

Culture & Heritage Commission
Board of Commissioners Meeting
September 26th, 2017
6:00 PM
Museum of York County
Approved: October 24th, 2017

Person Presiding: James Duncan
Members Present: Nancy Craig, Penny Sheppard, Craig Lentz, Dale Dove
Members Absent: Jeff Lyon
Ex Officio Members Present: Carolyn Mendenhall, Rick Chacon
Ex Officio Members Absent:
Staff Present: Carey Tilley, Sarah Lewis
Others: Michael Kendree

Prior to the meeting Carolyn Mendenhall, Rick Chacon, and Craig Lentz were sworn in for their second terms by County Attorney Michael Kendree.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM by Chair James Duncan.

James Duncan called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the August 29th, 2017 meeting as written; Craig Lentz so moved; Penny Sheppard seconded; no discussion followed; a vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Calendar Review

- Director Carey Tilley stated that he had spoken with Chair James Duncan and they thought it best to move the Development Director progress report originally scheduled for tonight's meeting to the October meeting. Tilley shared that he is excited about some of the ideas Alison and Richard have for fundraising and looks forward to hearing from them in October. There will also be a presentation of the Master Plan from Stantec, including phasing and cost estimates. Because of the two presentations in October, Tilley suggested that the review of the Institutional Plan be pushed to November.

James Duncan called for a motion to amend the calendar for 2017 and move the review of the institutional plan to November and to cover the Development progress report and HB master plan presentation in October; Penny Sheppard so moved; Craig Lentz seconded; no discussion followed; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports and Presentations

- Director's Report
 - Tilley reported that August attendance was up and has made up for the lower numbers in July. Membership was down a fraction last month, but is back up and is only 5 memberships behind last year. Tilley shared that there had been some community feedback regarding the cancellation of the Civil War event. It was a tough decision, but Tilley feels that it was the right decision and that we, as a site, can do a better job going forward of telling the story of how the Civil War impacted the community living at

Brattonsville during that time. Tilley shared updates related to the Capital Projects. There is a draft of a contract for the Pleistocene Hall and the numbers and schedule are within our budget and timeframe. Hopefully the project can start soon. At Historic Brattonsville, there will be a focus on the Colonel Bratton House with an aim to have the exterior painted by the 21st of October for Spirits and Stories. Tilley also shared that both the Collections Manager, Latasha Richards, and Farm/Property Manager at Historic Brattonsville, Anita Feemster, will be leaving in the next couple of weeks. Both will be missed and hard to replace. Tilley offered to answer any questions.

- Discussion followed regarding the cancellation of the Civil War Reenactment. Commissioners expressed a desire to make sure that moving forward any Civil War event tells a complete story representative of the entire community who lived at Brattonsville in the most historically accurate way possible.

Dale Dove arrived at 6:50 during the Director's Report.

[Note: See full copy of Director's report attached to these minutes as Addendum "A".]

Committee Reports

- Collections Committee
 - There was no report from the Collections Committee.

- Finance Committee
 - Committee chair Penny Sheppard presented the balance sheet included in the Commissioners' packets. She noted that a few corrections were still being made to the financial statements with the closing out of the fiscal year and that a full review of the financial statements would take place next month.
 - Tilley noted that the marketing grants have been received and the encumbrances have been moved to the current fiscal year, leaving a positive net of roughly \$280,000.

- Governance Committee
 - There was no report from the Governance Committee.

Old Business

- Capital Projects Update
 - Tilley stated that he had covered the Capital Projects update during his report and offered to answer any questions from the Commission. No questions followed.

New Business

- Possible Position Change
 - Tilley shared that there has been a lot of turnover in the African American Interpreter position, which is a critical role for African American programming at Historic Brattonsville. It may be that people would prefer to be in a more permanent management position. Making this position a management position would take some work off of the current Education Program Manager at Brattonsville and would provide an opportunity to possibly add an African American Interpreter position next year.
 - Craig Lentz asked about the high turnover. Tilley explained that African American Interpreters are always in high demand and that some who have held the position in the past have moved to management positions at other sites. Tilley believes this change

would address the attrition problem and would attract someone who is would be strong in developing the African American programming at Historic Brattonsville.

- Nancy Craig asked questions about changing the job description, the timeline for doing so, and whether the position would have to be posted again after changing the job description. Tilley explained that he would need to work with HR to determine if a new job description would have to be sent to a consultant to be graded, if so, that would increase the timeframe for posting the position.

Nancy Craig moved to authorize the Executive Director to pursue a possible position change for the African American Interpreter position to a managerial position; Dale Dove seconded; discussion followed; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Following the above motion, there was discussion about the budget implications for the possible position change. Tilley shared that the increase would be roughly \$4,000 and the increase could be covered by contingency.

Penny Sheppard moved to approve a budget transfer to the appropriate salary account for a new grade of the African American Interpreter salary to the appropriate management grade salary not to exceed \$7,000 from the current contingency balance; Nancy Craig seconded; no discussion followed; a vote was taken and the motion passed with all voting in favor.

James Duncan called for a motion to adjourn; Penny Sheppard so moved; Craig Lentz seconded; no discussion followed; a vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by: Sarah Lewis

Submitted by: Penny Sheppard, Secretary/Treasurer

Addendum A

Culture and Heritage Museums Director's Report September 26, 2017

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

CHC Commissioners,

There have been a lot of positive things happening at the museums since we last met in August. Progress continues on our capital projects while the busy school season is beginning to heat up. Visitation for August was strong while financially we remain sound.

Visitation Totals

After getting off to a slow start in July, visitation to our sites saw an overall recovery in August with each site but the Children's Museum (down only 1.3%) up significantly from August of 2016. The turn-around has caught us up overall to last year's year-to-date total through the first two months. The strongest growth so far this year has been at Historic Brattonsville. The combined totals continue to be up significantly above the three-year average and the rise since FYE 2012 is especially dramatic.

Monthly Visitation for August

	Overall	MYCO	HB	MSCM	McCelvey
August 2017	8,879	4,476	858	3,393	152
August 2016	7,497	3,252	709	3,436	100
Change from Previous Year	+1,382	+1,224	+149	-43	+52
% Change from Prev. Year	+18.4%	+37.6%	+21.0%	-1.3%	+52%

YTD Visitation Totals through August 31st

	Overall	MYCO	HB	MSCM	McCelvey
YTD 2017-2018	18,259	8,496	3,411	6,095	257
YTD 2016-2017	18,198	8,265	2,924	6,558	451
Change from Previous Year	+61	+231	+487	-463	-194
% Change from Prev. Year	+0.3%	+2.8%	+16.7%	-7.1%	-43.0%
Avg. of last 3 yrs.	17,033	6,964	3,515	6,064	491
Change from Avg.	+1,226	+1,532	-104	+31	-234
% Change from Avg.	+7.2%	+22.0%	-3.0%	+0.5%	-51.9%
% Change since 2012	+40.3%	+75.7%	-1.4%	+42.8%	+68.0%

Development News

Alison continues to work diligently with the Development team in coming up with a fresh and promising approach to our fundraising efforts. Although we still consider this to be a rebuilding year, they are working on some ideas that have a strong potential for more immediate positive impact. We are looking forward to sharing these ideas with you at the October meeting.

Membership

Although the total number of memberships at the end of August fell very slightly from 2016-17, the total of 1,527 remains the third highest of any month-end membership total on record and is only six memberships below the all-time membership high set in September of last year. Income from membership also continues to rise with an increase of over 5% since last year and over 87% since FYE 2012. Almost all of the growth in Membership Income comes from the general levels which we define as levels at \$150 and under.

YTD Membership Totals through August 31st

	Total Memberships at the end of Month	Total Membership Income	General Membership Income
2017-2018	1,527	\$20,810.00	\$19,660.00
2016-2017	1,532	\$19,708.50	\$18,358.50
Change From Prev. Year	-5	+\$1,101.50	+\$1,301.50
% Change from Prev. Year	-0.3%	+5.6%	+7.1%
Avg. of Prev. 3 yrs.	1,321	\$15,683.56	\$13,593.56
Change from Avg.	+206	+\$5,126.44	+6,066.44
% Change from Avg.	+15.6%	+32.7%	+44.6%
% Change from 2012	+33.5%	+87.5%	+175.1%

Civil War Reenactment

The mission of Historic Brattonsville is to preserve and present the history of the Carolina Piedmont and this Revolutionary War site as portrayed through the structures, landscapes, and stories of the Brattonsville community.

As you all are aware, we made the difficult decision to cancel the Civil War Reenactment event scheduled for October 28th and 29th. This decision was not made as an assessment of the value of reenactments as a valid tool to teach about the history of the Civil War but, rather, in consideration of the event's relevance to the site mission of Historic Brattonsville weighed against the potential volatility of the current political climate. Going forward, we hope to revisit the event to explore ways to tie it more closely to the stories of the Brattonsville community and *all* of those who lived there. The Civil War was critical to shaping southern history including significantly altering life on the plantation. It would be hard to argue against the position that the most important lasting result of the Civil War was the end of slavery and the freedom that that end brought to almost four million people living in the south. There were at least 118 slaves living on the Bratton plantation in 1860. To continue to host an event about the Civil War on the site of their homes and leave out the stories of their lives in those

tumultuous years not only invites controversy it does a disservice to history and is counter to our mission. While we welcome continued input from the reenactors who are focused on presenting accurate military history it will be vital to also reach out to the African American community as we explore new programming ideas.

Capital Projects – Museum of York County

We are currently reviewing a late draft of a contract with JMD Architects, Inc. to lead the architectural and exhibit design team that will design our new Pleistocene Hall exhibit. They will be partnering with Taylor Studios, Inc. to carry out the work which will carry us through the creation of construction documents and the bid process as well as provide for contract administration through the exhibit fabrication phase. Funding for this phase of the project has already been approved through the Foundation for the Carolinas.

Capital Projects – Historic Brattonsville

Stantec is finalizing the Master Plan for Historic Brattonsville. We currently are planning on having them present their final report at the October Commission meeting. New South and Associates of Columbia has completed an archaeological survey of two areas identified in the master plan for improvements. Both of these areas are outside of the expanded National Register District as currently proposed. No significant cultural material was found in either area. We can now start planning for the relocation of the Academy (non-historic) and construction of the Education Area Restrooms in the eastern surveyed area. Funding for both of these projects from the Foundation for the Carolinas has been approved. Keystone Consultants is also nearing completion of their work on the Finishes Analysis of the original structures while we look forward to the first phase of the Architectural/Engineering work underway by the Liollo Architects team being completed in late November or early December.

Work on the exterior of the Colonel Bratton House has become the primary focus of our internal capital efforts. This work includes repairs to deteriorating siding and sills as well as scraping, priming, and painting. We have set a goal of completing the work by the time of the Spirits and Stories event coming up on October 21st.

Conclusion

We regret that we will be losing two highly-valued employees in the very near future. Latasha Richards (Collections Manager) will be leaving on September 30th and Anita Feemster, Property Manager / Farm at Historic Brattonsville will be retiring on October 6th. Both have been great assets to the organization and we wish them well. I want to thank you once again for your service to the mission of the museum system. We have a full slate of fall events coming up between now and the end of October including *Spooky Science* at MYCO on October 28th, *Spirits and Stories* at HB on October 21st, and Boo-seum at the Children's Museum on October 22nd.

Sincerely,

(submitted electronically)

Carey L. Tilley
Executive Director
Culture and Heritage Museums

Recent and Upcoming Events

Recent Programs and Events (August 1st through September 26th)

- August 1st @ HB Time Travel Tuesdays – Dairying on the Plantation
- August 2nd @ MYCO Wonderful Wednesdays: Total Solar Eclipse
- August 3rd @ MSCM Countdown to Kindergarten
- August 5th @ MYCO Solar Astronomy Day
- August 8th @ HB Time Travel Tuesdays – Antebellum School Days
- August 8th @ MYCO Carolina Skygazers Astronomy Club (Monthly on 2nd Tuesday)
- August 10th @ MSCM Playcation Camp
- August 12th @ McCelv Historical Center Open (Monthly on 2nd Saturday)
- August 19th @ HB Walt Schrader Trails open for Horseback Riding (Monthly on 3rd Sat.)
- August 23rd @ MSCM Wee Wednesdays (Weekly through May)
- September 5th @ MYCO Teen Science Cafe
- September 7th @ MYCO York School District 1 Kindergarten Family Night at the Museum
- September 9th @ HB By the Sweat of Our Brows
- Sep. 9th & 30th @ MYCO Wild Wonder Saturday: Migration Marvels
- September 9th @ MYCO PNC Mobile Learning Adventure
- September 10th @ MSCM Grandparent's Day at MSCM
- Sep. 12th & 14th @ MYCO Rock Hill School District Family Night at the Museum
- September 16th @ MSCM Worldwide Day of Play
- September 16th @ MYCO Cassini's Grand Finale
- September 17th @ MYCO An Afternoon with Ronni Lundy
- Sep. 19th – 20th @ MYCO Homeschool Days – Environmental Scientist
- September 23rd @ HB Piedmont Pottery & Pickin'
- September 23rd @ MYCO Take a Child Outside

Upcoming Programs and Events (September 27th through October 31st)

- September 28th @ MYCO Teen Science Café
- October 4th @ MSCM Wee Wednesday (Weekly through May)
- Oct. 7th & 21st @ MYCO Wild Wonder Saturday: Autumn Observations
- October 10th @ MYCO Carolina Skygazers Astronomy Club (Monthly on 2nd Tuesday)
- October 14th @ MYCO Wild Wonder Saturday: Bill Stokes
- October 14th @ McCelv Historical Center Open (Monthly on 2nd Saturday)
- Oct. 17th – 18th @ MYCO Homeschool Days – Environmental Scientist
- October 19th @ MYCO Teen Science Café
- October 21st @ HB Spirits & Stories
- October 22nd @ MSCM Boo-seum
- October 27th @ HB Civil War Education Day
- October 28th @ MYCO Spooky Science: Mystery of the Senses