

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 11:00 AM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held in person at the B&O Railroad Station in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Trustees present: Jeffrey Buchheit, Julie Earnstein, Albert L. Feldstein, Sarah Kunkel Filkins, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Kristine Roome and Rebecca L. Flora.

Trustees participating via Google Meet: Laura Davis Mears

Area Representatives present: Dean Camlin, Douglass C. Reed, Charles A. Stek, Kirsti Uunila and Tom Vitanza.

Area Representatives participating via Google Meet: Sakinah Linder, Lisa Sasser, and Harry T. Spikes, II.

Office of the Attorney General participating via Google Meet: Adam Snyder

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Raines, Kathy Monday, Matthew McKnight, Heather Barrett, Matthew Magliozzi

Guests: Eileen McGuckian, President of MPI; John Sery, Manager of the B&O facility for MPI and a Director at Large; Mark Edwards, Director at Large, MPI.

AGENDA

P1 CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Franklin Robinson called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM. A quorum of Board members was not present. Ms. Hughes indicated that a meeting of the Executive Committee would be scheduled the following week so that action could be taken on those items that were presented before the Board for consideration today.

Mr. Robinson thanked Montgomery Preservation, Inc. (MPI), for hosting the meeting at the B&O Railroad Station which the organization owns and manages. He then invited Ms. McGuckian, President of MPI, to provide some history and background regarding the property.

P2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No edits to the meeting minutes from the July meeting were recommended.

P3 PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public offered public comment.

P4 COMMITTEE REPORTS

P100 Capital Programs Committee

P101 Monument Relocation Working Group Report

Mr. Robinson reported that the Monument Relocation Working Group met on October 3rd. The Working Group discussed the draft RFP prepared by Mr. Reed to be used to solicit interest in host sites for the Baltimore City monuments once they return to Maryland. Mr. Snyder inserted the substance of Mr. Reed's RFP draft into the standard RFP template that had been provided by Baltimore City. Mr. Snyder has shared this revised draft RFP with Mr. Reed for review. Once Mr. Reed has had an opportunity to review the revised RFP it will be shared with the Working Group for review.

Mr. Robinson then invited Dr. Roome to report on the oral history documentation course she is teaching at Johns Hopkins University as part of its Museums and Society Program. She noted that students will be conducting approximately 15 oral histories of individuals involved in the Baltimore City Confederate monument story. She invited Board members to contact her to schedule an interview, if interested, or to nominate someone to be interviewed for this project.

P200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums Committee

P201 Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program – FY25 Recommendations

Dr. McKnight and Ms. Barrett reported that twenty-eight applications for the Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program were received by the August 1, 2024 deadline. The total funding request was \$1,211,862.00. Submitted applications represented all Maryland counties, plus Baltimore City. Five statewide projects were submitted.

A committee of MHT staff has evaluated, ranked, and recommended funding levels for eligible applications in accordance with the Program's regulatory selection criteria and the Funding Priorities. This year's funding priorities included comprehensive architectural, archaeological, and cultural resource surveys; the study and documentation of threatened resources, especially those susceptible to increased flooding and coastal erosion; and documentation of underrepresented themes, communities, and resource types.

Dr. McKnight and Ms. Barrett concurred with the recommendations of the committee and answered questions.

P202 Heritage Preservation Fund – Emergency Dendrochronology Request

Mr. Reed presented a funding request that was submitted for consideration by the Board for dendrochronological testing of a log barn and house that may be threatened as the property has a new owner and has been zoned commercial. Ms. Hughes indicated that \$5,582 remains in the Heritage Preservation Fund and is still available for expenditure in fiscal year 2025.

P300 Management & Planning Committee

P301 Investment Committee Report

Ms. Hughes presented the Investment Committee report on behalf of Dr. Harvey. She noted that the Committee met on October 10th and reviewed the portfolio statement as of September 30, 2024. The value of the Heritage Preservation is just over \$4 million while the Patterson Fund totals \$641,493 and the MARPAT Fund totals \$486,930. Brown Advisory continues to feel good about how the three accounts are positioned.

Performance in the Heritage Preservation Fund year to date is up 12% compared to the S&P500 which is up 22%. This difference in performance is due to the fact that the S&P500 has a large concentration of technology stocks that are driving its performance. Brown Advisory is comfortable with this lag because MHT seeks to maintain adequate diversification across its asset holdings.

Mr. Reed recommended that the performance of the Heritage Fund be compared to the performance of State of Maryland managed funds in order to determine if investing with Brown Advisory and outside of the state system continues to be advantageous to MHT.

P302 Equity Working Group Report

Ms. Hughes presented the Equity Working Group report on behalf of Mr. Parker. She noted that the annual All Staff Meeting featured Dr. Vincent Leggett of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation who discussed the challenges of documenting and interpreting the history of African Americans in Maryland generally and of watermen in particular. Later in the day, staff were divided up into smaller group to discuss what changes they would recommend to MHT programs in order to make them more equitable and accessible. Following the staff meeting, the MHT JEDI Working Group met to review the results of the All Staff Meeting discussions. Conducting an audit of MHT Programs, likely by a third party consultant, is still of interest as is the reinstatement of quarterly brown bag lunches with speakers on topics of interest in the area of JEDI scholarship.

P303 Budget & Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that the fiscal year 2026 capital and operating budgets have been submitted to the Department of Budget and Management. She noted that while MHT does not expect to put forward any bills this year, there are expected to be a number of bills introduced by advocates that will be of interest to MHT. Legislation related to historic cemeteries, the historic revitalization tax credit program and tribal historic preservation issues are anticipated.

P304 Litigation & Legal Issues

Mr. Snyder indicated that there are no litigation or legal issues to report at this time.

Announcements

Ms. Uunila reported that Lower Marlboro Freedom Day, a celebration of the freedom of enslaved people who escaped with the help of the British during the War of 1812, would take place on Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 11 AM to 4 PM at Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church and Lower Marlboro Hall in Owings, Maryland.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.