

**Culture & Heritage Commission
Board of Commissioners Meeting
August 24, 2021
6:00 PM
Museum of York County**

Person Presiding: Penny Sheppard

Members Present: Penny Sheppard, David Duncan, Jeff Lyon, Nancy Craig, Ed Stewart

Members Absent: Craig Lentz

Ex Officio Members Present: Margaret Parson-Willins

Ex Officio Members Absent: Bobby Walker

Staff Present: Richard Campbell and Dabney Scholler

Others: Michelle Totherow, Melinda Woodhurst, Michael Kendree

Call to Order

- Penny Sheppard called meeting to order at 6:01pm
- Motion to amend Agenda: move Executive Session to follow the presentation of the Director's Report.
 - Ed Stewart made motion.
 - David Duncan seconded motion.
 - Penny Sheppard called for a vote, vote was taken, and the motion passed.
 - Penny Sheppard presented minutes and asked for changes or corrections. There were none. Accepted minutes as written.

Reports and Presentations

- Richard Campbell presented Director's Report.
 - Visitation is still increasing at each site and CHM-wide. The Main Street Children's Museum is still operating in sessions but sessions are to be expanded because we are now fully staffed.
 - Memberships are increasing. We will begin reporting attendance and memberships on both monthly and year-to-date bases as we did before the pandemic.
 - Collections continues to meet with Paul Boger at the Museum of Western York County to review all of the documented and purchased items. They have been trying to work through items that have no paperwork through Abandoned Culture Property policies. David Duncan asked about items that will not qualify for transfer. Richard

replied that the items that do not qualify will go to the Town of Sharon. Ed Stewart said that he spoke to Paul Boger the previous Saturday and that the items will go to auction. The only concern is where we will store the items due to the state of the Lowery Theater at the McCelvey Center. That project will be resolved hopefully by the end of October.

- The proposed African American Culture Center will be moving forward with the City of Rock Hill. The MOU with the CHM has expired. The Center has entered into a new MOU with the Historic Rock Hill. A feasibility study will continue independently from the CHM. The CHM has asked to be involved from an advisory aspect. Both parties would possibly be open to that. It was the intent of the City to give the building to the CHM, making it eligible for Foundation of the Carolinas funding. However, it had not been given to us yet. The purpose of the MOU with the CHM was for us to access the viability of a feasibility study. There are high hopes that this will be a great project.
- CHM Site Updates
 - Projects are progressing and nearing completion.
 - The stabilization of the Brattonsville Store ruins will begin after the chimneystack is repointed.
 - Preservation and repair work on Hightower Hall is complete. Painting projects are being reviewed by York County Procurement and contract projects are being reviewed by the York County Attorney. Once those are complete, the painting and shutter repair will begin.
 - The McCelvey Center project is progressing. Contracts have been sent out and are being approved by the York County Attorney. The shoring will be the first project, then we can get engineers into the attic to access the roof in September. It should take six weeks to complete the schematics and cost estimation. That should be done by October. Richard met with Kevin Madden and we have his support on this project. As a whole it will be an 18 month project. The Southern Sound Series may take place at other venues. There were discussions amongst the commissioners about redesigning the seating in the theater. It may not be able to be done due to the space and historical significance of the room. There will be more information in October.
 - The HVAC system at the Historical Center is still down but there have been means of fans and dehumidifiers to help until the problem can be fixed. Two hundred to three hundred items have been moved to McCelvey so the collection won't be damaged due to temperature. York County Council approved the

request to repair. The repairs are currently being scheduled by a vendor and it should cost the CHM around \$68,000 to repair.

- The Brick House restoration is complete, the interpretive panels have been reviewed and they are ready to go. We are in the process of stocking the store. Sara Johnson is working to research the use of the rest of the house so it may be used for interpretation.
- The archeology on Colonel Bratton House and the Homestead should be finished on Wednesday and the contractors should be out to finalize the plans and cost for the projects.

[Note: A full copy of the Director's Report is attached to these minutes as Addendum A.]

- David Duncan made a motion to move into Executive Session to receive legal advice on the litigation update and receive a legal update on a contractual matter, as well as the Historic Brattonsville property.
 - Jeff Lyon seconded the motion.
 - Penny Sheppard called for a vote, vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Executive Session

Reconvene to Open Session

- Penny Sheppard announced that open session has been reconvened at 7:30pm with action to take.
- David Duncan made a motion that Richard Campbell pursue the request made by the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs, discussed in Executive Session to locate a suitable tract of land on the Brattonsville property which could be donated for a York County national cemetery for veterans and recommend that the York County Council support a resolution to donate the same.
 - Jeff Lyon seconded motion
 - Penny Sheppard called for a vote, vote was taken, and the motion passed.
- The Commission discussed the process of donating the land, as well as the process of working with the State of South Carolina. The possibility of where it would go was also discussed.

Calendar Review

- Alison Mallard will present a Development Report in September. No other changes.

Committee Reports

- Collections Committee
 - Recommendations for Accession / Deaccession
 - Sheppard presented Accessions collections in Lentz's absence
 - *TC268- Late 1800s plantation desk, owned and used by the Good family of Western York County.*
 - *Donated by Samuel L. Feemster*
 - *The desk was originally on loan to the Museum of Western York County but upon the museum's dissolution and closure, the donor decided to donate it to the CHM.*
 - *TC267- Set of four drinking glasses from "Carowinds" grand opening in 1973.*
 - *Donated by Linda Williams*
 - *TC270- 1938 White Rose Annual for York High School.*
 - *Donated by Pad Hodnett*
 - *This is the first annual for York High School.*
 - Penny Sheppard motioned that the committee is recommending to accept accessions TC267, TC268, and TC270.
 - Ed Stewart seconded
 - Penny Sheppard called for a vote; vote was taken, and the motion passed.

[Note: Copies of the above Recommendations for Accession are attached to these minutes as Addendum B.]

- Finance Committee
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Nancy Craig announced that Michelle Totherow is working to close out fiscal year 21 and we are now in fiscal year 22. At this point in time purchases are at \$78,000 and in August we will see more Purchase Orders. We will end up with an estimated \$2,000,000 in fund balance for FY 21.

- Governance Committee
 - Nothing to report

Old Business

- No old business

New Business

- No new business

Commission Member New/Non-agenda Comments

- Penny Sheppard commented that COVID is on the rise in schools, children are being affected, so wear masks and be careful. South Carolina is not mandating masks.
- Nancy Craig reminded everyone to attend By the Sweat of Our Brows, Margaret Parson-Willins, alongside Wali Cathcart, will be presenting a tribute to Kitty Wilson-Evans. It will be on September 11, 2021 around 2:00pm.

Adjourn

- David Duncan made motion to adjourn
 - Ed Stewart seconded
 - Penny Sheppard called for a vote; vote was taken, and the motion passed.
 - Adjourned at 7:46pm

Prepared by: Dabney Scholler

Submitted by: Nancy Craig, Secretary/Treasurer