

**Culture & Heritage Commission  
Board of Commissioners Meeting  
June 27, 2023  
6:00 PM  
Museum of York County**

**Person Presiding: Penny Sheppard**

**Members Present: Penny Sheppard, Ed Stewart, David Duncan, Margaret Parson-Willins, Annie Laurie Wheat, and George Feindel**

**Members Absent:**

**Ex Officio Members Present: Katie Rutland and Eddie Lee**

**Ex Officio Members Absent:**

**Staff Present: Richard Campbell and Dabney Scholler**

**Others: Michelle Totherow and Michael Kendree**

**Call to Order**

- Penny Sheppard called the meeting to order at 6:02pm
- Penny Sheppard presented the minutes from the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and asked for changes or corrections.
  - No corrections to be made, minutes are accepted as written.

**Calendar Review**

- Director's Self Review
  - Appraisals due August 31<sup>st</sup>
- Elect Officers tonight

**Reports and Presentations**

- Director's Report
  - *Presented by Richard Campbell*
  - Visitation
    - CHM site-wide visitation for the month of May was five thousand, five hundred and forty-five, with a year-to-date total of fifty-nine thousand, six hundred and seven.
  - School Groups
    - For the month of May, school group visitation totaled one thousand, six hundred, fifty-four students, with a year-to-date total of eleven thousand, six hundred and eight students.
  - Membership
    - Membership has increased by seventy-five memberships with a total revenue of \$6,060. Year-to-date the CHM has membership sales of nine hundred eighty-

three and a total of one thousand, three hundred ninety-nine with a revenue of \$73,060.

○ Past Events

- Storyland Family Day
  - This new literary-focused event took place on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, with an attendance of three hundred eighty-four visitors.
- Living History Saturday: Sheep Shearing
  - This annual month-long event wrapped up on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> and had a total of two hundred twenty visitors over the month.
- Living History Day: Juneteenth
  - This event took place on June 17<sup>th</sup> and focused on Juneteenth and the Brattonsville community. It was well received and saw a total of one hundred thirty-two visitors.

○ Upcoming Events

- Wonderful Wednesday
  - This weekly program is returning to the Museum of York County this summer. Each session is Storyland themed, with a tie in to nature and has been well attended thus far.
- Messy Maestros
  - This program is returning to Main Street Children's Museum on Thursdays and gives children an opportunity to explore their creativity through art.
- Independence Day
  - On Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, staff at Historic Brattonsville will demonstrate what Independence Day looked like in the 1850s. This program will include family fun activities and a reading of the Declaration of Independence.
- The Battle of Huck's Defeat
  - This annual, two-day event will take place on Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. It will host a number of activities, such as hands-on and make-and-take, as well as demonstrations from staff and reenactors. A reenactment of the Battle of Huck's Defeat will also take place.
- York School District 1 Community Reading Grant Partnership
  - Museum of York County will be hosting children from York School District 1 to assist students who may be reading under grade level. This program took place June 19<sup>th</sup>- June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- York School District 1 Family Night at the Museum
  - This program will allow families to visit Museum of York County on August 17<sup>th</sup>, free of charge, as a part of the Title One school program.
- Kulture City Recognition

- The CHM is partnering with Kulture City to connect to visitors with sensory needs. Each staff member has been trained and facilities will offer sensory bags that may be used during the visit.
- CHM Project Updates
  - Ice Age Exhibit
    - On the morning of Storyland Family Day on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jon Prichard discovered the mural in the Ice Age Hall peeling away from the wall. He noticed that the adhesive was gone and that there were splotches on the wall. We have treated the wall and have retained a company to test for mold and air quality. There is mold present but it is harmless. We are currently investigating the source of the moisture, presumably an HVAC issue.
  - Lowry Family Theatre
    - Bennett Preservation continues to prepare the construction documents and we have received the 90% documents this month. We will be receiving the 100% documents in July. The SC General Assembly ratified the FY 23-24 General Appropriations Bill on June 14<sup>th</sup>, which included the funding for the full amount to repair the McCelvey theatre. Governor McMaster vetoed eleven projects and this was not one of them.
  - Watt Cemetery
    - We continue to find more and more graves, and are up to three hundred graves. SCIAA still needs to map out two-thirds of the site using GPR. The waysides, however, cannot be fully completed until the GPR work is complete and the graves have been identified, counted, and mapped.
  - Col. Bratton and Homestead Houses Preservation Projects
    - Preservation by Midwest Maintenance continues at the Homestead and Col. Bratton houses. The sistering of the roof is complete and now they are gathering materials for roof installation at both houses. The weatherboarding replacement is also occurring at both houses. Additional decay was observed on the Homestead house, and the engineer suggested replacement of the corner posts and sills. Change orders have gone out and will be presented to County Council for approval.
    - Update: we received an update on the metal roof for the Homestead. The contractor decided to go with a pre-treated metal roof, which will not work for the sealed roof that the project requires. The issue will be resolved with the roof described in the construction documents.
  - Fluid Preservation Room
    - The contract for the design work for the Fluid Preservation Room at the Museum of York County was executed on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Design work will

begin the week of July 10<sup>th</sup> and is projected to be complete in September. The completion of the project is expected to be March 1, 2024.

- York County 250<sup>th</sup> Committee
  - On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the steering committee met at the Southern Revolutionary War Institute. CHM Historian Zach Lemhouse reviewed the SC 250 Handbook and outlined the steps that have been completed, as well as the current stakeholder list. The group voiced concerns that the committee is not diverse enough, so the formation of an outreach subcommittee was proposed. A draft of the proposed resolution was reviewed, it will go before County Council at a later date. The committee plans to have SC 250 Commission Vice-Chair Bill Davies present to County Council at their August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting .An acting chair, Mark Kerr, was voted in by the committee and Zach will meet with him to transition leadership. A fiscal agent still needs to be decided.

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

#### **Committee Reports**

- Collections Committee
  - Nothing to report
- Finance Committee
  - Presented by Ed Stewart
  - Nothing new to report, everything looks great.
- Governance Committee
  - David Duncan made a motion to move into Executive Session at 6:28pm
    - Annie Laurie Wheat seconded the motion
      - Penny Sheppard called for a vote, vote was taken, and the motion passed

#### **Executive Session**

- Move to Executive Session at 6:28pm

#### **Reconvene to Open Session**

- Reconvened to Open Session at 7:10pm
  - No specific actions to take from Executive Session

#### **Old Business**

- None

#### **New Business**

- Election of New Officers
  - Penny Sheppard called for nominations for new officers
    - Annie Laurie Wheat nominated Penny Sheppard for Chair
    - Penny Sheppard nominated David Duncan for Vice Chair (Governance)
    - Annie Laurie Wheat nominated Ed Stewart for Secretary/Treasurer (Finance)
  - Penny Sheppard called for a vote for all those in favor of the slate, vote was taken, and the motion passed.
    - Chair: Penny Sheppard
    - Vice-Chair: David Duncan
    - Secretary/Treasurer: Ed Stewart
  
- New Meeting Schedule Discussion
  - Richard Campbell informed Penny Sheppard, after reading the by-laws, that the Culture and Heritage Commission is only required to meet quarterly. Penny Sheppard wanted to make sure that everyone know that there was that option.
    - The Commission as a whole agreed to meet monthly.

**Commission Member New/Non-agenda Comments**

- None

**Adjourn**

- Penny Sheppard made a motion to adjourn at 7:15pm
  - Annie Laurie Wheat seconded the motion
    - Penny Sheppard called for a vote, vote was taken, and the motion passed
      - Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

**Prepared by: Dabney Scholler**

**Submitted by: Ed Stewart, Secretary/Treasurer**



## Culture and Heritage Museums Director's Report June 27, 2023

*Mission: to communicate and preserve the natural and cultural histories of the Carolina Piedmont, inspiring a lifetime of learning.*

### Visitation – May 2023

- Total visitation: 5,545
  - Museum of York County: 2,898
  - Historic Brattonsville: 1,331
  - Main Street Children's Museum: 1,259
  - Historical Center of York County: 57
- Total year-to-date: 59,607
  - Museum of York County: 32,229
  - Historic Brattonsville: 12,446
  - Main Street Children's Museum: 13,872
  - Historical Center of York County: 1,060

### School Groups – May 2023

- Total school group visitation: 1,654
  - Museum of York County: 927
  - Historic Brattonsville: 677
  - Main Street Children's Museum: 50
- Total year-to-date: 11,608 students
  - Museum of York County: 7,163
  - Historic Brattonsville: 3,855
  - Main Street Children's Museum: 590

### Membership – May 2023

- New memberships: 75
- Membership revenue: \$6,060
- Year-to-Date membership sold: 983
- Year-to-date membership revenue: \$73,060
- Total Memberships: 1,368

### Past Events

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#### Storyland Family Day (MYCO)

- Storyland Family Day occurred on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Museum of York County.
- The event focused on literacy and endangered species, it also celebrated the three new summer exhibits at MYCO. There were 384 visitors.

### **Living History Saturday: Sheep Shearing (HB)**

- The annual Living History Saturday event wrapped up on May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Occurring every Saturday in May, Sheep Shearing programming explored the steps involved in processing wool.
- There were 220 visitors.

### **Living History Saturday: Juneteenth (HB)**

- This special Living History Saturday event occurred on June 17<sup>th</sup> at Historic Brattonsville.
- Event programming focused on the history of Juneteenth and its connection to the Brattonsville community.
- There were 132 visitors.

## **Upcoming Events**

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### **Wonderful Wednesday (MYCO)**

- Wonderful Wednesday is back at MYCO for the summer, taking place every Wednesday in June and July.
- Each week will feature a book from the Storyland exhibit with a nature tie-in, and is geared towards children 7 and up.
- Attendance so far has been 40+ visitors for each date.

### **Messy Maestros (MSCM)**

- Messy Maestros returns to the MSCM on Thursdays this summer.
- This process art program allows kids to get messy, while making their masterpieces out of various materials.
- Our first session was on June 15<sup>th</sup> and we had 45 participants.

### **Independence Day (HB)**

- Staff will lead a Living History Saturday that features special programming about the celebration of Independence Day in the Carolina Piedmont during the 1850s.
- The event will occur on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00am to 4:30pm at Historic Brattonsville.
- The program includes:
  - 19<sup>th</sup> century refreshments
  - Toys and games
  - Make-and-take activity: natural dyeing
  - Writing with quill pens and ink
  - Site tour: "Brattonsville's African-American Community and The Pursuit of Liberty" (1:00pm)
  - Reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Oak Grove Stage (12:00pm and 2:00pm)



### **The Battle of Huck's Defeat (HB)**

- The annual 2-day event takes place on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at Historic Brattonsville.
- Staff historic interpreters, costumed volunteers, and volunteer reenactors will lead a living history reenactment centering on the Battle of Huck's Defeat and the nature of the American Revolution in the Carolina Piedmont.
- On-Going Activities:
  - Reenactor Camps and 18<sup>th</sup> century military interpretation
  - 18<sup>th</sup> century cooking
  - 18<sup>th</sup> century barbeque (Saturday only)
  - Trade activities
  - Children's activities: toys and games, rolling sugar cartridges
- Timed Activities:
  - Children's militia drill
  - Musket-firing demonstration
  - Cavalry demonstration
  - Battle reenactment: Battle of Huck's Defeat
  - Battlefield tours
  - Site and preservation tours

### **York School District 1 Community Reading Grant Partnership (MYCO)**

- As in past years, we are hosting York School District 1's enrichment students from June 19<sup>th</sup> through June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- These students are attending a summer program at York School District 1 for children reading under their grade level.
- MYCO staff will provide enrichment opportunities during the afternoon to supplement their classroom work.

### **York School District 1 Family Night at the Museum Partnership (MYCO)**

- We are beginning a new partnership with York School District 1 to host a Family Night at MYCO with their Title 1 school families in a program similar to what we do each year with Rock Hill School District 3.
- Families will visit the museum free of charge on August 17<sup>th</sup>, with the District covering staff time expenses.
- These evening events often introduce underserved audiences to MYCO and are a good opportunity for community outreach.

### **Kulture City Recognition (CHM)**

- CHM is partnering with Kulture City, an organization that strives to connect those with sensory needs to institutions and destinations, with staff trained to recognize and accommodate those with sensory needs.

- Allison Taylor, Assistant Site Director for MSCM/MYCO, has been working with Kulture City to get all CHM sites recognized by their organization and listed on their app, which currently reaches over 500,000 users and will help us reach new audiences.

## **CHM Project Updates**

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### **Ice Age Exhibit (MYCO)**

- Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, while conducting a general walk-through before guests arrived for Storyland Family Day, Exhibits Manager Jon Prichard noticed the Late Pleistocene mural in the Ice Age Exhibit was peeling away from the wall.
- The wallpaper making up the 689 sq. ft. mural, was hung in 4ft-wide, 12.5' long sections that extend below the diorama scenic platform.
- One section, behind the caribou, was peeling away from the wall at the seam.
- When attempting to repair it, Jon noticed the wallpaper was not sticky and would not re-adhere without new adhesive. He also noticed splotches on the wall.
- After a more thorough investigation, Jon noticed additional areas of concern, including dark splotches and circular patterns.
- We treated the back surface of the wallpaper and the wall with a sodium carbonate solution called *Mold Control* and adhered the mural back to the wall with doubled-over painter's tape.
- A company was retained to test for mold.
- Test results showed there is mold present, but not black mold or Chaetomium.
- The company is also conducting air quality testing.
- We are currently in the process of determining the source of the moisture.
- Potential causes range from issues with the HVAC, the absence of a vapor barrier between the exterior walls and the interior walls, or localized leaks in the roof, causing water to accumulate between the walls.

### **Lowry Family Theatre (McC)**

- Bennett Preservation Engineering of Charleston, SC (BPE) continues to prepare the construction documents for repairing the roof structure of the auditorium.
- BPE received a draft cost estimate on June 14<sup>th</sup> for the revised scope of work detailed in the 90% drawings.
- The revised estimate is under internal review by BPE.
- BPE completed a site visit on June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to go through the 90% drawings, develop a sequence for the proposed work, and to take final measurements.
- 100% construction documents are expected in July.
- The SC General Assembly ratified the FY 23-24 General Appropriations Bill on June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The bill included funding for the full amount estimated at the schematic design phase.
- Governor McMaster vetoed 11 items on June 20<sup>th</sup>, and the McCelvey Center funding was not one of them.

### **Watt Cemetery (HB)**

- Work continues on the Watt Cemetery project, with significant results from the archaeological investigations conducted with the South Carolina Institute of Anthropology and Archaeology (SCIAA).
- To date we have identified 250 to 350 anomalies that are likely graves.
- That number could increase with the completion of the remaining small western section still to be examined and further analysis of the first grid in which the methodology only counted graves visible on the surface.
- SCIAA still need to map about 2/3 of the graves using GPR.
- Once complete, SCIAA will produce a map and report as part of the original contract.
- Staff review of text for the wayside exhibit panels is complete and was presented to our descendant advisory group for discussion and comment during their April 11<sup>th</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup> meetings.
- Staff incorporated their feedback into a later revision which was submitted to other external advisors for additional review, including staff from the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission.
- The waysides, however, cannot be fully completed until the GPR work is complete and the graves have been identified, counted, and mapped.

### **Col. Bratton and Homestead Houses Preservation Projects (HB)**

- Midwest Maintenance, Inc. of Piqua, OH (MMI) continues preservation activities at Col. Bratton and Homestead Houses.
- MMI has completed the sistering of roof members at both houses and is working to procure the materials needed for installing a wooden shake roof on the Col. Bratton House and a metal-plate roof on the Homestead House.
- Weatherboard repairs and replacement are in full swing at both houses.
- Change Order:
  - Additional decay was observed in the northwest and southwest corner posts of the two-story section of the Homestead House, as well as the sills of the north and south wings.
  - The engineer recommends the replacement of the decayed sections of these members.
  - Change order documents to address these issues are in progress.
  - Once prepared, the change order will go before County Council for approval.

### **Fluid Preservation Room (MYCO)**

- The contract for design work was executed on June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Design work on the project will start the week of July 10<sup>th</sup> and is projected to be completed in late September, with the solicitations for construction bids to follow.
- The estimated project completion date is March 1, 2024.

### **York County SC 250th Committee**

- The York County SC 250<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee met on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Southern Revolutionary War Institute.
- CHM Historian Zach Lemhouse led the committee through a review of the SC 250 Handbook, outlining the steps that have been completed to date (steps 1-4) and the current stakeholder list.
- The group voiced concerns that the committee is not diverse enough, so the formation of an outreach subcommittee was proposed.
- The committee reviewed a draft of the proposed resolution that would go before County Council.
- The plan is to have SC 250 Commission Vice-Chair Bill Davies present to County Council at their August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- An acting chair was appointed and unanimously approved by the committee.
- Zach will meet with Mr. Mark Kerr to transition leadership to him.
- A fiscal agent still needs to be decided.