

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING**
Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held in person at the MHT Board Room at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, Maryland.

Trustees present: Jeffrey Buchheit, Julie Ernstein, Albert Feldstein, Sarah Kunkel Filkins, Howard Freedlander, LaShay Harvey, Laura Davis Mears, Barbara Paca, Samuel J. Parker, Jr., Franklin A. Robinson, Jr, Kristine Roome, and Secretary Rebecca Flora

Area Representatives present: Dean Camlin, W. Dickerson Charlton, Sakinah Linder, Douglass C. Reed, Lisa Sasser, Harry Spikes, II, Tom Vitanza, Kirsti Uunila.

Office of the Attorney General: Rieyn DeLony, Adam Snyder

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Raines, Collin Ingraham, Kathy Monday, Rod Cofield, Dana Halpert, Alan Gibson, Matthew Migliozi, Andrew Arvizu, Nell Ziehl, Brenna Spray.

Guests: Terry Klima

AGENDA

M1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mears called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and asked Ms. Hughes to call roll. Ms. Hughes reported that a quorum of Board members were present.

M2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Freedlander made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reed, to approve the January 25, 2024 meeting minutes. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

M3 PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Klima expressed his view that MHT is unwilling to protect historic resources equitably as demonstrated by its treatment of the Baltimore City Confederate monuments. He indicated that the Breach Subcommittee, rather than the Monument Relocation Committee, should be addressing issues related to the monuments and decried MHT's decision to allow the monuments to travel to the LAXArt exhibit. He also reported that he had acquired the Baltimore City police report that was filed following the 2022 vandalism of the monuments.

M4 COMMITTEE REPORTS

M100 Capital Programs Committee

No report.

M200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums Committee

M201R 2024 Maryland Preservation Awards

Dr. Spray reported that the Survey, Registration, Community Education, and Museums Committee met in-person at MHT’s offices on March 5, 2024, to review 25 nominations received for the 2024 Maryland Preservation Awards. Eight members participated in the meeting; five in-person and three over the phone. Based on the strength of the nominations and the category criteria, the Committee selected 11 nominations for recommendation to the Board. Dr. Spray noted that the Committee recommended changing the categories for three nominations based on the award criteria: John Potvin, Ballard “Jim” Jamison, and Hot Sox Field at Wilson Park.

Mr. Vitanza and Secretary Flora encouraged Board members to attend these award events which will take place at various venues across the state during the month of May. Dr. Spray indicated that the schedule for the award presentations should be available by mid-April at the latest.

Mr. Parker and Mr. Charlton expressed particular support for the award to MNCPPC, noting that the agency had been doing outstanding preservation work for over 40 years.

Mr. Freedlander inquired about how media outreach was handled for the awards events and noted that the Hill District in Easton, the location of Asbury United Methodist Church, is very active in researching and preserving the history of that community.

The following motion was made by Mr. Feldstein, seconded by Ms. Uunila, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees approves the 2024 Maryland Preservation Awards recommendations of its Survey, Registration, Community Education, and Museums Committee. The recommendations are as follows:

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Outstanding Individual Leadership at the Local Level

- John Potvin (Anne Arundel County)

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Excellence in Public Programming and Exhibits

- Community College of Baltimore County for the Historic Signage Program (Baltimore County)

- Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area and Antietam National Battlefield for “Engaging Visitors through Battlefield Exhibits” (Frederick County)

Excellence in Media and Research

- Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration for “Maryland Railroads Statewide Historic Context” (Statewide)

Community Impact

- Peace and Plenty Rural Historic District (Frederick County)

Excellence in Preservation Partnerships

- Asbury United Methodist Church (Talbot County)

STEWARDSHIP

Outstanding Stewardship of a Cultural Site

- Hot Sox Field at Wilson Park (Anne Arundel County)

Outstanding Stewardship of an MHT Easement Property

- Catoctin Furnace Historical Society for Forgerman’s House (Frederick County)

Outstanding Stewardship by a Government Agency

- Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission/Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation’s Historic Preservation Unit (Prince George’s County)

PROJECT EXCELLENCE

Excellence in Rehabilitation

- Crook-Horner Lofts (Baltimore City)

Excellence in Restoration

- Ship Caulkers’ Houses (Baltimore City)

M202R State Historic Preservation Plan

Ms. Ziehl reported that as Maryland’s State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), MHT is mandated to "prepare and implement a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan," pursuant to Section 101(b)(3)(c) of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. Regulations require a plan “that provides guidance for effective decision making about historic property preservation throughout the state.” In this way, the plan serves the broader preservation community, not just MHT. In addition to historic preservation, which typically refers to architecture, the plan includes archaeology and cultural heritage more broadly.

Ms. Ziehl explained that in recent years MHT has updated the statewide preservation plan at five-year intervals. However, in soliciting feedback for the last iteration of the statewide plan, it became clear that the goals identified remained relevant for a much longer period. For the current planning process, MHT made the decision to extend the timeframe to eight years (2024-2031), with a midterm update in 2028.

The State Historic Preservation Plan (Heritage2031) is now complete and NPS has reviewed and approved the document. The final step in the process is approval by the MHT Board of Trustees prior to public release. Although the plan is intended to serve as a roadmap for the broader

preservation community, and MHT encourages participation in the implementation, there is no mandate or requirement for individuals or organizations to adhere to the plan. MHT will use the plan to inform its agency's work over the next eight years and report annually to NPS on its progress.

The following motion was made by Ms. Uunila, seconded by Mr. Vitanza, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that *Heritage2031: Maryland's Statewide Preservation Plan (2023-2031)*, having been approved by the National Park Service, is adopted as Maryland's state historic preservation plan, pursuant to Section 101(b)(3)(c) of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

M203R Establishment of Fees – Delegation to the Director

Ms. Hughes reported that the purpose of this resolution is to resolve conflicting information in prior Board resolutions about the Director's authority to establish and revise fees for Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) and the Trust programs established under Title 5A, Subtitle 3 of the State Finance & Procurement Article. On April 2, 2004, the Board's Executive Committee passed a resolution that appears to have delegated to the Director the authority to establish and revise fees for Trust programs. On January 27, 2005, the Board passed Resolution G203R, which approved a revised fee structure related to JPPM. The background for that resolution confirmed that the Executive Committee had delegated approval of fees to the Director, but it stated that the "delegation was limited to changes in fees and reserved approval of new fees to the Board." This resolution will clarify the uncertainty regarding the extent of the Director's authority over fees by formally delegating to the Director the Board's authority under § 5A-318 to establish new fees, and to revise existing fees, for (a) the educational and preservation materials, activities, and services of the Trust provided by the Trust under its Subtitle 3 programs; and (b) the uses of JPPM property authorized in Sections 11 and 15 of the Patterson Trust Agreement.

Dr. Harvey suggested that the Director report to the Board on fees established under this authority on an annual basis.

The following motion was made by Ms. Uunila, seconded by Ms. Sasser, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees delegates to the Director the authority to establish fees for the Trust's purposes, to set policies relating to those fees, and to set fee amounts and requires the Director to report on fees established under this authority to the Board on an annual basis.

M204 JPPM Update

Rod Cofield, Director of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM), provided an update on capital projects as well as upcoming programming and educational activities.

Mr. Parker inquired about JPPM’s approach to recruitment and encouraged JPPM and MHT-Crownsville to ensure that outreach is broad and inclusive.

Mr Feldstein encouraged JPPM to find ways to develop programs or provide services that travel outside of Southern Maryland so that the entire state can benefit from the resources and expertise located there.

Mr. Camlin inquired when the Board would next be meeting at JPPM. Mr. Cofield indicated that due to construction at the MAC Lab, meeting space would be limited in the near future although the Patterson Center ribbon cutting event, to which Board members will be invited, is expected to take place sometime this year.

M300 Management & Planning Committee

M301 Equity Working Group

Andrew Arvizu reported that in October of 2023, MHT’s Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Working Group conducted a survey regarding MHT’s plans promoting racial equity within the agency. They provided a summary of findings from the survey, recommended actions coming out of the survey and explained how some of the recommended actions are reflected in Heritage2031, the new statewide preservation plan.

Following the presentation, Sam Parker, Chair of the JEDI Working Group, suggested that the survey results can be used as a frame of reference for how some board and staff feel about JEDI initiatives. He then encouraged the Board to discuss their views on MHT’s organizational values, how we believe MHT should impact the communities we serve, and the historic preservation field in general.

The Board’s discussion included the following observations:

- DEI should also be considered in the context of antisemitism.
- These values should be foundational to the work that MHT undertakes; the discussion should not be limited to a focus on programmatic applications.
- Measurable action is needed to support MHT’s JEDI goals.
- MHT has an important role to play in providing historical context for where we are today. Once we have documented that history how do we share it and support those communities that have been impacted? Who carries on this work once we are gone?
- Many of the policy standards and guidelines that undergird MHT’s programmatic functions are not in line with JEDI which creates an inherent challenge in accomplishing some of these goals.
- In those cases where significance is being determined, local community values should be elevated. We need to create a space where we understand what this changing understanding of “significance” means for us and how it impacts projects on the ground.
- Training in DEI should be offered to MHT grant review panels as these groups have a significant role to play in the allocation of grant funds.

- MHT should consider development of a fellowship program aimed at supporting members of underrepresented communities in order to support a recruitment pipeline.
- MDP Baltimore needs DEI training as well and is using the term “DEIJ.” Metrics are important but can be tricky when it comes to establishing baseline data, etc. The State of Maryland has a Chief Performance Officer who will be looking at some of this.
- There should be some alignment between MHT and MDP-Baltimore DEIJ work but MHT should not look to MDP to do this for us.
- MHT should support local communities in telling their history. There are models for this around the state – Harford County Historical Society; the Western Maryland Historical Library – that could be replicated.

M302 Budget & Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that funding for grant and tax credit programs are all fully funded in the FY25 budget that is under review by the Maryland General Assembly.

Ms. Hughes reported on various bills of interest that are under consideration by the legislature as follows:

HB133/SB448 – Tasks the Department of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the State Archives, the Department of Planning, the Governor’s Commission on Maryland Military Monuments, the Commission on African American History and Culture, Preservation Maryland, Inc., and the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Inc., to studying the history of African American Civil War soldiers who fought for the Union Army in Maryland and make findings and recommendations regarding the funding, design, construction, and location of an appropriate memorial in their honor.

HB538 – Creates a Historic Revitalization Director position at DHCD that is responsible for collecting and maintaining from state agencies that own property an inventory of state owned buildings that are greater than 50 years old to be used for prioritizing physical assessments and, if applicable, determining eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

HB566 – Establishes a Commission on State and Local Government Real Property bearing Confederate names composed of one representative of each county in Maryland. The Commission is charged with developing and implementing a framework to identify real property bearing a Confederate name that is owned by the state or a political subdivision and make recommendations regarding the real property that should be renamed, reporting its findings on or before 10/1/2031.

HB688/SB616 - HB688 would authorize, but not require, the Governor to include \$5M annually in the budget to support the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program. This program provides grants to the state's history museums for operating support as well as projects such as

exhibit development and collections care. The program has been unfunded since FY2012 when many of MHT's grant programs were reduced or zeroed out due to state budget issues.

HB1427/SB1005 – Exempts the West North Avenue Development Authority's state funded undertakings from MHT review under § 5A-326 of the Finance and Procurement Article.

Ms. Hughes also noted that the budget committees have included language in their preliminary decision documents that would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to prepare a report detailing the department's efforts to establish a cultural and historical resources protection plan. The report is to be submitted by 12/1/24 and should address the following: development of a systemwide survey to inventory all historical and cultural sites on DNR-managed lands; creation of a centralized cultural resources management unit; specification of the staffing and funding needs of a centralized cultural resources management unit; dedication of capital improvement funding for historic preservation projects; and establishment of a research budget to conduct architectural studies and archeological investigations and synthesize data collected from these efforts into interpretive materials to be shared with the public.

M303 Litigation & Legal Issues

Mr. Snyder stated that there is no active litigation or legal issues to report on at this time.

Announcements

Ms. Mears announced that the next meeting of the MHT Board would take place at the Claggett Center located at 3035 Buckeystown Pike, in Adamstown, MD. The Board agreed to an 11 AM meeting start time in order to provide additional travel time for Board member arrivals. A tour of the barn building, which received state historic revitalization tax credits, would be offered at 10 AM for those who arrive early.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.