

Minutes of the  
Ninety-Fourth Meeting of the  
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority  
April 14, 2022

The ninety-fourth meeting of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) was convened on April 14, 2022 via web conference call and live-streaming. The public was notified about the meeting and had the opportunity to listen/watch via live-streaming.

**Authority Members/Designees Present:**

Robert S. McCord, Secretary, MD Department of Planning and Chair of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority; Burton Kummerow (President of the Senate representative); Marty Baker (representing MD Department of Transportation Secretary James F. Ports); Nita Settina (representing MD Department of Natural Resources Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio); Daniel Spedden (MD Tourism Development Board representative); Amy Seitz (representing MD Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Kenneth C. Holt); Mary Anne Harms (Speaker of the House representative); Nicholas Redding (President of the Senate representative); Elizabeth Fitzsimmons (representing MD Department of Commerce Secretary Kelly Schulz); Bruce Lesh (representing MD State Superintendent of Schools Mohammed Choudhury); Dennis Doster (Governor's Appointee for Heritage Tourism); Natalie Chabot (Representative for MD Greenways) Janice Hayes-Williams (Speaker of the House representative), Pete Leshner (MD Association of Counties representative), Lee Towers (representing MD Higher Education Commission Secretary James D. Fielder, Jr.)

**Authority Members/Designees Absent:**

Rowland Agbede (representing MD Department of Agriculture Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder); John A. Kinnaird (MD Municipal League representative); Elizabeth Hughes (State Historic Preservation Officer); Robert D. Campbell (Governor's Appointee for Historic Preservation and serving as Vice Chair for the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority);

**Staff Present:** Andrew Arvizu (Maryland Historical Trust); Rieyn DeLony (Office of the Attorney General),

**Heritage Area Directors/Staff Present:** Lucille Walker (Southern Maryland Heritage Area and Co-Chair, Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition); Brigitte Carty (Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway and Co-Chair, Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition); Sarah Rogers (Montgomery County Heritage Area); Deidra Ritchie (Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area); Elizabeth Shatto (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area); Amanda Fenstermaker (Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area); Carol Benson (Four Rivers / Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area); Meagan Baco (Maryland Milestones / Anacostia Trails Heritage Area); Lisa Challenger (Beach to Bay Heritage Area); Kim Folk (Mountain Gateway to the West Heritage Area); Aaron Shapiro (Patapsco Valley Heritage Area)

## **CALL TO ORDER AND MHAA CHAIRPERSON ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Secretary Robert McCord opened the meeting at 10:03am and welcomed the Authority to the meeting.

## **ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Andrew Arvizu called the roll to confirm MHAA members' attendance. With 14 members in attendance and 5 members absent, there was a quorum present, and a two-thirds majority.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 9, 2022 MEETING**

Resolution R-100 to Approve Minutes from January 9, 2022 Meeting.

Mr. McCord asked for discussion of the meeting Minutes from the January 9, 2022 meeting of the authority.

Mr. Pete Leshar offered the following motion:

**RESOLVED, that the Authority approves the April, 14, 2022 meeting minutes.**

Mr. Dan Spedden seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

## **Emergency Grant: Delmarva Discovery Center & Museum - River Otter Repair**

Mr. Arvizu shared that the executive committee had approved a request from the Delmarva Discovery Center & Museum for \$27,788 to address urgent repairs to their river otter exhibit. The committee had met on April 13th to discuss this request and had voted unanimously to approve it. Based on changes to the by-laws of the Authority, the approval from the executive committee was enough to carry the motion.

Mr. Arvizu introduced Ms. Christy Gordon, the executive director of the museum, and asked if the authority had any questions.

Ms. Lisa Challenger offered her thanks to the authority for approving this emergency grant.

Ms. Harms stated her approval for the project.

Mr. McCord shared his support for the program, and highlighted the importance of the natural environment to heritage tourism.

## **MANAGEMENT REPORT (Andrew Arvizu, MHAA Assistant Administrator)**

### **MHAA Financing Fund Report:**

Mr. Arvizu shared that the current financing fund shows \$45,637.17 but that does not account

for the emergency grant that was just awarded. Accounting for that emergency grant brings the actual balance available for emergency grants to \$17,848.17. Looking forward, Mr. Arvizu stated that it appears MHAA will be receiving its full appropriation of \$6,000,000 next fiscal year.

### **MHAA Staff Vacancies and Workload Management**

Mr. Arvizu updated the authority on the current status of both the administrator and assistant administrator position. He shared that interviews have been conducted for both positions and the goal is to have both positions filled ahead of the July meeting of the authority. Mr. Arvizu thanked the Coalition and Maryland Historical Trust for their assistance during this challenging time.

### **Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Round**

Mr. Arvizu shared that the grant round has been going well. Last Friday, the last deadline passed for final deadlies. He added that the number of full applications is down from 202 to 143. The total ask had also decreased from \$9.1 million ask down to \$6.4 million. Although there were no clear reasons as to why, Mr. Arvizu speculated that Covid had significantly impacted the application process.

Mr. Arvizu shared that the grant review panel will be receiving their review portfolios and conducting two meetings in early June.

Ms. Chabot asked if grant application numbers tend to go up and down.

Mr. Arvizu explained that since the appropriation increased to \$6 million, the number of grants has always gone up consistently.

Mr. Spedden shared that relief money is so accessible that people may have been dissuaded from applying to this program, since they can find more money elsewhere.

### **Racial Equity Working Group**

Mr. Arvizu explained that the first meeting between the Racial Equity Working Group and Symphonic Strategies took place last month and was a great success. He shared that MHAA staff has been collecting the data that the facilitator needs to begin their analysis. Over the next few months, they will be shifting their focus from quantitative work to qualitative interviews. In the end, they will produce an audit of the program for the October meeting of the authority.

### **MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS COALITION (MHAC) REPORT (Lucille Walker and Brigitte Carty, Co-Chairs)**

Ms. Lucille Walker mentioned that it has been a busy legislative session. She reminded the authority that only several years ago, the Coalition led the push to increase the appropriation from \$3 million to \$6 million. Although there was a decrease in grant funds this year, the Coalition is still looking to increase the appropriation again in the next few years. She explained that with all of the deductions from management grants, operating costs, and MHT Non-Capital, the actual number of funds available for projects is far lower than it seems. Further, she stressed that there are many worthy projects that have to go unfunded each year.

Ms. Walker shared that the Coalition partnered with a number of similar organizations this year to support similar heritage initiatives across the state.

Ms. Walker explained that the Coalition worked to limit the impact of a bill that may have negatively impacted the authority.

Finally, Ms. Walker discussed the role of Ms Gail Owings on the Maryland Grants Council. She stressed that MHAA does not fit into the kinds of organizations that are a part of push for a unified grant software.

### **Individual Heritage Area Reports**

Ms. Elizabeth Shatto updated the authority on the work going on in the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area. She shared information about work at the Newcomer House on Antietam Battlefield. They are in the first phase of a restoration of the property to strengthen its role as a visitor center.

Ms. Shatto discussed the heritage area's spring marketing campaign, promoting family-friendly outdoor activities. Additionally, HCWHA is advertising on *El Zol*, a local Spanish-language radio station to reach spanish-speaking heritage tourists.

Ms. Gail Owings updated the authority on the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area. She discussed two winter workshop series. First, she discussed *Nothing About Me Without Me*, a program discussing plans for the interpretation of African American history. Second, she discussed *Make That Project Happened*, a professional development workshop for grants and project planning.

Ms. Owings then discussed *Rooted Wisdom*, a presentation by Adkins Arboretum on the role of nature in culture.

Mr. Aaron Shapiro shared that the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area is celebrating its 150th anniversary. He explained that Patapsco Heritage Greenway created a 17 minute video on the

history of the city and will be holding a series of other events throughout the year to celebrate this anniversary. He shared a poem from Edna St. Vincent Millay, discussing the role of rail transportation, which was pivotal to the Patapsco Valley.

Ms. Kim Folk shared that Garrett County is celebrating its 150th anniversary in September, including performances, history walks, and recreational activities in coordination with county commissioners.

Ms. Shauntee Daniels updated the authority on work at the Peale museum. She also discussed the upcoming screening of *Voices of a Black Butterfly* at the Peale museum, discussing the impact of redlining on Baltimore City.

Ms. Brigitte Carty shared that the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Area celebrated a trail ribbon cutting last weekend, at the Vulcan Quarry Trail. She explained that the new trail is a part of an existing network that has been supported by MHAA.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Resolution R-200 to Approve a Request by the Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy to Revise the Scope of work of the FY2021 Grant for the Restoration of the Skipjack Martha Lewis and the FY2019 Grant for Interpretative Programing and Materials for the Skipjack Marth Lewis to address structural issues with the Skipjack Martha Lewis

Mr. Arvizu explained that the Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy has two active grants with MHAA that need to be amended. While being repaired, major damage was identified on the hull of the ship. By amending these two active grants, Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy could repair this damage and keep the ship sea-worthy. He introduced Ms. Frazier Walker, the director of the Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy.

Mr. Nick Redding made the following motion:

**RESOLVED, that the Authority approves the request by the Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy to Revise the Scope of work of the FY2021 Grant for the Restoration of the Skipjack Martha Lewis and the FY2019 Grant for Interpretative Programming and Materials for the Skipjack Marth Lewis to address structural issues with the Skipjack Martha Lewis.**

Mr. Pete Leshar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Resolution R-300 to Approve a Request by the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area and

Frederick County to Amend the Boundary of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area

Mr. Arvizu shared a map of the proposed boundary amendment for the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area.

Ms. Shatto explained that this amendment is a map correction to ensure that the entire campus of Mount Saint Mary's and the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes is within the heritage area, as was intended in the original management plan.

Mr. Burt Kummerow made the following motion:

**RESOLVED, that the Authority approves—in accordance with Sections 13-1008(10) and 13-1111(m) of the Financial Institutions Article of the Code of Maryland, and COMAR 14.29.02.05.C.— the request by the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area and Frederick County to amend the boundaries of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area to include the campus of Mount Saint Mary's University and the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.**

Ms. Chabot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no absentions.

Resolution R-400 to Approve a Request by the Baltimore National Heritage Area and the City of Baltimore to Amend the Boundary of the Baltimore National Heritage Area

Mr. Arvizu shared a map from the Baltimore National Heritage Area. The amendment proposed was addressing an error in the 2020 boundary amendment that left out three communities that were identified in the written boundary amendment but not in the map itself.

Ms. Daniels explained that these communities were a part of the national heritage area and expected that the areas would have been included in the most recent boundary amendment. She shared that there are important heritage tourism sites within these communities.

Mr. Redding made the following motion:

**RESOLVED, that the Authority approves—in accordance with Sections 13-1008(10) and 13-1111(m) of the Financial Institutions Article of the Code of Maryland, and COMAR 14.29.02.05.C.— the request by the Baltimore National Heritage Area and the City of Baltimore to Amend the Boundary of the Baltimore National Heritage Area to include Sandtown-Winchester, Harlem Park, and the Highlandtown Arts and Entertainment District.**

Ms. Harms seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Resolution R-500 to Approve a Request by the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, the City of Galena, and Kent County to Amend the Boundary of the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area.

Mr. Arvizu shared a map of the proposed boundary amendment for the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area to include the town of Galena.

Ms. Owings explained that when the heritage area was created, Galena was not interested in being a part of the area. Now, with the new National Road, Galena is interested in becoming a part of the heritage area.

Mr. Lee Towers made the following motion:

**RESOLVED, that the Authority approves—in accordance with Sections 13-1008(10) and 13-1111(m) of the Financial Institutions Article of the Code of Maryland, and COMAR 14.29.02.05.C.— the request by the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, the City of Galena, and Kent County to Amend the Boundary of the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area to include the town of Galena.**

Mr. Kummerow seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Resolution R-600 to Approve a Request by the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area, Worcester County, and Wicomico County to Amend the Boundary of the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area.

Mr. Arvizu shared a map of the proposed boundary amendment for the Beach to Bay Heritage Area in Wicomico and Worcester County.

Ms. Lisa Challenger explained that both of the proposed sites contain historically significant Rosenwald schools that would fit well with the heritage area.

Mr. Leshner made the following motion:

**RESOLVED, that the Authority approves—in accordance with Sections 13-1008(10) and 13-1111(m) of the Financial Institutions Article of the Code of Maryland, and COMAR 14.29.02.05.C.— the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area, Worcester County, and Wicomico County to Amend the Boundary of the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area to include a 1-mile buffer around the San Domingo School Property and the area between the existing**

**boundary, Germantown Road and Harrison Road.**

Mr. Redding seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

**New Business and Announcements**

Mr. Arvizu called on members of the authority to serve as volunteers for Marketing and Management grant review panels. He explained the associated responsibilities and asked for interested members to send him an email.

Mr. McCord reminded the Authority that the state appropriated \$250,000 for the Maryland 250th celebrations and encouraged the heritage areas to consider how they can support this initiative.

**Adjournment**

Mr. McCord ended the meeting at 11:24.