

Maryland Military Monuments Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 15, 2018
5th Regiment Armory
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Present: Chair McCord, Commissioners Dooley, Hammond, Kurtz, McKown, Schiszik, Soderberg, Wisniewski; Staff Steven Allan; Guest Peter Kurtze

Absent: Commissioners Balkoski, Carson, Jewitt, Martel, Morrill, Plumb, Rude, Schnell, Stone, Toomey, Villanueva

Upon consulting Section 13 of Executive Order 01.01.2016.07, Chair McCord and S. Allan agreed that the 8 members present did not constitute a majority for a quorum for the transaction of any Commission business.

Chair McCord: Called the meeting to order at 1:18 pm.

- Asked that members state their names before speaking at this meeting, so that Steve could record who was saying what in Karen's absence. She was called away for a family emergency before the meeting began.
- Asked for an approval of the minutes from the July meeting. There was no discussion of the minutes. Commissioner McKown moved to accept the minutes; Commissioner Wisniewski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

- Commissioner Kurtz gave a funding update.
 - Of the \$17,000 FY 2018 funds, \$10,297 have been encumbered for 2019 maintenance of 16 monuments in the central part of the state. This will happen in the spring.
 - \$4,704 was invoiced for completed repair and partial repointing of the All Wars Monument in Mount Washington.
 - \$1,200 was encumbered but not yet invoiced for paving repair of the Hammann-Costin Mounument in Baltimore City. The trench mortars are in Harford County being refurbished.
 - \$4,737 remains unencumbered in the Monuments Fund.

Ongoing Business

- Commissioner Kurtz gave an update of the All Wars Monument in Mount Washington and provided a handout. The damaged stone has been repaired by conservator Howard Wellman. Discussion ensued about who would take "ownership" of this monument (to keep it from falling into disrepair again.) The dry cleaning business adjacent lets us (the Commission) use their water for conservation and maintenance. The site is very overgrown. Commissioner Kurtz

has been in touch with the retired area commander, but has not heard from the current area commander. Next step is to get in touch with the American Legion commander for Maryland; hopefully the local Legion post can take care of it with help from the community. Unsure if the recent damage was a natural occurrence or vandalism. Chair McCord suggested that perhaps a Scout troop or other organization in the area could be sponsored for service hours. Commissioner Soderberg said that the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have done similar work in her experience, but the monument needs long term care beyond initial maintenance. Need to clean it and keep it. Chair McCord agreed. Commissioner Kurtz said there is interest in the community.

- WWI Blog Post. Commissioner Kurtz wrote a blog post about the 5th Regiment Armory work in August and coordinated with a professional photographer to be shared across various platforms from the MHT website. It included a short video of laser cleaning on the 5th Regiment Armory.
- Chair McCord would like it to be released around the time of the Armistice, and thanked Commissioner Kurtz for her work to get this documented and done in a timely manner.
- Medallion Project. Commissioner Wisniewski thanked Karen Golder for securing an additional bid, (though it didn't seem to be necessary due to an information gap.) He suggested that since there are already two secured bids, and that the preferred vendor, Challenge Coin Plus, was already voted on by the Commission, the project can move forward for 100 medals, .5 mm thick for no more than \$2,499. No additional motion is needed at this time. Secretary McCord affirmed that for MDPs purposes, that three bids are favored, though not required. This includes MHT.

New Business

- Commissioner Kurtz presented the request from Zion Lutheran Church in Baltimore regarding their WWII plaque, and whether it could be added to our program. Discussion: This is a small plaque that is directly mounted on the church, but it fits the parameters of what we do. They have received MHA grants. We do not know the history of the plaque, or the designer. Commissioner Schiszik said it is located downtown across from City Hall. A suggestion was made to vote to add it to the program. Chair McCord stated that there are only 8 members present, and need 9 (to vote) if we have 17 members. Chair McCord asked if there were any questions. Commissioner McKown asked what does it say? Commissioner Wisniewski replied that it is in German, but he couldn't decipher the entire text. Chair McCord said that we need a full translation before adding it to the Commission's inventory. We will table it for now, but put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Announcements

- The next meeting date is January 9, 2019 at 1:00 pm in Crownsville. The January 10 date on the agenda is incorrect.

Chair McCord asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hammond so moved, Commissioner Schizik seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Following the meeting, Commissioners and staff examined the finished conservation work on the Fifth Regiment Armory entrance before boarding a van to tour the Schuler School.