

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held in the MHT Board Conference Room located on the third floor of 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032.

Trustees present: Jeffrey Buchheit, Kevin Cabrera, Benjamin Ford, LaShay Harvey, Marian Creveling, Chris Logsdon, Laura Davis Mears, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Kristine Roome, Elgin Klugh, and Delegate Dylan Behler.

Area Representatives present: Dean Camlin, W. Dickerson Charlton, Douglass Reed, Lisa Sasser, Christopher Sperling and Tom Vitanza.

Office of the Attorney General: Adam Snyder, Rieyn DeLony

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Raines, William Kiskowski, Carolyn Nosacek, Kate Jaffe, Collin Ingraham, Jordan Cline, Dana Halpert, and Heather Barrett.

Guests: Terry Klima, John Zebelean, Katherine Thompson

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laura Mears called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. A quorum of voting Board members was present.

Chair Mears welcomed three new Trustees to the Board - Dr. Elgin Klugh, Marian Creveling and Delegate Dylan Behler.

The Board congratulated Heather Barrett for her selection to serve as the new Chief of the Office of Research, Survey and Registration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Harvey made a motion to approve the May 21, 2026 meeting minutes with a correction to show that Tom Vitanza was in attendance. The motion was seconded by Kevin Cabrera and approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Zebelean expressed his concern that the vandalism to the Baltimore Confederate Monuments has been left untreated and that bronze disease, due to moisture infiltration, could lead to deterioration of the artworks. He expressed his disappointment that MHT has shown little interest in upholding the terms of the historic preservation easement it holds on the monuments.

Terry Klima expressed his frustration that, in his view, MHT has abandoned all responsibility for enforcing the easement and seeking correction of the easement breach. He noted that the City of Baltimore has not issued an RFP seeking alternative host sites for the monuments, has not been providing MHT will progress reports, and is not making the monuments accessible to the public as required by the easement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A100 Capital Programs Committee

A101 MHT Easement Program Presentation

Carolyn Nosacek, MHT Easement Administrator, provided an overview of the MHT Easement Program and answered questions about the Board's role as it relates to administration of the easement program.

A200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums Committee

A201 History Day Prize Winners Report

Ms. Hughes reported that Maryland History Day is a program of the Maryland Humanities Council. The MHT Board makes an annual donation to the Maryland Humanities Council to sponsor two achievement awards – one in the junior division (grades 6 through 8) and one in the senior division (grades 9 through 12). Winners receive a cash prize and a plaque with the name of the Maryland Historical Trust, and sponsorship is also acknowledged in the Maryland History Day program, the National History Day program, and in press releases containing the names of Maryland History Day winners. In addition, schools receive information about the Maryland Historical Trust award at the time that History Day projects are solicited for the competition.

Ms. Hughes thanked the Board for its support of Maryland History Day and reported that the winners of the 2026 competition included:

Junior Division Winner in 2026

“Three Generations: Buck v Bell and the Legalization of Eugenics in America”

Category: Junior Individual Website

Student: Saanvi Lanke

School: Shady Grove Middle School, Montgomery County

Teacher: Vassiliki Key

Senior Division Winner in 2026

“The Railway with a Heart of Gold How the Talylyn Railway Saved the History of Steam Engines”

Category: Senior Individual Exhibit

Student: Maxwell Adams-Rossman

School: Frederick Homeschoolers

Teacher: Christine Pritt

A202 JPPM Update

Mr. Rod Cofield provided an update on Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) activities and upcoming events. He noted that all Board members should have received an invitation to the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab ribbon cutting event scheduled for September 4th and that JPPM plans to host the October 15th Board meeting.

A300 Management & Planning Committee

A301R MHT Board Bylaws Amendments

Ms. Hughes reported that a working group of MHT Board members, including Laura Mears, Franklin Robinson, LaShay Harvey, Kristine Roome and Jeffrey Buchheit, met on April 10th and May 7 to review the Bylaws of the Maryland Historical Trust. These bylaws were last updated in August of 2013. The working group recommended revisions to the bylaws to reflect current operational practices, update outdated language and various substantive amendments

The MHT Board considered these amendments at its meeting on May 21, 2026 and requested three additional revisions to the draft.

Substantive Amendments for Consideration:

Article III, Section 1. Appointment: New language clarifying that the Governor's representative is a voting member states – "One member (the Governor or an authorized representative) serves ex officio as a voting member."

Article VII, Section 1. Election: New language regarding the election of Area Representatives states: "Area Representatives shall be chosen to encourage, on a regular basis, participation in Trust deliberations by persons from areas of the State not represented by Trustees or who provide relevant expertise not held by Trustees."

Article VII, Section 3. Term: This is an entirely new section which would establish term limits for Area Representatives – "The term of an Area Representative shall be two years commencing on the first day of the first month following their election. Area Representatives may serve a maximum of three consecutive two-year terms. Following at least a one-year hiatus from Board service as an Area Representative, individuals are again eligible to serve as Area Representatives for a maximum of three consecutive two-year terms."

Article VII, Section 5. Conflict of Interest: This is entirely new language although it generally reflects current practice. "Whenever an Area Representative has a financial or organizational interest in any matter coming before the Board of Trustees, the affected person shall a) fully disclose the nature of the interest and b) withdraw from the Board's discussion and consideration of the matter."

Article IX, Section 2.a. Executive Committee: New language added to address the process of replacement of the Executive Committee elected trustee position if a mid-term vacancy should occur.

Article IX, Section 3. Meetings: Deleted the requirement that all standing committees must meet in the morning before the start of each MHT Board meeting. This revision is recommended to provide more flexibility regarding how and when standing committees can schedule their meetings.

Mr. Buchheit made the following motion, seconded by Dr. Harvey, to approve the following resolution which was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees (the "Board") adopts amendments to the Bylaws of the Maryland Historical Trust as described in Attachment A, "Bylaws of the Maryland Historical Trust."

A302 Investment Committee

Dr. Harvey, Treasurer of the MHT Board and Chair of the Investment Committee, reported on the performance of the Board's investment portfolio which is managed by Brown Advisory. She noted that as of June 30th the total assets under management were approximately \$5.7 million, with the Preservation Fund at \$4.3 million, the Patterson Fund at \$778,000, and the MARPAT fund at \$589,000. The Preservation Fund grew 9.4% in the second quarter, 13% over the trailing 12 months, and 6.9% annually since its 2008 inception. The Board acknowledged the strong performance of the stock market in recent months and discussed how and when the Heritage Preservation Fund Disposition Policy might be amended to increase the amount of expenditure of funds from the account.

A303R Election of MHT Board of Trustees Chair

Mr. Buchheit, Chair of the MHT Board Nominating Committee, reported that the Bylaws of the MHT Board require the election of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a Treasurer at the first regular meeting of the Trustees after July 1. The term of officers shall be for two years and officers may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms.

Laura Mears, the current Chair, has completed her third full two-year term as Chair and is not eligible for re-election. The MHT Nominating Committee recommends Franklin Robinson to serve in the position of Chair.

Ms. Mears made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Sasser, to approve the following resolution which was approved by all Board members except Mr. Robinson who abstained from the vote and discussion.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., to serve as Chair of the Board for a two-year term beginning on August 1, 2026.

A304R Election of MHT Board of Trustees Vice Chair

On behalf of the MHT Board Nominating Committee, Mr. Buchheit reported that Franklin Robinson, the current Vice Chair, has completed his third full two-year term as Vice Chair and is not eligible for re-election. The MHT Nominating Committee recommends Dr. LaShay Harvey to serve in the position of Vice Chair.

Mr. Robinson made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Charlton, to approve the following resolution which was approved by all Board members except Dr. Harvey who abstained from the vote and discussion.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects Dr. LaShay Harvey to serve as Vice Chair of the Board for a two-year term beginning on August 1, 2026.

A305R Election of MHT Board of Trustees Treasurer

Ms. Mears reported that Dr. LaShay Harvey, the current Treasurer, is not seeking reappointment to this position. The MHT Nominating Committee recommends Jeffrey Buchheit to serve in the position of Treasurer.

Dr. Harvey made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Vitanza, to approve the following resolution which was approved by all Board members except Mr. Buchheit who abstained from the vote and discussion.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects Jeffrey Buchheit to serve as Treasurer of the Board for a two-year term beginning on August 1, 2026.

A306R Election of MHT Board of Trustees "Elected Trustee"

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Buchheit reported that the MHT Board bylaws stipulate that the Executive Committee shall consist of the officers, the immediate past Chairman (if still a Trustee) or the current Chairman's designee, and one other Trustee elected by the Trustees at the time established for the election of officers. The terms of the Executive Committee members shall be concurrent with the terms of the officers. The position of elected Trustee is currently vacant.

The MHT Nominating Committee recommends that Dr. Kristine Roome be elected as the Elected Trustee on the Executive Committee.

Mr. Sperling made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Cabrera, to approve the following resolution which was approved by all Board members except Dr. Roome who abstained from the vote and discussion.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects Dr. Kristine Roome to serve as the Elected Trustee on the Executive Committee.

A307R Election of MHT Board Area Representatives

Mr. Buchheit reported that the MHT Board bylaws provide for the election of persons to serve as Area Representatives to the Trust. The term of an Area Representative is two years, beginning on the first day of the first month following his or her election. Up to ten Area Representatives may serve at one time. As per the recently updated bylaws, Area Representatives are to be chosen so as to afford, on a regular basis, participation in Trust deliberations by persons from areas of the State not represented by Trustees or provide relevant expertise not held by Trustees.

The MHT Board Nominating Committee recommends re-election of all existing Area Representatives.

Mr. Cabrera made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Mears, to approve the following resolution which was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects the following slate of nominees to serve as Area Representatives for two-year terms beginning on August 1, 2026.

Harry T. Spikes, II - Baltimore City

Christopher Sperling - Calvert County

Dean R. Camlin - Carroll County

Lisa Sasser - Kent County

Tom Vitanza - Montgomery County

W. Dickerson Charlton - Prince George's County

Douglass C. Reed - Washington County

A308 Maryland Public Ethics Law and the MHT Board - Presentation by Katherine Thompson, Maryland State Ethics Commission

Ms. Katherine Thompson, counsel for the Maryland State Ethics Commission, provided a presentation addressing the purpose of the Public Ethics Law and how it informs conflict of interest and financial disclosure obligations of state officials - including individuals who have been appointed to state boards and commissions like the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees.

A309 Budget and Legislation

Ms. Hughes indicated that there was nothing new to report regarding budget and legislation. She reported that preparation of the FY28 budget is expected to begin in August.

A310 Litigation & Legal Issues

Mr. Snyder indicated that he had nothing to report.

Announcements

Chair Mears announced that the next meeting of the MHT Board of Trustees will take place at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in St. Leonard, MD, on October 15, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.