

Maryland Military Monuments Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, October 12, 2016  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032

Present: Chair McDowell, Commissioners Schnell, Villanueva, Soderberg, Morrill, McKown, Kurtz

Absent: Commissioners Balkoski, Cooper, Toomey, Plumb, Schnitzker, Dooley, Martel, Sprague, Stone, Rostkowski

Guest: David Craig, Executive Director of the Maryland World War I Centennial Commission

Chair McDowell called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

Chair McDowell:

- Introduced himself, asked attendees to introduce themselves.
- Asked if everyone had reviewed the Minutes.
  - Commissioner Soderberg made a motion to accept minutes as written.
  - Commissioner Villanueva seconded. Motion passed.

### **Financial Report**

- Commissioner Kurtz gave funding update.
  - A total of \$16,175 of FY 2016 funds were encumbered.
  - \$14,765 are encumbered for Eastern Shore monuments maintenance to be done and invoiced spring 2017
  - \$1,410 was invoiced for the Fifth Regiment Armory WWI Memorial condition assessment.
  - \$17,000 FY 2017 funds are available; \$14,000 est for Western Shore maintenance; \$5,000 est for Midland WWI/II repointing
  - Other: \$5,937 from MDVA transferred to MDP MMMC fund.
- Discussion ensued about the transferred fund.
  - MDP/MMMC oversee the fund; it is not mixed with the appropriated \$17,000 fund.
  - How do we get money out? Who controls the fund, the state or MMMC? Usually we execute a purchase order after competitive bidding. [Note: as MMMC is a state entity we are subject to state procurement regs regardless of where the fund lives.]
  - We need to determine whether we can grant to organizations as we have in the past; we will ask attorney and update for next meeting.

- Fund is left over primarily from donated funds and is not earmarked; it has been used when we go over the \$17K appropriated funds or for unexpected findings.
- Since we do not write checks on the account, there seems to be no need for a treasurer.
- Discussion of need for a finance committee. In the past we have had a ratings committee to review new monuments for historical significance, artistic design and need. Since we have fewer new projects, Commissioner Kurtz now brings them to the MMMC for review and approval. Since there is no quorum, we will add the question of a finance committee to next meeting agenda.

### Ongoing Business

- Chair McDowell asked if there is interest in scheduling a meeting near a project. Discussion about doing so in the past. Commissioner Kurtz can make arrangements.
- Commissioner Kurtz announced there is support in the Military Department for funding work at the Fifth Regiment Armory contingent on availability of end of fiscal year funds and MMMC developing the procurement. Kurtz is to follow up with Military Department.
- Chair McDowell asked David Craig, Executive Director of the Maryland World War I Centennial Commission, to address the group.
  - Director Craig plans to focus on any work needed on WWI monuments in the state.
  - He plans rededications and other events, and a book or pamphlet on WWI to help people find the monuments.
  - They will look into recognizing those who have not been commemorated, possibly with new memorials.
  - There is no funding at this point but he will make a request. The first meeting is planned for next month. There will be a social media subcommittee.
  - Discussion of WWI sites in MD: spies and U boats in Baltimore and in the Bay; the grave of the last soldier killed; Redwood Street named for the first Baltimore officer to die in the conflict.
  - Chair McDowell extended an invitation to Director Craig to attend our quarterly meetings.
- Salisbury War Memorial progress report: MMMC has discussed making a donation.
  - Commissioner Kurtz talked to Michael Moulds of the City of Salisbury about whether contributions would go to the monument if the city did not meet their \$150K goal for the total project. They are committed to repair the concrete monument.

- They will have a better idea of funding after they issue some RFPs. They will do paving next.
- The MMMC approved repointing of the Midland WWI/II Monument by email.
  - The revised cost estimate is \$5,000. It will be cleaned, but not all of stains can be removed. The light will be removed.
  - Photos of the Lonaconing monuments located south of Midland were shown to compare; MMMC has treated and maintained the Lonaconing WWI and WWII/Korean War monuments.
- The Elkton Doughboy monument needs some repointing due to the high water table.
  - MMMC has done trench draining in the past to move water away from the foundation, but the mortar still fails in some areas.
  - We might consider applying for a \$2,000 matching grant from the USWWICC/Pritzker Military Museum and Library program.
- IFBs will be sent out for the Midland, Elkton and Western Shore maintenance group in early 2017. The maintenance will be done in 2018.

### **New Business**

- Commissioner Kurtz reported on meeting of the WWICC Network of organizations planning commemorative events, held at Epiphany Chapel and Church House in Odenton. The WWI related site contains a museum and might be a good place for a Commission meeting in the future.
- As there was interest in the last meeting about publicity, there was discussion on creating a publicity committee. It was deferred until the next meeting. Discussion ensued about possible MPT involvement, which is costly, and possible funding sources. Chair McDowell will look into this and we will explore how to get the word out.
- Commissioner McKown observed the WWI monuments in the state should be in good shape. Commissioner Kurtz is field checking to find any that need work and will send letters to WWI monument owners asking for MMMC coordination if they feel there is a need for treatment.
- Discussion of mapping the monuments. We cannot add the MMMC monuments roadmap to the website. The goal is to get all of the map coordinates for the monuments into the monuments database. MHT also wants to add all of the conservation reports to the database and will pursue getting an intern to enter the data.

There were no announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:05 pm.