

## **Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments**

April 24, 2025

### **MINUTES**

The meeting of the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments was held as a virtual meeting via Google Meet. The meeting was chaired by Secretary Rebecca Flora.

Commissioners Present: Kurtz, Schiszik, Chase, Davidson, Patterson, Zinny, Mohan, Morrill, Fischer, Franklin, Sec. Flora

MDP Staff: Stacy Montgomery

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Secretary Rebecca Flora called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. A quorum of Commissioners was recorded as present.

- Commissioners introduced themselves, including the new commissioners.
- Susan Soderberg has recently resigned.
- Welcome to new Commissioners – Dolores Zinny, Alexi Franklin, Dr. Jyoti Mohan, and Dr. Roger Anderson Davidson Jr.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Secretary Flora called for approval of the minutes for the April 2024 and October 2024 meetings. Commissioner Mahon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Morrill, that the April 24, 2024 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Commissioners Davidson and Patterson abstained. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Schiszik made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Morrill, that the October 24, 2024 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Commissioners Davidson and Patterson abstained. The motion was approved.

#### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public were present who wished to provide comment.

#### **IV. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Stacy Montgomery presented the financial report.

*FY2023*

\$150,000 Capital Budget line item for stripping and rewaxing of all 41 monuments

- Contract awarded to Art Solutions Lab, LLC in the amount of \$184,422.59.
- Phase 1 & 2 complete; Phase 3 scheduled for summer 2025

*FY2024*

\$17,000 general fund item to support conservation of miscellaneous projects, to include:

- M348: Keedysville World War II Monument (\$14,775) - completed November 2023
- Maryland History Day 2024 Special Prizes(\$500) *Excellence in United States Military History, sponsored by the Maryland Military Monuments Commission*
- Sponsorship of 2 more years of MD History Day prizes with increased cost

*FY 25*

\$17,000 general fund item to support conservation of miscellaneous projects, to include:

- *Group 3 maintenance – reviewing bid now*

Secretary Flora asked about the status of the FY26 budget. Stacy Montgomery did not have an update.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

### Art Lab Solutions Spring/Summer Cleaning Schedule

- Work to occur in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City and Baltimore County in June of 2025.
  - Stacy Montgomery will reach out to commissioners about dates/time to see conservation work once it is scheduled.
  - Commissioners Schiszik and Patterson asked for a list of monuments to be conserved in Baltimore City.
  - Sec. Flora asked if the whole list could be sent to the Commission, Stacy will send full list with times and dates.
  - Commissioners Mohan and Chase also expressed interest in visiting the monuments in Baltimore City or Baltimore County.

### Maryland History Day Prize

- Commission is sponsoring a prize for Excellence in United States Military History: This award recognizes two projects (one junior-level and one senior-level) involving any aspect of United States military history, including commemorative artworks, architecture, programs, events, etc., associated with military service.
  - The junior level is a middle school (grades 6-8) prize and the senior level is a high school prize (grades 9-12).

- [Maryland History Day](#) will be May 3rd, 2024 @ UMBC
  - Commissioners are welcome to attend the event, and to attend the awards ceremony at 3:30 PM – please let Stacy know if you are interested in attending
  - Commissioner Mohan expressed interest in attending the event/awards ceremony on behalf of the Commission.
  - Commissioner Schiszik shared her experience as a judge several years ago.

#### HB133/SB448 To establish a Commission to Study African American Civil War Soldiers who fought for the Union Army in Maryland

- This Commission made findings and recommendations for funding, design, construction, and location for a memorial dedicated to African American Civil War soldiers.
- Stacy Montgomery and Commissioner Ryan Patterson served on the Commission.
- The [Final Report](#) is now available.
- A Bill for a Memorial to African American Civil War Sailors was introduced last session but did not move forward.
- Secretary Flora and Stacy Montgomery will follow up on report, outcomes, and next steps.
  - Commissioner Patterson recommended reaching out to the team at the Maryland State Archives that staffed that Commission for updates.
  - Commissioner Mohan noted that she would be interested in helping with an online history narrative to support this effort.

#### Memorial Grove, Druid Hill Park, Baltimore City

- Stacy Montgomery is still working with the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks staff and did reach out with information on MHT Capital Grants that would be available to the site, but no application was made.
- Commissioner Schiszik shared that she saw people parking in the Memorial Grove when visiting the Zoo and asked if the Commission could send a letter asking the Zoo not to permit this. Commissioner Schiszik said she would be happy to be part of any conversation about this.
- Commissioner Morrill asked if it was possible to put in a budget request for Capital Dollars to support work to the Memorial Grove. Sec. Flora and Stacy Montgomery stated that they would look into the timing and requirements for this type of request.

#### Potential Inventory Notification System

- Stacy Montgomery provided an update to the commission on the potential inventory notification system, which could model the process to notify owners of properties with easements held by MHT.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

#### Election of Vice Chair

- Secretary Flora asked that commissioners consider their interest in serving as Vice-Chair to the Commission.
- At the next meeting, the commission will develop a roster of potential candidates to vote on.

- Commissioner Schiszik asked to define the role of the Vice Chair.
  - Sec. Flora suggested that the Vice Chair would chair the meeting when she was unable to, and step in to other matters as needed, but other duties could be established.

#### FY2025 Monument Maintenance

- Stacy Montgomery shared that an RFP for the maintenance of the Monument in Group 3 (predominantly Eastern Shore) had received one response that was under review.
- A list of monuments in this group will be provided to the Commissioners.

#### New Monument Added to Inventory

- The Lexington Park USCT Monument in St. Mary's County was added to the inventory of monuments at the request of the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions.
- Stacy Montgomery shared the process to add a monument to the inventory.

#### M144 Spanish Cannon in Towson

- Commissioner Fischer discussed the current condition of the Spanish Cannon at the Towson Courthouse, which was plugged with Portland Cement. He is looking for a matching grant in the next few years to restore it.

### VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Meeting Schedule

- Stacy Montgomery will prepare a Doodle poll to determine the best date for a summer meeting.
- Commissioners expressed interest in an in-person/on-site meeting for the October, 2025 meeting. Stacy Montgomery will work on coordinating that meeting.
  - Commissioners Patterson and Schiszik supported committing one meeting a year that would be in person, potentially near a monument.

### VIII. ADJOURN

Secretary Flora called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Commissioner Patterson and seconded by Commissioner Davidson. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm