meeting and awards ceremony was held yesterday, and their attendance increased by 50%. LESHA has been working on a project to identify War of 1812 graves. They are working with SHA on the march trail project on Smith Island. Their Intent to Apply forms are due on January 20, and they have received seven so far. Mr. Parker reported that they have not received any support from their three counties, and that as a standalone 501(c)3 organization, if they do not receive support, they are very vulnerable. Their relationship with Wicomico County is particularly bad, as the tourism person there does not want anything to do with heritage tourism, and will not support them unless they can help with profit-making events. Somerset County is an isolated county and worries about more people moving in, so it's a challenge getting local support.

Montgomery County Heritage Area (MCHA)

Ms. Erickson shared that they have had a number of great mini-grant projects, including a tour of Poolesville, a revision of a book on the Civil War, and a history conference. The mini-grant program provides great seed money, and is very rewarding. MCHA is working on a new program and booklet on the role of African American churches in the heritage area. The partnership with the National Park Service, C&O Canal and the Canal Quarters program is very successful. The placement of signs on the ICC has finally been agreed on – overall that effort has worked out well. Their website hits are up by 60%.

Baltimore National Heritage Area (BNHA)

Mr. Buchheit reported that they have formed a 501(c)3 and have moved their offices. He provided change of address cards with their new contact information. They are gearing up for the Sailabration, which is on June 19. He shared that he and Janet Caslow are co-chairs for the Education and Services Committee for the Star-Spangled 200. They are working on a passport program for

students. They are working on community service projects too, as there will be lots of sailors in town who need service projects. In conjunction with Sailabration, 100 high school students will travel with the Navy from Norfolk to Baltimore. There are tall ships events happening in five different ports, and Baltimore is the second stop. The students will be bussed down, and ride back to Baltimore on a Navy ship. Mr. Buchheit also shared that they are working on the War of 1812 traveling exhibit. There are two versions funded by MHAA, and they are totally booked through the following year, and soon through 2014. Right now the exhibits are at Harbor Place and the Enoch Pratt Library. BNHA received a \$10,000 grant from the National Park Service Foundation for tour guide certification. The first weekend in April will kick off the walking tours in Mount Vernon, Fells Point and Pennsylvania Avenue, and they will have a GIS guide product that visitors can rent. Mr. Buchheit stated that they are still working on their planning process, as a National Heritage Area they are required to do an NHA management plan, which they are tying to the five year planning process. They kicked the effort off in November, and had a planning retreat yesterday for their interpretive plan.

Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area (HCCHA)

Ms. Cashman reported that HCCHA has three new board members from various backgrounds who are very enthusiastic. They held a well-attended grants workshop in Cambridge with Ms. Ruffner presenting. Work on the Tubman Byway waysides and audio tour continues, and improvements are being made along the Michener Byway as well. They completed a successful mini-grant program, with projects that included a Choptank River skipjack race, an 1812 brochure and the East New Market Heritage Day event. HCCHA has four TIZs that will be expiring in FY 12, so they are interested in the TAC's recommendations.

New Business

Mr. Hughes reported that Governor Martin O'Malley recognized two Indian tribes, noting that Native American history figures prominently in many of the Heritage Areas.

Mr. Hughes asked the heritage area management entities to help staff work with grantees that are approaching expiration dates or are overdue to help get them to finalize their projects.

Mr. Hughes noted that work has been moving forward with mapping in several of the heritage areas, stating that only three heritage areas still have questions in terms of boundaries, and that staff are meeting with LESH today to resolve some issues with their boundaries. The goal is to eventually provide GIS or KMZ (Google Earth) files for the heritage areas to reference easily.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:19 p.m.