

Maryland Military Monuments Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 11, 2018
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Present: Chair McCord, Commissioners Carson, Dooley, Hammond, Kurtz, Martel, McKown, Morrill, Rude, Schiszik, Schnell, Soderberg, Villanueva, Wisniewski; Staff Karen Golder

Guests: David Craig, Peter Kurtze

Absent: Commissioners Toomey, Plumb, Stone

Chair McCord: Called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

- Welcomed commissioners. Apologized for scheduling mixup at April meeting. Expressed statewide appreciation for history found in his regional outreach. Welcomed guests Craig and Kurtze. Thanked Commissioner Kurtz who retired July 1 but will remain on MMMC until 2020.
- Called for approval of the minutes of January meeting, which had corrections suggested by Commissioners Soderberg and Wisniewski at the April meeting. Commissioner Wisniewski moved to accept the changes, Commissioner Morrill seconded, and the motion passed. Chair McCord called for approval of the April minutes; Commissioner Morrill moved to accept, Commissioner Martel seconded, and the motion was passed.

Financial Report

- Commissioner Kurtz gave a funding update.
 - \$10,577 of FY 2017 funds were under contract for maintenance of 14 Western Shore monuments; work was completed June 2018 and invoiced. A change order of NTE \$1,000 was added to contract for removal of graffiti found on the de Kalb monument during maintenance, to be done later in summer.
 - \$83,600 had been encumbered by MHT for 5th Regiment Armory WWI Memorial entrance, to be reimbursed by Military Department with half federal reimbursement; all work except bird netting completed.
 - FY 2018 budget is \$17,000. \$10,297 were encumbered for 2019 maintenance of 16 monuments. \$4,704 were encumbered for repair and spot repointing of the Mount Washington All Wars Monument.
 - \$4,737 remain in MMMC fund transferred from MDVA to Planning (MDP) After \$1,200 encumbrance to reimburse Baltimore City for paving repairs

after Military Dept. removes mortars from Hammann-Costin Monument, planned for summer.

- Commissioner Wisniewski asked Chair McCord whether the threshold for requiring three bids on a contract is \$2,500. Chair affirmed.
- Chair McCord asked if we have \$1,000 for graffiti removal. Kurtz affirmed.

Ongoing Business

- Commissioner Kurtz gave a review of June maintenance of 14 monuments and tablets on the Western Shore, including work on the John O'Neill and GAR monuments in Havre de Grace, Mount Pleasant Hospital for Consumptives WWI in Garrison Forest MD Veterans Cemetery, WWI gate and WWII Monument at Pikesville Armory, Baron de Kalb Monument at the State House, the French Soldiers and Sailors of the American Revolution and the WWI monuments at St. John's College.
- Kurtz gave overview of completed maintenance on 5th Regiment Armory WWI Memorial, done by Conservation of Sculpture and Objects Studio using laser for coatings removal. Commissioner Dooley said photos do not convey how good it looks. Commissioner Villanueva suggested we enlist a photographer to document the results; discussion ensued. Commissioner Schizik noted it is a gem and asked how we can share this widely. She also suggested a field trip to the Schuler Studio nearby. There was a long discussion of how best to publicize the project. A press release was suggested. Consensus was for a post documenting the project with good images that could be linked to a variety of platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube, etc., to reach a larger audience. Kurtz will discuss with MHT; can provide the content. Adjutant General Singh wants to plan an event at the armory. Chair McCord will work with PIO to determine how to publicize. He will look into getting a photographer. Kurtz expressed appreciation for Larry Leone, now retired from Military Dept, who pledged funding.
- Hammann-Costin Monument trench mortars are to be moved this season by Maryland Military Department to the Maryland Military Museum, with MMMC funding \$1,200 for paving repair.
- Kurtz showed photos and described the damage and needs of the Mount Washington All Wars Monument. She has been coordinating with the American Legion about the overgrown condition of the site.
- Commissioner Wisniewski outlined his research on obtaining a challenge coin for MMMC. The coin would be bronze, 4" and feature artwork of the MD 400 monument, a Doughboy, and the MD Seal. He solicited four vendors; two responded at cost above \$2,500. He negotiated to get cost below that. He would like to order 100. There was discussion about who would be awarded coins; the parties involved in MD 400 annual commemoration were suggested. Coins will have blank space for personal engraving on back. Commissioner Hammond moved to allocate funds for 100 medals at NTE cost of NTE \$2,500. Commissioner Martel seconded; motion passed.

New Business

- David Craig, Executive Director of the Maryland World War I Centennial Commission, briefed the Commission on his recent speaking engagements, including Memorial Day and for a new monument in Havre de Grace to Gold Star Families. On November 11, at 11 am, bells will be tolled around the country. There will be an event on that day with the Governor at the MD State House. MDWWICC has met at the War Memorial in Baltimore and will meet at the Fifth Regiment Armory in the future. Kurtz and McKown confirmed August 19 date of annual SAR August bus trip to NYC for MD 400 commemoration.

Announcements

- Commissioner McKown noted the annual third Thursday of October ceremony at the French Monument at St. John's College to commemorate the French soldiers who gave their lives to aid Americans in our struggle for independence during the Revolutionary War.
- Chair McCord welcomed new commissioner, Steve Hammond. Commissioner Hammond is president of the Anne Arundel County Historical Society and is active with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The SUV is interested in moving the sun dial monument at Federal Hill Park in Baltimore City. Commissioner Schizik said she is staff coordinator for historic monuments in Baltimore City and would discuss with him after the meeting.
- After discussion it was decided to hold the next meeting on Monday, October 15 at the Fifth Regiment Armory, in order to see the completed memorial. Commissioner Dooley will coordinate. Commissioner Schizik will look into coordinating a visit to the Schuler School to follow the meeting.
- Commissioner reported on Dan Toomey, who continues to recover at home.

Chair McCord adjourned the meeting at 2:30.