

Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments

April 26, 2023

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments was held as a virtual meeting via Google Meet.

Commissioners Present: Hon. Victor Butanis, Ellen Chase, Bryan Fischer, Stephen Hammond, Nancy Kurtz, Peter Morrill, C. Ryan Patterson, Lauren Schiszik, Raymond Shipley, Jr., and Susan Soderberg

MDP Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Michele Waxman Johnson

OAG Staff: Adam Snyder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Elizabeth Hughes, sitting in for the Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. A quorum of Commissioners was recorded as present.

Ms. Hughes reported that Rebecca Flora, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning, will replace Sandra Schrader, former Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning, as chair of the Commission at future meetings. Commissioner Butanis requested that staff prepare a letter of thanks to former Chair Schrader, acknowledging her service to the Commission.

Ms. Hughes introduced Michele Waxman Johnson who was recently appointed as the Executive Director of the MD250 Commission. Ms. Johnson expressed her interest in learning more about the work of the Commission and considering how it might intersect with Maryland's plans for commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Hughes called for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Butanis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Patterson, that the October 26, 2022 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public were present who wished to provide comment.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Hughes presented the financial report.

FY2023

- \$150,000 general fund item for stripping and rewaxing of all 41 monuments
Ms. Hughes reported that the RFP for this project has been completed and will soon be posted. The contract must be executed before the end of the fiscal year although the work is expected to begin in early fall of 2023. The work may take place both in the fall of 2023 and the spring of 2024 depending upon the selected conservator's schedule.

- \$17,000 general fund item to support conservation of miscellaneous projects, to include:

M348: World War II Monument, Keedysville

M404: Kenmore High School World War II Plaque, Elkton

M164: Civil War Tablets (GAR), Cherry Hill Cemetery, Elkton

Ms. Kurtz provided an overview of the condition of these monuments and the conservation treatments that will be needed. The scope of work for these projects has been prepared and the RPF will soon be issued so that funds may be encumbered before the end of the fiscal year.

FY2024

- \$17,000 general fund item for 2025 maintenance and conservation of Central Region monuments (Maintenance Group 1)

M048 Baltimore City College World War I Memorial, Baltimore City

M075 Francis Scott Key Plaque, Baltimore City

M093 Mount Washington War Memorial, Baltimore

M125 Westowne World War II Monument, Catonsville

M137 World War I Tablet, Relay

M138 World War II Monument, Relay

M146 World War I Memorial (Wayside Cross), Towson

M157 Western MD Railway WW I Monument, Union Bridge

M159 World War I Memorial Gateway, Westminster

M209 World War I Victory Monument, Frederick

M192 Braddock Monument, near Braddock Heights

M220 War Memorial, Woodsboro

Ms. Hughes reported that the RFP for this work would be issued in the spring of 2024.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Maryland History Day Prize – FY24

At the October meeting of the Commission, Commissioners voted in favor of sponsoring a History Day prize as part of the Maryland Humanities Council's History Day program, for the total cost of \$500. This amount sponsors 2 prizes, one at the junior level and one at the senior

level. Due to the timing of the Commission's decision, it was not possible to sponsor a prize for the 2023 History Day competition. The first prize will be awarded as part of the 2024 History Day event. Ms. Soderberg offered to assist Ms. Hughes in the development of the prize parameters.

MSAC Conservation Grants Program

Commissioner Patterson announced that the Maryland State Arts Council Conservation Grant Program closed on April 14 and has received 19 applications. These grants range from \$5000 to \$50,000. Among the applications received is a Town of Elkton application for assistance in making improvements to the World War I Monument. Many thanks to Commissioner Kurtz for assisting the Town in seeking funds for this project.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Commission Staffing

Ms. Hughes reported that MHT is in the process of recruiting for a Capital Programs Administrator position which will assume the duties of staffing the Commission as well as providing support for the agency's capital grant programs. MHT expects to fill this position by this summer.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Commission will take place on October 25, 2023. In the intervening months, Ms. Hughes will identify opportunities for Commissioners to observe monument conservation work being undertaken as part of the \$150,000 project if members of the Commission are interested and available.

AIC Presentation on the MMMC Conservation Program

Commissioner Kurtz reported that she, along with Howard Wellman and Ron Harvey, presented a paper on the MMMC maintenance program to the Objects Specialty Group at the annual meeting of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) in May of 2019. The post prints for that meeting were published a few weeks ago. Their paper begins on page 89 and can be accessed using the following link:

https://faic.wpenginepowered.com/osg-postprints/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/04/osg026_2019.pdf

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.