

Minutes of the
Eighty-First Meeting of the
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority
October 11, 2018

The eighty-first meeting of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) was held on October 11, 2018 at the Allegany Museum, located at 3 Pershing Street in Cumberland, Maryland.

Authority Members/Designees Present:

Robert S. McCord, Secretary, MD Department of Planning, and Chair, Maryland Heritage Areas Authority; Elizabeth Hughes (State Historic Preservation Officer); Pete Leshner (MD Municipal League representative); Amy Seitz (representing MD Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Kenneth C. Holt); J. Matthew Neitzey (MD Tourism Development Board representative); Burton Kummerow (President of the Senate representative); Lisa Challenger (Governor's Appointee for Heritage Tourism); John Wilson (representing MD Department of Natural Resources Secretary Mark J. Belton);); Natalie Chabot (Representative for MD Greenways)

The following Authority members/designees joined the meeting by telephone: Robert D. Campbell (Governor's Appointee for Historic Preservation and serving as Vice Chair for the Maryland Heritage Area Authority); Thomas Bradshaw (MD Association of Counties representative); Wayne E. Clark (President of the Senate representative); Lee Towers (representing MD Higher Education Commission Secretary James D. Fielder, Jr.).

Authority Members/Designees Absent:

Marty Baker (representing MD Department of Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn); Elizabeth Fitzsimmons (representing MD Department of Commerce Secretary R. Michael Gill); Rowland Agbede (representing MD Department of Agriculture Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder); Janice Hayes-Williams (Speaker of the House representative); Vacant (representing Speaker of the House); Vacant (representing MD State Department of Education Secretary Karen Salmon)

Staff Present: Jennifer Ruffner, Ennis Barbary Smith, Courtney Hotchkiss, Bernadette Pruitt (Maryland Historical Trust); Paul Cucuzzella, Rieyn Deloney (Office of the Attorney General)

Heritage Area Directors/Staff Present: Lucille Walker (Southern Maryland Heritage Area & Co-Chair, Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas); Deidra Ritchie (Canal Place Heritage Area); Nicole Gray (Canal Place Heritage Area); Eric Harmon (Canal Place Heritage Area); Elizabeth Shatto (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area); Julie Gilberto-Brady (Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area); Carol Benson (Four Rivers / Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area); Shauntee Daniels (Baltimore National Heritage Area); Gail Owings (Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area); Aaron Marcavitch (Maryland Milestones / Anacostia Trails Heritage Area); Mary Ann Lisanti (Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway); Sarah Rogers (Montgomery County Heritage Area); Lindsey Baker (Patapsco Valley Heritage Area); Lisa Ludwig (Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area); Jennifer Durben (Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area)

Others Present:

Kathy McKenney (City of Cumberland); Joe Weaver (Allegany Museum)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by MHAA Chair and Secretary of the MD Department of Planning, Robert McCord.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. McCord invited Mr. Joe Weaver to welcome the meeting attendees to the Allegany Museum.

Mr. Weaver, founding member and Executive Vice President of the Allegany Museum, introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Museum. He explained that the Allegany Museum's focus is local history. The collection and exhibits are comprised of items donated by residents. He described the breadth of the Museum's exhibits and invited the meeting attendees to explore the galleries following the meeting. Mr. Weaver also noted that the Museum purchased their current building, 3 Pershing Street, in 2000 as part of an effort—with Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority—to invest in heritage tourism in downtown Cumberland. He provided information about the Museum's visitors, sharing that on average the institution welcomes 10,000 visitors annually, and about 70 percent of those visitors are from out of town. In the past year, the Museum has recorded visitors from 46 states and 17 different counties.

All MHAA members, MHAA staff, heritage area directors and staff, and audience members present introduced themselves. The four MHAA members present via phone also introduced themselves.

MHAA CHAIRPERSON ANNOUNCEMENTS /UPDATES (Robert McCord, MHAA Chair)

Mr. McCord thanked the City of Frostburg for the engaging tour they provided to Authority members yesterday, October 10, 2018, as part of the boundary amendment request process undertaken by the City of Frostburg and the Canal Place Heritage Area. The proposed amendment would expand the heritage area to include portions of the City of Frostburg.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 12, 2018 MEETING

Mr. McCord called for a motion to approve the July 12, 2018 MHAA meeting minutes. Mr. Matthew Neitzey moved to approve the minutes. He offered the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Authority approves the July 12, 2018 minutes as presented (R-100).

The motion was seconded by Mr. Kummerow and approved unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

Mr. McCord shared that the Executive Committee held a conference call on September 7, 2018 and came to a decision on a matter concerning the Caroline County Historical Society (CCHS)'s FY 2016 grant from MHAA. Mr. McCord explained that the Committee is asking the Authority members to ratify that decision with a vote at today's meeting.

Ms. Jen Ruffner provided details about the matter. In July of 2018, MHAA staff sent the CCHS a letter stating that the FY 2016 MHAA grant "Creation of a Heritage Center – Denton" had been cancelled. The completion date for this grant was May 31, 2017 and the final report was due July 31, 2017. At the time when the cancellation letter was sent, no grant reports or requests for extensions had been received from the grantee, despite multiple reminder emails sent by MHAA staff. In response to the cancellation letter, MHAA received a letter from J.O.K. Walsh, President of CCHS, providing arguments for why the grant should not be cancelled. He explained that the volunteer in charge of the project had been dealing with personal issues and, unfortunately, let the grant lapse.

The Executive Committee reviewed the project details and correspondence, coming to the conclusions that the project—to construct a heritage center in Denton—is important and that the MHAA grant ultimately should not be cancelled. In order to ensure that the project will come to fruition, the Executive Committee is recommending the following:

1. The grant project should be extended for an additional two years, with a new project completion date set for August 31, 2020;
2. The Town of Denton should be added to the grant agreement as a co-grantee;
3. Reporting benchmarks should be set to ensure ongoing communication with MHAA staff and timely completion of the project;
4. Adjustments should be made to the grant agreement to reflect current FY 2019 MHAA policies and procedures for disbursement and reporting.

Mr. McCord added that the Executive Committee was more interested in seeing the project completed than in administering a penalty for the grantee's failure to meet the terms of the grant. He said that, since the Town of Denton was willing to step up and serve as the primary grantee, the Committee decided the extension was warranted in order to allow for completion of this valuable project.

Mr. Leshner thanked the Executive Committee for considering the matter and coming to a decision. He made the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Authority ratifies the action taken by the Executive Committee during its conference call meeting on September 7, 2018 to amend the FY16 MHAA grant agreement with Caroline County Historical Society for funding of a project to build a Heritage Center in Denton. The grant agreement is being modified to (i) extend the project completion date until August 31, 2020 to allow the grantee additional time to complete the

project; and (ii) add the Town of Denton as a co-grantee to ensure the successful completion of the project.

Ms. Amy Seitz seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

MANAGEMENT REPORT (Jennifer Ruffner, MHAA Administrator)

MHAA Financing Fund Report

Ms. Ruffner reported that as of August 24, 2018, the current balance of the MHAA Financing Fund was \$580,979. Ms. Ruffner noted that this balance includes funds from MHAA grants that have been returned to the Authority and funds from MHAA grants that were completed under budget. The balance also includes \$100,000 that was set aside for FY 2019 Emergency Grants at the July 12, 2018 meeting. Ms. Ruffner pointed out that the Authority only has spending authorization for the \$100,000 earmarked for Emergency Grants.

Mr. Wayne Clark suggested that the Authority should request spending authorization in order to fund additional FY 2019 grants.

There was discussion.

As a conclusion to this discussion, Mr. McCord asked MHAA staff to take a retrospective look at the MHAA Emergency Grants requested and funded in past years and to draft a reserve list policy for MHAA grants, to be used in future grant cycles. He asked that the findings about past Emergency Grants and the reserve list policy draft be ready for discussion at the January 2019 meeting of the Authority.

Ms. Seitz asked why the grant to FY 2017 MHAA grant to Skipjack Heritage was returned. Ms. Ruffner explained that the organization made this decision after their board members learned more about the requirements associated with the Maryland Historical Trust's preservation easement, a condition of this grant award.

Update on FY 2019 Grant Round

Ms. Ennis Barbary Smith shared the current counts of how many FY 2019 MHAA grants were in various stages of grant agreement creation and processing. Ms. Smith listed the following counts: 13 grants were in the "verification of details" stage in which the grantee confirms the details of the project using an online form; 44 grants were in the "grant agreement being drafted stage" in which the grantee and program staff have reviewed the project details and the agreement document itself is being generated; 13 were in the "legal review of grant agreement" stage in which the agreement document has been drafted and OAG staff are reviewing the document; 19 were in the "with the grantee for signature" stage in which the agreements have been mailed to the grantees for their review and signature; three were in the "legal sufficiency review" stage in which the grant agreements have been signed by the grantee and undergo final legal review; 11 were in the "final signature" stage in which the grant agreements are signed by

the Secretary of the Department of Planning's designee; and 11 grant agreements were fully processed. All added together, this accounts for the 114 total FY 2019 MHAA grants awarded.

Ms. Smith explained that the 44 grants in the later stages of the process, after the grant agreement has been mailed to the grantee for signature, require only minimal staff time and review for processing after that point.

Ms. Smith shared that in previous years MHAA staff has set a goal of having all agreements processed by the end of October. However, with the increased volume of MHAA awards in FY 2019, MHAA staff does not expect to have all grant agreements processed over the next month.

Ms. Ruffner thanked the OAG staff for their quick review of the agreements, noted that staff has been prioritizing the processing of management grants first, and mentioned that staff is using a spreadsheet to track how long various steps in the process take. This tracking is conducted as part of an effort to identify and address bottlenecks.

Ms. Ruffner also noted that—while the data migration of the grants management software went smoothly—it did result in about two weeks of downtime during which only certain portions of the grant processing could take place.

Economic Impact Study Update

Ms. Ruffner shared that MHAA staff is addressing comments from the Department of Planning that will be incorporated in the final report.

Program Impact Study Working Group Update

Ms. Ruffner reported that the working group met in early September. Building on the discussion at this meeting and previous working group meetings, MHAA staff members have created the building blocks of a request for proposals (RFP) draft, which has been circulated to Authority members and heritage area directors. Ms. Ruffner reminded the Authority that the intent of this study is to develop a methodology for measuring the complex impacts of the MHAA program, including qualitative impacts as well as economic impacts. She asked that everyone send her any comments, suggestions for editing, and/or questions regarding the RFP by the end of October 2018.

Ms. Elizabeth Shatto commented that economic impact should be featured more prominently in the RFP. By bumping up the emphasis on economic impact, it would be made clearer for proposal writers that economic impact is an important element of the desired product.

TAC Working Group and Survey

Ms. Ruffner explained that the Coalition of Maryland Heritage Areas has put forward a request to examine the structure and workings of the Technical Advisory Committee. MHAA staff

shared this request with the Executive Committee for their input. The Executive Committee discussed the request and suggested two mechanisms for addressing request:

1. Establishing a temporary working group—comprised of two heritage area directors, two MHAA members, two TAC members, and two MHAA staff members—to talk through and address the request;
2. Circulating an anonymous survey about the structure and workings of the TAC to all stakeholder groups in order to gather input that will inform the working group's discussion and recommendations.

Ms. Ruffner shared that the survey has been circulated but has only received 16 responses to-date. She encouraged everyone to respond to the survey and promised to re-circulate the link to the online form.

She also asked that members of all stakeholder groups volunteer to be part of the working group, either by responding to a survey question or sending a separate email to MHAA staff. Sending an email about volunteering for the working group—rather than including this in a survey response—will ensure that the respondent's survey answers remain entirely anonymous, even to MHAA staff members.

The Executive Committee will determine which of the volunteers will serve on the working group.

US/ICOMOS Forward Together Symposium Presentation

Ms. Ruffner noted that MHAA program staff were encouraged to submit a paper proposal to the US/ICOMOS Forward Together Symposium that will take place in November 2018 in San Francisco. She announced that the proposal submitted, entitled "Stewarding Places and Stories: The Maryland Heritage Areas Program as a Framework for Conservation," was accepted by conference organizers and that she and Ms. Smith will be attending the Symposium.

Ms. Ruffner said that MHAA staff would share the final paper with the Authority and Coalition, explaining that the paper's emphasis is on landscape-scale conservation of cultural and natural heritage, as related to the Symposium's theme.

Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas (MCoHA) Report

Lucille Walker (Co-Chair of MCHA, with Jeffrey Buchheit)

Ms. Lucille Walker congratulated Ms. Ruffner and Ms. Smith on their paper proposal's acceptance into the US/ICOMOS Symposium.

Ms. Walker noted that, as FY 2019 grant projects get underway, the impact of the increased funding is being felt around the State. She mentioned that the Coalition had a well-received outreach presence at both the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) and the Maryland Municipal League (MML) conferences.

She announced that the Coalition is planning to hold a legislative reception in the third week of January and everyone should anticipate receiving details about the exact date and time via email. Ms. Walker shared that the Coalition has purchased advertising space in *Destination Maryland*. Ms. Seitz asked who designed the advertisement, and Ms. Walker replied that Sarah Rogers and the office of the Montgomery County Heritage Area put together the design and layout. Ms. Walker offered to circulate the advertisement to the Authority.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution R-300 to Approve a Request by the Canal Place Heritage Area and the City of Frostburg to amend the boundaries of the Canal Place Heritage Area.

Mr. McCord explained that this request would add the historic core of Frostburg to the Canal Place Heritage Area. While the City of Frostburg was not ready to join the heritage area when a previous Canal Place Heritage Area boundary amendment process took place, they are now poised to be an important part of the heritage area.

Mr. McCord thanked the City of Frostburg for the tour they provided yesterday to those members of the Authority who were able to attend. He noted that Frostburg is part of the Main Street Maryland program and has a range of wonderful historic resources. In response to the Authority's call for public comment, two letters of support have been received. At the public hearing held on October 10, 2018, all but one of the attendees indicated they were in favor of the boundary amendment, and all the speakers supported the boundary amendment.

Ms. Deidra Ritchie, Director of the Canal Place Heritage Area, stated that passing this boundary amendment will add the following to the heritage area: the Frostburg Historic District, portions of the National Road and the Route 36 Scenic Byway, Frostburg's Main Street, and a portion of the Frostburg State University Campus. She said that the effort to add these areas of Frostburg to the heritage area has been underway since 2012 and thanked Frostburg for the tour provided.

Ms. Ruffner added that Frostburg made a strong case for the City's inclusion in the heritage area by highlighting their rich heritage, especially their history of coal mining and the tunnels that run under the City.

Ms. Seitz noted that while Frostburg's participation in the Main Street program had been highlighted, the City also has an Arts and Entertainment District.

Ms. Ritchie added that, as part of the FY 2019 MHAA Marketing Grant received by Allegany County Tourism and the Canal Place Heritage Area, the heritage area will be rebranding to better communicate their wider reaching boundaries.

Mr. Wayne Clark asked about which portions of the National Road would be included. Ms. Ruffner clarified that only the portions of the National Road that run through the City of Frostburg's municipal boundaries will be included as part of this amendment.

Ms. Natalie Chabot commented that the City of Frostburg did a good job identifying potential projects that could benefit from MHAA grant support as part of the tour.

Mr. Robert Campbell made the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Authority approves—in accordance with Sections 13-1008(10) and 13-1111(m) of the State of Finance and Procurement Article of the Code of Maryland, and COMAR 14.29.03.06C—the request by the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority and the City of Frostburg to amend the boundaries of the Canal Place Heritage Area to include portions of the City of Frostburg depicted in the request.

Ms. Seitz seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Ms. Ruffner stated that the boundary expansion will be official when the new boundaries are posted on the Maryland Historical Trust's website.

Emergency Grant Request – Catoctin Furnace Historical Society – Museum of the Ironworker

Ms. Ruffner provided background information about this emergency grant request. She explained that the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society is coming in for emergency funding to address work that is proposed for its Museum of the Ironworker building. The organization received an MHAA grant for capital work on this building previously in FY 2018.

Ms. Ruffner summarized MHAA's Emergency Grant policy, explaining that only projects that meet the following criteria are eligible for this type of funding: 1) projects that were not foreseen during the MHAA's previous annual grant application round; 2) projects that are urgent enough that they cannot wait until MHAA's next annual grant application round because they present a narrow time-sensitive need or opportunity.

Ms. Ruffner explained that the emergency grant request is for \$63,650 to demolish and replace the rear wing—the modern wing—of the Museum of the Ironworker building at Catoctin Furnace. The roof and structural damage to the rear wing of the building has worsened due to strong storms and record rainfall in spring and summer of 2018. In the FY 2019 MHAA grant round, the applicant received two MHAA grants: one for historic preservation work and repairs on the Collier Log House and one to produce forensic facial reconstructions of Catoctin Furnace workers and an accompanying exhibit. In the winter of 2017-2018, the applicant also applied for, but was not awarded, a bond bill that would have funded on the reconstruction of the modern wing of the Museum of the Ironworker.

Ms. Shatto added that the Museum of the Ironworker Building is owned by DNR, the applicant has approvals for this work from MHT, and that she believes—to the best of her knowledge—that the applicant has approvals from DNR.

Ms. Ruffner explained that, while the TAC saw merit in the project, they did not conclude that the project was eligible to receive MHAA Emergency Grant funding based on the criteria

established in the MHAA Emergency Grant policy. The TAC recommends that the applicant work with MHAA staff to prioritize the work that needs to be completed first and shift money from their three active MHAA grants to the most urgent work items. The applicant is also encouraged to submit applications during the regular grant round to address other items as needed.

There was discussion.

Mr. Leshner motioned (R-400) for the Authority to deny the MHAA Emergency Grant request for capital work on the Museum of the Ironworker submitted by the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society and to direct MHAA staff to work with the applicant to reallocate money from the applicant's active MHAA grants to address the organization's most urgent needs.

There was discussion.

Mr. McCord called for a vote on the motion set forth by Mr. Leshner. All 10 Authority members present voted in favor of the motion. On the phone, Mr. Towers and Mr. Bradshaw voted in favor, Mr. Campbell abstained, and Mr. Clark voted against. The following motion carried with a vote of 10 for, one against, and one abstention:

RESOLVED, that the Authority rejects Resolution R-400 for an \$63,650 emergency grant to Catoctin Furnace Historical Society for "Emergency Request - Roof Replacement, Drainage Repairs and Rear Wing Replacement for The Museum of the Ironworker" and that the Authority directs MHAA staff to work with the applicant to reallocate money from the applicant's active MHAA grants to address the organization's most urgent needs.

Resolution R-500 to Delay Program Impact Reporting and Development of Heritage Area Five Year Plans

Ms. Ruffner reminded Authority members that—as she shared in the Management Report at this meeting—a Program Impact Study for MHAA is planned for FY 2019 and FY 2020. A draft Request for Proposals for this study is currently being circulated. One of the goals of this study is to develop a framework for on-going data collection that would inform future reporting by the heritage areas and the content of five-year plans. With this in mind, MHAA staff are recommending to the Authority that the previously established due dates for program impact reports and heritage area five-year plans be delayed until after the new reporting methodology can be established and implemented.

Mr. Bradshaw made the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Authority approves a further extension of the due date set forth in the Maryland Heritage Area's Strategic Plan, adopted in 2010, as amended by Resolution 200 in the 77th Meeting of the Authority on October 12, 2017, for the submission of the Program Impact Reports and Development of Heritage Area Five Year Plans by the

heritage area management entities, to allow for the completion of the Program Impact Study.

Mr. Clark seconded this motion and it was approved unanimously.

Ms. Ruffner announced that at this point in the meeting, all action items requiring votes were completed, and those who participated in the meeting via phone had an opportunity to leave the meeting if desired. All four Authority members who had called into the meeting—Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Clark, Mr. Towers, and Mr. Campbell—left the call at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Proposed MHAA Regulation Changes

Ms. Ruffner explained that over the past year, MHAA staff, Authority members, TAC members, and heritage area directors have been asked to review and suggest changes for MHAA's regulations. The Office of the Attorney General—specifically Paul Cucuzzella—is working with MHAA staff to do a complete clean-up of the regulations. This clean-up will help to eliminate inconsistencies within MHAA's regulations, eliminate any clauses that contradict MHAA's statute, and align the regulations more consistently with current practices that have evolved with the MHAA program over time.

Ms. Ruffner emphasized that the proposed MHAA regulation changes document shared in advance of this meeting is a draft. MHAA and OAG staff are seeking input from all stakeholders regarding the proposed changes and any other changes to the regulations that stakeholders would like to put forward.

Mr. Cucuzzella went over the proposed changes to MHAA's regulations and the summary document that he created to highlight substantive changes. He explained that there were so many small changes that it would have been very difficult for readers to decipher if he had created a "red-line" document to show these changes. He said that MHAA started talking about this process over a year ago, the MHAA regulations have not been touched since 1997, and the rule of thumb suggests that regulations should be reviewed every 8 years.

Mr. Cucuzzella explained that he sat down with MHAA staff about a year ago to start the process; listened to suggestions that staff had developed and gathered; created a first draft of proposed changes; cleaned up any inconsistencies in the regulations as part of the process; had another meeting with MHAA staff who had been soliciting input from heritage area directors and TAC; and produced a second draft.

Mr. Cucuzzella noted that some of the changes proposed are as follows: formalizing management entities for heritage areas; redefining capital projects so that projects involving cultural resources—such as boats—other than "real property" can be funded by capital grants; defining the grant application process; formalizing current practices. Some substantive changes

include: striking the cap on in-kind match; creating a process for decertifying portions of a heritage area and for removing heritage area management entities (the only process outlined in the current regulations would decertify an entire heritage area); creating a series of steps as part of this potential decertification process that would allow heritage areas to correct deficiencies; and defining heritage areas consistently throughout the regulations.

Another substantive change that Mr. Cucuzzella highlighted was the clarification between MHAA's process for reviewing complaints related to activities undertaken by State agencies that may affect heritage area resources and MHAA's process for resolving disputes that may arise in connection with MHAA exercising its own authority. These two processes are muddled in the current MHAA regulations, but—in the proposed regulations—they are divided into two distinct chapters for added clarity.

Mr. Cucuzzella stated that many other proposed changes were made simply to make the MHAA regulations more consistent.

Ms. Seitz thanked Mr. Cucuzzella for the thorough review of proposed changes.

Mr. Cucuzzella added details about the next steps for this process. He said these proposed changes are up for review, and comments should be funneled to Ms. Ruffner. After those comments are received, he will produce a third draft. The Authority would then vote to adopt the proposed regulations, which would then—after a successful Authority vote—go to the Division of State Documents, which would review and possibly edit the regulations. The regulations would then be published in the *Maryland Register* and open for public comment for a period of 60 days. After that, the Authority would then vote again to adopt them with any changes added along the way.

There was discussion.

Mr. Cucuzzella established that the middle of December will be the deadline for submitting comments on the second draft of proposed regulation changes to Ms. Ruffner. There will be a follow-up discussion on this topic at the January 2019 MHAA meeting. Ms. Chabot requested that a compilation of comments on the regulations be shared with the group once they were received.

PRESENTATION ON HISTORIC BRIDGES (Anne Bruder, State Highway Administration)

Ms. Anne Bruder of the State Highway Administration gave a presentation on historic bridges in Maryland. She highlighted significant bridges across the State, showing restoration photos, for example, of a bridge that was widened to accommodate bicycle traffic and of bridges that were repaired using similar materials to the materials with which they were originally constructed. She also showed examples of non-priority bridges for which the Maryland Historical Trust has a standardized process for documentation and mitigation.

Ms. Bruder shared that heritage areas may want to play roles as consulting parties in Section 106 processes for historic bridges within their boundaries. Mr. McCord and Ms. Ruffner thanked Ms. Bruder for her presentation.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Kummerow announced that the Maryland Four Centuries Project is kicking off a lecture series at the end of October. He thanked the heritage areas for helping to spread the word. He introduced his spouse, Mary Kummerow, who is playing a role in the project.

Ms. Ruffner also shared an announcement on behalf of Dr. Marty Baker, an Authority member who could not attend the meeting. Ms. Baker wanted to share that the Maryland Transportation Plan and the Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update are both currently available for public review and comment online. A flyer was distributed with the website address information. Ms. Baker asked that MHAA staff share that heritage areas are highlighted in the Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update.

HERITAGE AREA DIRECTORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shauntee Daniels (Baltimore National Heritage Area) thanked the TAC and MHAA for awarding grants to Baltimore National Heritage Area (BNHA) in FY 2019. She shared that an event supported by one of the project grants awarded—"Visitor and Educational Support for Maryland Fleet Week and Air Show Baltimore"—went extremely well. This grant award allowed over 2,000 children to be transported to the Fleet Week programming, and over 15,000 Fleet Week Passports to be circulated, along with commemorative BNHA Fleet Week coins. During the same weekend, the Edgar Allan Poe House and Museum held their International Poe Festival, which was also supported by an MHAA grant award. This event was successful, boasting sold out bus tours and a well-attended real casket funeral for Poe. Ms. Daniels noted that the Department of Housing and Community Development is working with BNHA on the Heritage Neighborhood Program, which is supported in part by a FY219 MHAA Block Grant. She also encouraged everyone to check out James Dilts' recently published book, entitled *The World the Trains Made: A Century of Great Railroad Architecture in the United States and Canada*.

Liz Shatto (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area) shared that her organization participated in the Student Youth Travel Association's annual conference, successfully showcasing her heritage area and making the case that groups should make this area a part of their trips. She also shared that her heritage area has recently developed a student travel guide that can be placed in the hands of tour operators as a terrific source for itinerary planning. Ms. Shatto announced that her heritage area's annual meeting will be held on the evening of November 12, 2018 and that Christopher B. Shank, Chief Legislative Officer to Governor Larry Hogan, will be the featured speaker. She also shared that the Rural Maryland Council will be funding updates for the Newcomer House in the coming year.

Aaron Marcavitch (Maryland Milestones / Anacostia Trails Heritage Area) announced that the Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas' annual legislative reception will be held on January 23.

Mr. Marcavitch shared that he has been busy giving talks about his recently published book on Route 1 history. ATHA will be having a holiday event. The 1812 bicentennial group of stakeholders is holding a meeting to discuss completing Battle of Bladensburg initiatives that were discussed previously but not completed. Mr. Marcavitch is making plans for ATHA's bicycle tour programming, to be held next summer. He shared that Upper Marlboro is considering requesting inclusion in the heritage area, and he will be having an initial meeting with them.

Gail Owings (Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area) reminded everyone about her heritage area's bull and oyster roast event, to be held at the Kennard School on the following weekend, October 13, 2018. She also shared that two towns (Galena and Church Hill) whose governments previously declined to be in the heritage area are now requesting to be included. She said that the Authority should be on the lookout for a boundary amendment to include these municipalities soon.

Carol Benson (Four Rivers / Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area) thanked the Authority for the nine grants awarded to and within her heritage area. She shared that in a recent workshop for her mini-grants program applicants she had 23 attendees. This yielded 11 applications, totaling over \$40,000 in requested funds. She had \$26,000 available to award, showing the significant demand for mini-grant funding in her heritage area. She also shared that she is currently working with the Anne Arundel County cultural resource staff members on her heritage area's first-ever boundary amendment. She noted that the Frederick Douglass Driving Tour has recently been recognized for its excellence with an award. As part of her heritage area's FY2019 Marketing Grant, she will be working with colleague Lisa Robbins on the Four Rivers Heritage: Story Project project, involving the collection of oral histories around the county.

Mary Ann Lisanti (Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway) shared that Ms. Brigitte Carty has taken some time away from the organization due to a death in the family, and this absence has made Ms. Lisanti appreciate what Ms. Carty does for the organization to an even greater extent. Ms. Lisanti said that she is currently holding meetings with cultural sites in her heritage area to check in with them and get ready for the next grant round. She shared that she believes turning around grant agreements faster would be helpful for her grantees. She recently visited the Historic Colored School in Havre de Grace and reported that the alumni and their supporters are sharing tremendously important stories and working on exciting projects to document their shared history.

Jennifer Durben (Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area) reported that 26 turkey dinners are scheduled in Garrett County this year—two more than last year—as part of the Turkey Trail. Printed flyers are available and posted online. Ms. Durben shared that a parade will be held this Saturday, October 13, as part of the Autumn Glory Festival. Fall foliage tours are also scheduled, although the peak leaf change dates are especially late this year. Ms. Durben expects to be submitting a boundary amendment request soon to include Garrett College in the heritage area. The heritage area's marketing grant awarded in FY 2019 will include a website update.

Julie Gilberto-Brady (Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area) shared that State Highway Administration archaeologists successfully completed two weeks of excavation at the Bayly House in Cambridge, revealing hundreds of artifacts that included bones, pottery, what looks to be evidence of an outhouse, pipe stems, and a second foundation that may date to the 1700s. The team plans to return to the community this spring to give a presentation on their findings. They are also making plans to continue excavation at the site. Local students were engaged in the entire process. At the end of October, the heritage area will be holding their annual awards event.

Deidra Ritchie (Canal Place Heritage Area) shared that the River and Rails Festival held in September happened to be on a rainy date, which hampered attendance. However, she said she was still able to get the word out about the Cumberland River Park initiative at the River and Rails event. She announced that the Great Allegheny Passage Relay Race will be held this weekend in the heritage area. Mr. Ritchie said that the FY 2019 MHAA Marketing Grant awarded to her heritage area and Allegany County Tourism will be used, in part, to rebrand the heritage area.

Three heritage area directors had to depart before sharing their announcements.

ADJOURN

Mr. McCord thanked all the meeting attendees and participants, saying, “thanks to everyone here for your efforts to make the past have presence, to make Maryland’s past have presence.”

Ms. Seitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kummerow seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.