

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held at Riversdale House Museum located at 4811 Riversdale Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland.

Trustees present: Sheila Bashiri, Jeffrey Buchheit, James Delgado, Sarah Kunkel Filkins, Barbara Paca, Samuel J. Parker, Jr., and Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

Area Representatives present: W. Dickerson Charlton, Sakinah Linder, Douglass C. Reed, Lisa Sasser, Charles A. Stek, Tom Vitanza, Kirsti Uunila

Office of the Attorney General: Rieyn DeLony, Adam Snyder

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Raines, Collin Ingraham, Kate Jaffe, Kathy Monday, Rod Cofield, Nell Ziehl, Brenna Spray

Guests: Terry Klima, Maya Davis

AGENDA

H1 CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Franklin Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM. He announced that a quorum of members was not present at the meeting and no action could be taken at the meeting today. Action on time sensitive agenda items would be addressed on an Executive Committee conference call scheduled for May 19th.

Vice Chair Robinson thanked Maya Davis, Director of the Riversdale House Museum, for hosting the Board meeting. Ms. Davis welcomed the Board and provided a history of the site and provided an overview of the new interpretive goals for the museum property.

H2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes and indicated that there were no corrections needed.

H3 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Klima expressed his ongoing concern about the condition of the Baltimore City Confederate monuments. He stated that the Maryland Historical Trust has not been pro-active in enforcing its easement on the monuments and that the City has taken no action to remediate the recent vandalism to the monuments. He expressed concern about the loan to the LAXArt exhibition and the delay of this exhibition until 2025.

H4 COMMITTEE REPORTS

H100 Capital Programs Committee

H101 Monument Relocation Working Group Report

Mr. Robinson, Chair of the Monument Relocation Working Group, reported that Eric Holcomb had provided the Board with an update on the City's activities related to the Confederate Monuments which was distributed to the Board. He noted that the Confederate Memorial Park had submitted a formal request to the City to take possession of the monuments and display them at their site in St. Mary's County. The City responded to the request and asked for additional information in order to take action on the proposal.

H200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums Committee

H201R Heritage Preservation Fund Project Selection – FY24

Ms. Raines reported that, based on calculations made according to the Maryland Heritage Preservation Fund Disposition Policy, the Board may award funds for Heritage Preservation Fund projects totaling up to \$224,873.87 in fiscal year 2024. Staff have submitted funding requests noted below for projects totaling \$224,800.

- Up to \$38,000 for MHT/JPPM Staff Training Activities;
- Up to \$500 for the MHT Maryland History Day Prize;
- Up to \$28,000 for the MHT Easement Processor position;
- Up to \$62,700 for the MHT Easement Inspector position;
- Up to \$6,600 for the 2024 MAC Lab Public Archaeology Internship;
- Up to \$6,600 for the 2024 MHT Summer Internship in Archaeology;
- Up to \$1,000 for the Archaeology Merit Badge Workshop;
- Up to \$400 for speaker honoraria for the Architectural Fieldwork Symposium;
- Up to \$6,600 for the MHT Library Internship;
- Up to \$27,000 for the JPPM MAC Lab Collections Assistant Position;
- Up to \$6,600 for the ORSR – Queen Anne's County Research Internship;
- Up to \$6,600 for the ORSR – Mason-Dixon National Register Internship;
- Up to \$16,500 for the JPPM 8-person electric vehicle;
- Up to \$12,500 for the JPPM 6-person electric vehicle;
- Up to \$5,200 for JPPM Strategic Planning.

Ms. Uunila, Chair of the Survey, Registration, Community Education and Museums Committee, reported that the Committee is supportive of all of the funding proposals. She urged staff to find ways to support the contractual positions funded with Board money with state funds and to explore opportunities to make these positions permanent.

Mr. Parker inquired about how staff sought candidates for the various internship positions funded by the Board and encouraged staff to go beyond traditional preservation job boards to place postings at sites and through networks that would reach a more diverse audience, including

HBCUs. Ms. Linder encouraged these postings to be sent to sites that are not solely focused on the historic preservation discipline but also to sites that are related such as architecture. Dr. Paca suggested that the Moore-Miller Administration's focus on service may provide new opportunities for internships for high school graduates as well.

H300 Management & Planning Committee

H301 Investment Committee Report

Mr. Charlton reported on behalf of Investment Committee Chair Rodney Little who was unable to attend the meeting. He noted that these funds, which resulted from various gifts to MHT over time, are being managed by Brown Advisory and that the performance of the funds remain positive during this difficult economic climate.

H302 Equity Working Group Report

Mr. Parker reported that the working group had hoped to announce a training program developed in coordination with the Reginald F. Lewis Museum for Board and staff members by now but that there have been delays. As a result, the group will be revisiting this approach and deciding on a new direction in the coming week.

H303 Budget & Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that staff are developing regulations and application materials related to the recent passage of SB425/HB674 Historic Preservation Partnership Program and Fund which will allow MHT to make expenditures from the loan fund to a qualified non profit organization for use in the creation of their own loan program or for expenditure on the acquisition and rehabilitation of historic properties. There were no reductions to the MHT fiscal year 2024 budget and funding for the historic tax credit and all MHT grant programs remains strong –

Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program – \$600,000

Historic African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program - \$5M

Maryland Heritage Areas Grant Program - \$5,100,000

Non Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program - \$300,000

Competitive Commercial Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program - \$20M

Small Commercial Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program - \$2M

The FY25 budget will be due in August and legislative proposals for the 2024 session will be due to the Governor's Office by September 1.

H304 Litigation & Legal Issues

Mr. Snyder reported there is no active litigation and no legal issues to report on at this time.

Announcements

Mr. Robinson invited Mr. Cofield to report on the activities of JPPM. Mr. Cofield provided an overview of upcoming events and a report on the statute of the Patterson Center and MAC Lab expansion capital projects.

Ms. Hughes announced that this meeting will be the last meeting for Shelia Bashiri, Joshua Brown, and Rodney Little as the Governor's Appointments Office did not renew their appointment. The Board thanked them for their service with a round of applause. Ms. Hughes noted that Nominating Committee Chair Sara Filkins would welcome candidates for the position of Treasurer which will be vacated by Mr. Little's departure.

Mr. Robinson announced that the Southern Maryland Heritage Area, which includes Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties, was recently designated as a National Heritage Area. An event recognizing this designation will take place next week.

Ms. Hughes noted that the Calvert Prize award event would take place at 12:30 pm followed by a reception.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.