



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MHT Board Conference Call
Monday, September 10th at 3:00 PM

Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) was held by conference call on September 10, 2018.

Trustees present: Mmes. Bailey, Ernstein, Filkins, Linder, Mears, and Paca; Messrs. Alberg, Edson, Feldstein, Parker, Poffenberger, and Robinson.

Area Representatives present: Mme. Uunila; Messrs. Camlin, Charlton, Spikes, Stek,

Maryland Department of Planning: Robert McCord, Secretary.

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Raines.

Office of the Attorney General: Paul Cucuzzella, Rieyn DeLony.

Guests: Eric Holcomb, Terry Klima, and John Zebelean.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Poffenberger, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. A quorum of Trustees was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Poffenberger invited members of the public to provide comment.

Terry Klima, Division Commander of the Maryland Chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, expressed concern about the unauthorized removal of Confederate monuments by Baltimore City and the failure of MHT to uphold the terms of the historic preservation which the agency holds on the monuments. He expressed his view that the monuments cannot, under the terms of the easement, be relocated and that efforts to reinterpret the monuments are rooted in historic presentism.

John Zebelean expressed concern about the condition of the monuments. He noted that the City

of Baltimore has not yet removed the red paint that was used to deface the Soldiers and Sailors Monument and that the monument base which remains at Wyman Park has a poster attached to one side and remains chipped where the statues were removed. He commented that the City's actions are in obvious violation of the deed of easement and urged the Trust to enforce the terms of its easement.

I. Baltimore Monument Easement Breach – Extension Request

Ms. Hughes explained the reason for the MHT Board teleconference. She reminded the Board that the MHT Director's letter of October 20th letter to the City of Baltimore regarding the removal of the 3 Confederate monuments on which MHT holds an historic preservation easement stipulated that the City work towards: (i) legally securing new permanent locations for the three monuments within nine (9) months of the date of the letter; and (ii) completing installations of the monuments at the new locations within eighteen (18) months. The proposed timeframe projected that new permanent locations for the monuments would be secured by July 20, 2018 and that installation of the monuments would be completed by April 2019.

As per the July update on the monuments that was submitted by the Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) to the Board on July 12, CHAP indicated that more time will be needed to finalize new permanent locations for the monuments. The Board, at its July 19th meeting, directed MHT staff to inquire of CHAP what a reasonable and achievable new timeline would be.

CHAP, in its August monthly report to the Board, indicated that they expect it will take an additional 12 to 18 months to find new permanent homes for the monuments and noted that they are seeking estimates of the cost to deconstruct and store the stone bases associated with the monuments.

Ms. Hughes noted that while the MHT Director has the authority to make the decision about this requested extension unilaterally, she recognizes that the Board has demonstrated a particular interest in this issue and is therefore seeking the Board's input in the matter.

Mr. Parker asked what is happening at the current location of the monuments. Mr. Holcomb, Executive Director of CHAP, responded that the City is seeking estimates for the cost of moving and relocating the bases of the monuments. They expect to have these estimates within four weeks at which point they will determine if they have funds for the removal and will seek approval from MHT.

Ms. Mears inquired if anything can be done to protect the bases from future vandalism. Mr. Holcomb said that the City is working with conservators who are advising regarding the removal of graffiti as necessary. He noted that the red latex paint on the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument is not causing damage to the stone. Although the City has considered building plywood boxes around the bases, they are concerned this action would attract more attention and vandalism. Mr. Holcomb noted that he does not expect that these issues are going to go away and that the Lee Jackson Monument is most often targeted.

Ms. Filkins asked if MHT staff feel certain that the City is working in good faith to find new locations for the monuments. Mr. Spikes noted that he had been selected by the Board to collaborate with the City to find a new location for these monuments and that he could vouch for the City's conscientious efforts to find a new permanent location for the monuments.

Mr. Holcomb noted that the City of Baltimore has no intention of returning the monuments to their original site in the City. As has been reported previously, the City is working with a museum in order to relocate one or two monuments to that location. The museum will not make a decision on acceptance of the monuments until December of this year. If the arrangement with the museum falls through, then the City can continue to explore a lease agreement with the private citizens who have expressed an interest in the monuments. The City also plans to go back to Loudon Cemetery to inquire if they have an interest in any of the monuments.

The Board concluded that it was reasonable to provide the City with additional time to find a new location for the monuments since this is a complicated issue and that timeline benchmarks are important in order to demonstrate MHT's continued concern and keep the process moving forward.

The following motion was made by Ms. Mears, seconded by Ms. Bailey and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust extends by 12 months to July 20, 2019, the date by which the City is to work towards legally securing new permanent locations for the three monuments on which the Trust holds an historic preservation easement.

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

RESOLVED, that once the City of Baltimore has identified new permanent locations for installation of the three Confederate monuments on which MHT holds an historic preservation easement that is acceptable to MHT, then MHT will identify a timeframe by which the monuments are expected to be re-installed in the new permanent locations.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58 PM.

Mr. Brien Poffenberger, Chair

Elizabeth Hughes, Director