

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

October 24, 2024

### **MINUTES**

The special 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: Flora, Mendelsohn, Fischer, Shipley, Morrill, Schiszik  
Schnell (not reappointed, did not vote/participate)

MDP Staff: Stacy Montgomery

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

Secretary Rebecca Flora called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM. There was not a quorum of Commissioners present.

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

As there was not a quorum, no vote on the minutes was held.

#### **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 one completed in Fall of 2023
- Phase two completed in Summer 2024
- Final phase to be completed summer 2025

\$17,000 general fund item supported the conservation of:

- M404: Kenmore High School World War II Plaque, Elkton (\$2,600) - completed January 2024
- M164: Civil War Tablets (GAR), Cherry Hill Cemetery, Elkton (\$13,467) - completed March 2024

## *FY2024*

\$17,000 general fund item supported:

- The conservation of 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 two more years of Maryland History Day prizes

Secretary Flora and Commissioner Mendelsohn shared that they participated in the Maryland History Day event this year. Commissioner Shipley shared that he served as a History Day judge in Garrett County.

## *FY2025*

\$17,000 general fund item which can support the following activities with the Commission's approval/direction:

- Continued conservation of monuments following the schedule;
- Training/Conference fees;

Commissioners Fischer and Mendelsohn suggested that the funds focus on the protection of historic masonry on monuments. Commissioner Schiszik suggested that the allocation be at the discretion of staff based upon need.

Secretary Flora suggested a motion in keeping with the commissioner's discussion: For FY2025 funding should focus on monument conservation with a focus on masonry specifically, but should allow flexibility for staff to make a final determination.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

### Art Lab Solutions Bronze Stripping and Rewaxing Project

Stacy Montgomery provided an update. The second phase of work was completed in Allegany County, Washington County, Frederick County, and Carroll County in June and July.

- Stacy Montgomery presented some images of the work completed in the second phase.
- Commissioner Kurtz, Stacy Montgomery, and Nichole Daub from the MAC Lab inspected the work in mid-August.
- The final phase will be completed next summer to include Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Anne Arundel County.
  - Moved to next summer since some of the monuments to be treated are currently inaccessible due to work at the Maryland State House

## Commission to Study African American Civil War Soldiers who fought for the Union Army in Maryland

Stacy Montgomery reported on the progress of this commission:

- This new Commission will make findings and recommendations for funding, design, construction, and location for a memorial dedicated to African American Civil War soldiers by December 1, 2024.
- Commissioner Patterson serves on the commission as a representative of this commission. Stacy Montgomery is on the commission representing MDP.
- Staffed by Maryland State Archives.
- First meeting was held September 30<sup>th</sup> and a second meeting will be held next week.
- Outlined a plan for the report and developed subcommittees focused on research, education, and design. Each committee developing a portion of the final report.
- Design Committee (which Commissioner Patterson and Stacy Montgomery are a part of) is researching other existing monuments, site considerations, similar efforts for other monuments, and best practices.
- Commissioner Mendelsohn asked if maintenance costs were discussed and suggested the area around the Washington Monument (in Baltimore?) as a possible location for the new monument.
- Commissioner Mendelsohn recommended that maintenance costs be considered in the report.

## Memorial Grove, Druid Hill Park, Baltimore City

- Stacy Montgomery updated the commission on her efforts on this matter. She has been in Communication with Tim Almaguer at BCRP. There are no current plans for this area. While BCRP has received a lot of funding (like ARPA) it's been focused on upgrading or creating new playgrounds and rec centers.
- If funding were available BCRP would be interested in focusing on planning and design ahead of any capital project, including a conditions assessment, landscape design, and vision planning for the space. Evaluation and extensive work on the overgrown landscape would also be a priority. Currently, staff and volunteers try to hold back the overgrowth and invasive plants.
- Stacy Montgomery to provide information on grants available to improve the site.
- Commissioner Mendelsohn shared [this article](#) from last year about the site.
- Commissioner Schiszik shared that grant funding would be critical to support any effort here since the City and BCRP operates at a deficit each year, which means that there is no funding available from the City for preservation.
- Commissioner Morrill expressed his support for the project and asked that staff investigate the possibility a one-time funding request to assist the project or to provide information on grants.
- Commissioner Flora suggested looking at the MD250 Grants/Commission support.

## Fort Babcock Military Marker Rededication

- Commission discussed this monument at the October 2023 meeting, when Commissioner Hammond requested an update.

- Stacy Montgomery gave background information on the marker and cannon, presented images from the rededication ceremony, and background on the request to rename of the Monument in the MMMC inventory to the Fort Covington Monument.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### Potential Inventory Notification System

- At the request of Commissioner Mendelsohn, should the commission develop a formal process for notifying organizations that own or care for monuments in the Monuments Inventory that they are on this inventory?

## COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Commissioner Fischer commented that this would be a good way to engage stakeholders.

Secretary Flora asked Staff to explore a method of outreach or annual notification through a distribution list.

Commissioner Mendelsohn suggested that organizations that have/care for monuments could receive a certificate of recognition.

## VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Commissioner Appointments

- Some commissioners may have received an email or letter from the appointments office – commissioners should let Stacy Montgomery know if they have.
- Stacy Montgomery will be meeting with from staff from the Reappointments office next week to discuss the commission

### Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Commission will take place on April 24, 2025.

At the next meeting the commission may discuss adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, electing a vice chair, and creating bylaws.

## VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:51 PM.