

Minutes of the  
Seventy-Ninth Meeting of the  
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority  
April 12, 2018

The seventy-ninth meeting of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) was held on April 12, 2018 at Asbury United Methodist Church, 87 West Street, Annapolis, MD.

**Authority Members/Designees Present:**

Robert McCord, Secretary, MD Department of Planning, and Chair, Maryland Heritage Areas Authority; Marty Baker (representing MD Department of Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn and serving as Vice Chair for the Maryland Heritage Area 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); John Wilson (representing MD Department of Natural Resources Secretary Mark J. Belton); Elizabeth Fitzsimmons (representing MD Department of Commerce Secretary R. Michael Gill); Robert D. Campbell (Governor's Appointee for Historic Preservation); Burton Kummerow (President of the Senate representative); Janice Hayes-Williams (Speaker of the House representative); Lee Towers (representing MD Higher Education Commission Secretary James D. Fielder, Jr.); Lisa Challenger (Governor's Appointee for Heritage Tourism)

**Authority Members/Designees Absent:** Rowland Agbede (representing MD Department of Agriculture Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder); Wayne E. Clark (President of the Senate representative); Natalie Chabot (Representative for MD Greenways); Thomas Bradshaw (MD Association of Counties representative); Vacant (representing Speaker of the House); Vacant (representing MD State Department of Education Secretary Karen Salmon)

**Staff Present:** Bernadette P. Pruitt, Jennifer Ruffner, Ennis Barbary Smith, Karen Golder, Courtney Hotchkiss (Maryland Historical Trust); Rieyn Deloney (Office of the Attorney General)

**Heritage Area Directors/Staff Present:** Liz Shatto (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area & Co-Chair, Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas); Amanda Fenstermaker (Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area & Co-Chair, Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas); Julie Gilberto-Brady (Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area); Carol Benson (Four Rivers / Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area); Tonja McCoy (Four Rivers / Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area); Jeffrey Buchheit (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); Brigitte Carty (Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway); Sarah Rogers (Montgomery County Heritage Area); Lindsey Baker (Patapsco Valley Heritage Area); Deidra Ritchie (Canal Place Heritage Area); Lisa Ludwig (Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area); Jennifer Durben (Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area); Lucille Walker (Southern Maryland Heritage Area);

**Others Present:**

George Messner (National Road Museum); Richard Keesecker (National Road Museum); Diane Nowak-Waring (Board President of Four Rivers Heritage Area); Gertrude Mackell (Board member of Four Rivers Heritage Area); Jeffrey L. Diggs (Mu Rho Uplift Foundation); Gavin Buckley (Mayor of Annapolis); Erik Evans (Inner West Street Association and Annapolis Arts and Entertainment District); Connie Del Signore (President and CEO Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County CVB);

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by MHAA Vice Chair Dr. Marty Baker. Dr. Baker introduced herself as representing MD Department of Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Baker invited Janice Hayes-Williams to welcome everyone to Asbury United Methodist Church.

Ms. Hayes-Williams provided background information about the history of the institution, noting that it was the first church for people of color in Anne Arundel County when it was established in 1803. She then introduced the Mayor of Annapolis, Gavin Buckley.

Mr. Buckley welcomed the group to Annapolis, mentioned that Asbury United Methodist Church was the first church he visited during his mayoral campaign, and pointed out that the person who pioneered open heart surgery—Daniel Hale Williams—grew up attending Asbury United Methodist Church. Mr. Buckley said that he supported historic preservation efforts and thanked Dr. Carol Benson, Four Rivers Heritage Area Director, for inviting him to this meeting.

Dr. Baker introduced Dr. Carol Benson. Dr. Benson thanked the Authority for holding this meeting in the Four Rivers Heritage Area. She then introduced Connie Del Signore, President and CEO of Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County CVB. Ms. Del Signore welcomed everyone to Anne Arundel County and praised the role that Dr. Benson and the Four Rivers Heritage Area play as a heritage tourism partner and leader in the County. She noted that, after relocating to the area, she began learning about the African American history of Anne Arundel County by listening to an audio tour produced by Four Rivers Heritage Area.

Erik Evans, Executive Director of the Inner West Street Association and Annapolis Arts and Entertainment District introduced himself as another partner for the Four Rivers Heritage Area.

Gertrude Mackell and Diane Nowak-Waring introduced themselves as representatives of the Four Rivers Heritage Area Board of Directors.

All MHAA members, Heritage Area directors, MHAA staff, and others present introduced themselves.

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

Robert McCord arrived during the introductions and thanked Dr. Baker for calling the meeting to order. He announced that he was appointed Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning earlier this week.

Mr. McCord reported on the Department of Planning's regional listening sessions being held across the state.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 11, 2018 MEETING**

Mr. McCord called for a motion to approve the January 11, 2018 minutes. Ms. Seitz offered the following motion:

**RESOLVED, that the Authority approves the January 11, 2018 minutes as presented (R-100).**

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

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

**MHAA Financing Fund Report** (Jennifer Ruffner, MHAA Administrator)

Ms. Ruffner reported that as of March 30, 2017, the current balance was \$374,851.24. Ms. Ruffner noted that this balance included \$29,600.00 of the remaining funds budgeted for MHAA Emergency Grants in FY 2018.

Ms. Ruffner pointed out that the balance of the MHAA Financing Fund is higher than it was at the last MHAA meeting as a result of a number of MHAA grantees who either decided not to complete the grant project at this time or came in under budget—in both cases resulting in money returned to the MHAA Financing Fund balance.

**Update on FY 2019 Grant Round** (Jennifer Ruffner, MHAA Administrator)

Ms. Ruffner reported that MHAA received 170 completed grant applications. Six of these applications were not put forward by the local heritage area's review committees, meaning that 165 applications will be considered at the state level. Last year, MHAA received 125 applications.

The FY 2019 applications are seeking just over \$7.1 million in grant funding. MHAA has \$5.1 million to award.

In FY 2019, \$300,000 of the \$6 million budgeted for the MHAA program will be used to fund the Maryland Historical Trust's Non-Capital grant program.

**Economic Impact Study Update** (Jennifer Ruffner, MHAA Administrator)

Ms. Ruffner updated the Authority on the progress of the economic impact study. The RFP was awarded to Massoud Ahmadi of Strategic Impact Advisors, and in December he provided MHAA staff with initial data. In January 2018, MHAA staff, with the help of MDP graphic design staff, produced a one-page infographic flyer, highlighting the MHAA program's economic impact. This flyer was reviewed by the MHAA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Heritage Area directors, and was shared with legislators during the 2018 session.

Ms. Ruffner reported that a more detailed report sharing the methodology and highlights of the economic impact study is well underway. The first draft was produced by MHAA staff, and it is now being reviewed by TAC members and Heritage Area directors.

**Update on Program Impact Study Working Group** (Jennifer Ruffner, MHAA Administrator)

Ms. Ruffner reported that the Program Impact Study Working Group has convened twice since the last MHAA meeting. The group includes Lisa Challenger, Amy Seitz, Marci Ross, Diana Chen, Jeff Buchheit, Sarah Rogers, Aaron Marcavitch, Lucille Walker, Ennis Barbery Smith, and Jen Ruffner. MHT program administrators Charlotte Lake and Courtney Hotchkiss also sat in on the first meeting of the working group.

Both meetings were productive. The group discussed the potential audiences for the program impact report and related deliverables. The group settled on the areas of measurement identified in MHAA's Strategic Plan (2010-2020) as a starting point for defining and measuring program impact. These areas include developing heritage tourism product, building partnerships, and sustaining regional identity.

Ms. Ruffner reported that the next steps in this process will be drafting requests for proposals for one or more program impact studies based on the working group members' recommendations about how the study or studies should be framed.

Ms. Ruffner mentioned the possibility of working with other state agencies to create a collaborative study that would look at the combined economic impact of overlapping state designations (Main Streets, Arts and Entertainment Districts, etc.).

Ms. Shatto asked if economic impact would be one part of the program impact study, stating that she remembered hearing that it would be included previously and wanted to confirm this to be true.

Ms. Ruffner answered that economic impact would be included as one part of the program impact study. She also noted that one intended outcome for the program impact study is a framework for ongoing data collection that will include metrics associated with economic impact.

Dr. Baker asked about the timeline for the program impact study.

Ms. Ruffner explained that the Authority members should expect to review draft requests for proposals in preparation for the October 2018 MHAA meeting.

**Grant Categories Analysis Update** (Ennis Barbery Smith, MHAA Assistant Administrator)

Ms. Smith reported that she had updated the table presented at the previous MHAA meeting to include 1.) the total number of grants awarded between FY 2015 and FY 2017; 2.) the total amount of grant funding awarded between FY 2015 and FY 2017; 3.) columns showing the percentages of the total grants awarded and total funding awarded that are represented by each category.

Ms. Smith also presented a chart she had created to illustrate the overlap between categories.

There was discussion of assigning each grant *one* primary and *multiple* secondary deliverable categories in order to present another layer of analysis. Ms. Ruffner and Ms. Smith agreed this would be feasible given the coding functionality in MHAA's current grants management system and could be started with the FY 2019 grants.

Ms. Seitz asked about the feasibility of producing a report showing how many MHAA grants had been awarded to properties with other state designations (Main Streets, Arts and Entertainment Districts, etc.). Ms. Ruffner and Ms. Smith confirmed that MHAA staff have been collecting this information over the past few years and a report summarizing this data could be produced for a future meeting.

Ms. Shatto asked about when the heritage area directors would have an opportunity to submit review and comment on the categories assigned to the grant projects taking place within their heritage areas.

Ms. Smith confirmed that an opportunity for heritage area directors to review this information will be built into the grant award process.

**Upcoming Boundary Amendments** (Jennifer Ruffner, MHAA Administrator)

Ms. Ruffner reported that MHAA will be asked to consider several boundary amendments in the near future. The use of MHT's online mapping system, Medusa, has allowed MHAA staff to discover that several areas and institutions previously thought to be included within heritage areas are not located within heritage areas' official boundaries.

Montgomery County Heritage Area and the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area will submit boundary amendments for TAC's review in June 2018. TAC will make recommendations and MHAA will review the amendments and recommendations at the MHAA meeting scheduled for July 12, 2018.

In the case of the Montgomery County Heritage Area's proposed boundary amendment, some of the areas proposed for inclusion are not referenced in the heritage area's management plan, meaning that the Montgomery County Heritage Area will need to schedule a tour of the areas being proposed for inclusion and a public hearing to invite comment on the proposed areas' inclusion from local residents and stakeholders. Ms. Ruffner encouraged MHAA members to be on the lookout for additional information regarding the logistics of these events, as at least 3 MHAA members will be needed to participate in the public hearing and volunteers will be needed.

Ms. Ruffner also noted that Canal Place Heritage Area is contemplating the addition of portions of Frostburg, Maryland, and the October MHAA meeting may be hosted by the Canal Place Heritage Area in Cumberland in order to facilitate a tour and public hearing for that potential boundary amendment.

Mr. McCord suggested that the heritage area boundaries shown in MHT's mapping system, Medusa, should be corroborated with GIS data stewarded by the State Data Center.

Ms. Ruffner said that both mapping systems are based on the GIS data created by MHT. She confirmed that she would follow-up to corroborate map boundaries, if necessary.

### **Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas (MCoHA) Report**

Amanda Fenstermaker and Elizabeth Shatto (Co-Chairs, MCHA)

Elizabeth Shatto reported that the Coalition is very pleased to have received full funding for the MHAA program in FY 2019. She noted that the heritage areas are also pleased to have collectively put forward 165 grants seeking MHAA funding.

Ms. Shatto recognized the new staff members hired by heritage areas this spring: Lindsey Baker (Patapsco Heritage Greenway) Tonja McCoy (Four Rivers Heritage Area), and Julie Gilbert-Brady (Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area).

Ms. Shatto reported that the Coalition's Policy Committee members are continuing to work on recommendations for MHAA policy changes and that planning for the Coalition's retreat this spring is ongoing. She also noted that Coalition leadership changes and term limits will be one of the items discussed at the retreat.

Ms. Shatto noted that she and the Coalition are following developments around Senate Bill 983, which was passed by the Maryland General Assembly and appropriates funds to the Maryland Historical Society for grants to museums.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Resolution R-200 to Approve an Emergency Grant Request for Roof Replacement at the National Road Museum (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area).**

Ms. Ruffner reminded the Authority members that, according to MHAA policy, emergency grants may be awarded in cases in which 1) the proposed project is time sensitive—the opportunity cannot wait until the next regular MHAA grant round—and 2) the need that the project addresses was not anticipated at the time of the last regular MHAA grant round.

Ms. Ruffner introduced the emergency grant request from the National Road Museum, explaining that the Authority has awarded several past grants to the organization, totaling \$175,000 in funding, and that the roof damage and subsequent leaks have the potential to damage brand new exhibits in which MHAA has invested previous grant funding.

Ms. Ruffner pointed out that George Messner and Richard Keesecker of the National Road Museum were in attendance and available to answer the Authority members' questions about the grant request.

There was discussion.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to accept the following resolution:

**RESOLVED, that the Authority approves a Fiscal Year 2018 emergency grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund in an amount not to exceed \$9,125 (the "Grant") to the National Road Heritage Foundation, Inc. for emergency roof replacement for the National Road Museum at 214 North Main Street, Boonsboro.**

The motion was seconded by Lisa Challenger and approved unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Review and Ranking of Grant Applications / Distribution of Funds, Merit v. Geography**

Ms. Ruffner reported that at the last Authority meeting the TAC was tasked with considering and making recommendations regarding the issues raised in a letter from Grace Kubofcik, President of the Board of Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Inc. The requests made in the letter were 1) asking the Authority to consider geographic distribution in their grant application review and award process 2) asking the Authority to include the local reviewers' scores and recommendations in the review process for project grant applications at the state level, and 3) asking the Authority to provide written comments to all MHAA project grant applicants.

Ms. Ruffner shared a table showing grants requested and awarded by heritage area between FY 2016 and FY 2018, noting that the table shows that organizations located within the Patapsco Heritage Greenway received 52% of total amount of funding requested and 45% of the total number of grants requested during this time frame. These ratios are comparable to the other heritage areas' ratios of requests compared to awards. In fact, Patapsco Heritage Greenway received higher percentages than 7 of the other 13 heritage areas.

Ms. Ruffner also shared a bar graph showing the average amount of MHAA grant funding awarded to each heritage area per year of certification. This chart showed that heritage areas spanning multiple counties and heritage areas with high concentrations of place-based resources (e.g. Baltimore National Heritage Area) had been awarded greater amounts of funding per year of heritage area certification.

Ms. Ruffner explained that in 2011 the Authority members tasked the TAC with considering the issue of geographic distribution in the grant review process as part of a broader discussion about the MHAA's grant review, evaluation, and selection process. On October 13, 2011, the Authority resolved to adopt a number of recommendations prepared by TAC in consultation with the Certified Heritage Area management entities.

Ms. Ruffner reported that after reviewing this data and discussing the concerns raised in the 2018 letter from Ms. Kubofcik, the TAC recommends that the system for grants review and ranking put in place in 2011 was working as intended and should be continued. Ms. Ruffner read an excerpt of the motion passed on October 13, 2011 by the Authority:

- The Authority and the TAC will utilize a quantitative and qualitative, numerically-based review process using defined and publicly-available selection criteria. The rankings of grant applications by local CHA management entities will be a significant criterion utilized by the Authority in its grant review process.
- The Authority will define a "Core Set" of qualitative and quantitative grant selection criteria that both the Authority and CHA management entities will utilize in reviewing, evaluating, and selecting grant applications for funding.
  - o CHAs may also utilize additional local criteria that take into account the CHA Management Plan, 5-Year Plan, and Annual Work Plan priorities, goals, and objectives.
- Upon completion of CHA rating and ranking of all grant applications, CHAs will provide a summary information sheet for each grant application to the Authority that includes the following:
  - o Composite CHA scores for each Authority and any local criteria, and any CHA comments for each application that the CHA wishes the Authority to consider.
  - o CHAs may decide not to forward some applications to the Authority for its review if the CHA determines the application does not meet the Authority's grant eligibility requirements and/or a significant number of the Authority's grant selection criteria. For applications that CHAs choose not to forward to the Authority, a summary information sheet will still be provided to the Authority that includes an explanation of why the application was not forwarded. The Authority, at its discretion, may, elect to review applications that the CHA chooses not to forward.

Ms. Ruffner also noted that MHAA staff provide feedback on grant applications to any applicant who contacts MHAA and asks for more information about why his or her organization's grant



application was not funded. She explained that the TAC—in consultation with MHAA staff—concluded that providing written feedback to each applicant whose application is denied is not feasible with the current level of staffing.

There was discussion.

Mr. McCord concluded that there was no need to pass a resolution since no changes to MHAA policy were proposed. Ms. Ruffner will provide a response to Ms. Kubofcik's letter providing her with MHAA's recommendation.

### **MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Baker noted that—as observed at the last MHAA meeting—many of the state agencies represented on the Authority are undertaking planning processes. She reminded members that the 2040 Maryland Transportation Plan is in progress and the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan is also being updated. Dr. Baker announced that webinars will be held on April 13 and April 19 to provide more information to stakeholders about all funding programs offered or administered by MD Department of Transportation, including the Recreational Trails Program and Safe Routes to School Program.

Mr. Wilson reported on the continued planning efforts undertaken by Maryland Department of Natural Resources: stakeholder meetings in various regions of the state, a phone survey that has received 2,800 responses and an online survey that has received 2,000 responses so far. He noted that the preliminary results show that many people use trails and that the most-reported reason for not using parks and trails was a lack of time.

Mr. McCord added that the Department of Planning is also seeking survey responses for its planning efforts. He suggested that all the links to these various Maryland State agency planning surveys should be made available on one central webpage where interested citizens could easily access them.

Ms. Fitzsimmons noted that the Maryland Office of Tourism is also holding regional partnership meetings through which she and her staff are gaining many ideas and facilitating valuable connections. She announced that the Maryland Office of Tourism is also currently promoting the Maryland Summer of Music. Ms. Fitzsimmons commented that another initiative that the Office of Tourism would like to encourage is attracting recreational manufacturers. For example, she added that stand-up paddling is a popular tourist and resident recreational pastime on bodies of water in Maryland, but there is no company in Maryland that manufacturers paddle boards.

Ms. Seitz announced that the Department of Housing and Community Development has several grant programs opening this spring and early summer, including the Strategic Demolition Fund and Operating Assistance Grants. She noted that the Community Investment Tax Credit program will be holding a meeting and promised to circulate instructions on how to register to receive updates. She shared that the Keep Maryland Beautiful Program will be making an announcement

with First Lady Yumi Hogan on Monday, April 16. She also reported that the Community Legacy Program's funding level has doubled for FY 2019, from three to six million dollars.

### **HERITAGE AREA DIRECTORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Elizabeth Shatto (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area) announced that the Newcomer House has opened for the season and mentioned several events that will be held in April at the facility. She noted that she will be showcasing the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area at the Student Youth Travel Association Conference in Baltimore by offering a tour to attendees.

Lisa Ludwig (Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area) announced that the lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area's annual luncheon and awards ceremony will be held May 2 and Rich Smoker, master decoy carver, will be in attendance leading a carving activity.

Sarah Rogers (Montgomery County Heritage Area) shared that Peggy Erickson, founding director of the Montgomery County Heritage Area, has passed away. A memorial service is yet to be announced.

Mary Ann Lisanti (Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway) announced that her heritage area has concluded a four-year project to plan for public access to the Susquehanna River. She noted that the Eighteenth Annual River Sweep is upcoming, and the organizers expect to remove their one millionth ton of trash from the Susquehanna.

Aaron Marcavitch (Maryland Milestones / Anacostia Trails Heritage Area) announced that his heritage area served as the applicant for a collaborative National Park Service grant project that will help to fund the creation of a Civil Rights Trail in Prince George's County. This application was successful and the project has been awarded \$45,100 in National Park Service funds. Mr. Marcavitch also shared that he has applied for a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program to follow-up on War of 1812 anniversary outcomes. If awarded, this grant would fund a part-time position for Maryland Milestones. He announced that his newly published Arcadia Press book about the history of Route One is now available for purchase, and he has been scheduling speaking engagements to share the content. He also noted that this year marks the hundredth anniversary of airmail, which the College Park Aviation Museum is commemorating enthusiastically in collaboration with Pyramid Atlantic. He also reminded everyone that the MAGLEV route discussions are moving forward and he is following the developments.

Amanda Fenstermaker (Heart of Chesapeake County Heritage Area) announced that Julie Gilberto-Brady has started in her role as Heritage Area Manager. She spoke about the success of the Harriet Tubman-based tourism experiences in Dorchester County, highlighting the fact that people are naturally giving testimonials about their meaningful experiences on review websites like TripAdvisor and others. She said that faith-based groups have been one large market for which she has been creating Harriet Tubman-based tour and accommodations packages. Heart of Chesapeake County Heritage Area is also embarking on a 5-year planning process with the

organization's board of directors. She also announced that cultural resource hazard mitigation planning has just been completed in Dorchester County.

Mary Ann Lisanti (Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway) followed up on Mr. Marcavitch's comment about the MAGLEV route. She called for more clarity regarding the role heritage areas in the Section 106 process.

Gail Owings (Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area) announced that her heritage area will be sponsoring an all-day social media workshop in Caroline County called "Get Social Delmarva" on April 27. She noted that Talbot County has recently dedicated the Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe, and the County is still in the process of envisioning how this park will be used and what it will offer visitors.

Carol Benson (Four Rivers / Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area) introduced Tonja McCoy, the new employee of the Four Rivers Heritage Area. She shared that she was happy to have submitted a strong application package for the FY 2019 grant round from her heritage area. She announced that Maryland Day Weekend events were held the previous weekend and that Eric Evans coordinated the social media marketing, yielding high attendance rates. She explained that one of the goals of her heritage area is capacity building for partners and one metric that MHAA want to start tracking is the increase and diversity of grant funds awarded to various partners. For example, Dr. Benson explained that some of her grantees started with MHAA mini-grants and have now moved on to successfully managing not only MHAA project grants but other sources of grant funding. Dr. Benson encouraged MHAA to track this type of outcome.

Lucille Walker (Southern Maryland Heritage Area) described her efforts to share best practices with Southern Maryland partners through events held by the regional museum consortium. She announced that all three counties have doubled their funding support for the Southern Maryland Heritage Area in the FY 2019 grant cycle. She emphasized that there is tremendous demand for mini-grants in her heritage area, sharing that the organization received \$50,000 in requests when only \$15,000 was available in mini-grant funding.

Jennifer Durben (Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area) announced that the National Road Festival is scheduled for May 12-19 in Grantsville. The Garrett Celtic Festival will be held on June 2, funded in part by an MHAA grant.

Deidra Ritchie (Canal Place Heritage Area) shared that planning for Canal Place Heritage Days and the Whiskey Rebellion are both underway. The Rivers and Rails Festival will be held in September 2018. She announced that the Footer Dye Works Building is almost complete and has attracted a craft brewery, plus two restaurants for its retail spaces on the first floor.

Lindsey Baker (Patapsco Heritage Greenway) spoke about several successful and planned river clean-up events that her heritage area is coordinating. She announced that Aaron Marcavitch will be the speaker for Patapsco Heritage Greenway's annual meeting. He will speak about his newly published book on the history of Route One. She also shared that her heritage area is holding a

photo contest with the goal of producing a calendar, and she is working with the board of directors on diversifying income streams for the organization. Patapsco Heritage Greenway is holding a strategic planning retreat, launching a membership drive, and enhancing its member and donor tracking system. Ms. Baker announced that on May 5 and May 6 there will be a “Catonsville Nine” commemoration that is receiving national media attention.

Jeff Buchheit (Baltimore National Heritage Area) shared that his heritage area is in the final negotiations for renovating Mencken House to which the organization will relocate in fall of 2019. The organization is currently busy preparing educational events and publications for Fleet Week 2018. He shared that the heritage area has benefitted from the service of an urban steward who has been instrumental in the Heritage Neighborhoods program. This program is preparing to award small grants (\$250) for beautification to neighborhoods that receive the most community votes. The Baltimore National Heritage Area will be hosting a sustainability workshop at the National Heritage Area’s annual meeting on June 14 and 15. Mr. Buchheit hopes to be able to invite member of the Authority and Maryland Heritage Area directors to this workshop, if possible. He will follow up with details.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Kummerow announced that he has helped to create an organization called the “Maryland Four Centuries Project” that will be leading efforts to commemorate Maryland’s 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He has developed a partnership with Preservation Maryland, applied for a grant from the Maryland Humanities Council, and embarked on the creation of a web presence and other marketing materials. He thanked the Authority and heritage areas for their support with this effort.

### **ADJOURN**

Addressing the heritage areas and Authority members, Mr. McCord said the following: “Thank you for all that you do to attract us to *where* it happened, so you can move us to *why* it happened. We are all better for it.”

Ms. Seitz made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Hayes-Williams seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.