

Culture & Heritage
Board of Commissioners Meeting
August 26, 2013
6:00 pm
Museum of York County

Approved 9-23-13

Person Presiding: Chair, David Plexico
Members Present: David Duncan, Dennis Getter, Jonell Hagner
Members Calling In: Ragin Craig, Rick Lee
Ex-Officio Present: Pat Veasey
Staff Present: Carey Tilley, Barbara Ardrey
Other: County Attorney Michael Kendree

The meeting was called to order by CHC Chair, David Plexico, at 6:10 pm.

[Note: Commissioner Getter was not present when meeting was called to order but arrived shortly thereafter.]

Plexico made a motion to approve the minutes of the CHC July 22, 2013 meeting as presented; Duncan seconded; no discussion; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

[Note: Rick Lee was off line and not in attendance at the time of the motion and vote.]

Staff Reports and Information

Report from Executive Director (The full written report is included as an Addendum to these Minutes.)

- Overall visitation is up 30% from last July. The three main categories are up: General Admission, 14%; Special Events, 114%; and Groups, 174%.

[Note: Rick Lee joined meeting at this point via conference phone.]

- Membership numbers are up. This is our highest total since February, 2012.
- McCelvey Annex now has a roof on it; work continues.
- Work has started on the MYCO roof.
- HB Brick House is ready to go. County Council approved our recommendation of Centennial Preservation as contractor for the first phase of restoration. Tilley asked Attorney Kendree if that should be formally ratified by the Commission; Kendree indicated that would be his preference.

Duncan made a motion that the Commission move forward with Centennial Preservation; Getter seconded; no discussion; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- HB Huck's Defeat Battlefield was approved by State for placement on the National Register of Historic Places; recommendation forwarded on to Keeper of the National Register for final approval. County Council has approved \$96,000 in Hospitality Tax funds to be used for interpretation. Friends of Brattonsville also committed \$5,000 to this project.
- Countdown to Kindergarten was a new event this year held August 9 on Main Street in downtown Rock Hill, featuring our Main Street Children's Museum. This was part of a statewide collaboration led by Edventure Children's Museum with a major sponsorship from Boeing and a strong local sponsorship from Publix Supermarkets. This event is held in preparation for beginning Kindergarten and we had a strong attendance of approximately 500 children and adults.
- Tilley noted that two long-term employees of the CHM, Mary Lynn Norton and Pat Holman, will be retiring in the coming weeks. He stated that together they represent over 47 years of institutional knowledge and will be greatly missed.

- Upcoming events were noted.

Commissioner Getter requested that going forward, he would like the Director's Report to be a permanent part of the minutes as an addendum. Attorney Kendree suggested putting that request in the form of a motion.

Getter moved that here forward, the Director's Report become a permanent addition to the minutes; Plexico seconded; no discussion; a vote was taken and all in attendance voted in favor; the motion passed unanimously.

[Note: Rick Lee was off line and not in attendance at the time of the motion and vote.]

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee
 - Getter noted that there was no Finance Committee meeting but that he did request Preliminary Reports from Beth Latham and that copies of those reports were in the packets for Commission review.
- Governance Committee – no meeting
- Collections Committee
 - Committee met. Veasey reported that the committee suggested adding wording to the Charter (copy in packet) under Organization, #2 to define the terms of the members. That is underlined in the copy provided. Veasey asked for Commission approval.

Getter moved that the Commission approve the changes as delineated today and that we add an addendum approval date of today's date to the Museum Collections Committee Charter; Hagner seconded; no discussion; a vote was taken and Hagner, Plexico, Getter, Duncan and Lee voted in favor, with Craig abstaining because he did not hear the entire discussion or motion; motion passed 5 to 0.

- Veasey next presented a statement, for Commission approval, about accessioning items. She noted that Tilley wants to formalize that the Commission needs to approve every item accepted into the permanent collections. In that regard, she offered the following wording:

"From the date of this action, any item accepted into the permanent collections or the permanent archives of the Culture and Heritage Commission must be approved by the Culture and Heritage Commissioners. Acceptance of items into Temporary Custody or accepted to be used in programs or public research remain the responsibility of appropriate staff."

Duncan so moved; Getter seconded; discussion; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Regarding the Recommendation for Accession of the D. Audley Gold collection found in the board packet, Veasey asked for Commission approval.

Plexico moved to accept; Duncan seconded; discussion; a vote was taken; Plexico, Duncan, Hagner, Getter and Lee voted in favor with Craig abstaining because he had not seen the document; the motion passed 5 to 0.

Old Business

- Brick House
 - Discussed earlier in the meeting and action was taken at that time
- MYCO Roof Status
 - Discussed earlier in the meeting

New Business

- Election of Officers

Duncan moved that the following be nominated to the offices indicated: David Plexico, Chairman; Jonell Hagner, Vice Chairman and Governance; and Dennis Getter, Secretary-Treasurer; Getter seconded; discussion; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Recommendations for Ex-Officio Vacancy
 - Discussed applicant and procedure for recommendation to Council
 - Tilley noted precedent was set last time for Commission to recommend applicant to Council and he would like to maintain that tradition.
 - Kendree agreed a motion would be in order.

Hagner made a motion that the Commission present the name of Nancy Craig to the Council for their vote; Duncan seconded; discussion; a vote was taken and all in attendance voted in favor; the motion passed unanimously.

[Note: Rick Lee was off line and not in attendance at the time of the motion and vote.]

Duncan made a motion to go into Executive Session for receipt of legal advice and to discuss a potential contractual matter; Getter seconded; no discussion; a vote was taken and all in attendance voted in favor; the motion passed unanimously.

[Note: Rick Lee was off line and not in attendance at the time of the motion and vote.]

Executive Session

- Receipt of Legal Advice
- Discussion of Potential Contractual Matter

Reconvened to Open Session

Plexico reported that no action was taken as a result of Executive Session.

Duncan moved to adjourn; Getter seconded; no discussion, all voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: Barbara Ardrey

Submitted by: Dennis Getter, Secretary/Treasurer

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES OF CHC 8-26-13 MEETING
Culture and Heritage Museums
Director's Report
August 26, 2013
(as corrected September 23, 2013)

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

CHC Commissioners,

Visitation Numbers

We are off to a great start in 2013-2014 with exceptionally strong visitation numbers for the first month of the fiscal year. Overall total visitation is up 20%* from July of last year and exceeds our first month totals from each of the past five years. The largest improvement was at Historic Brattonsville which was up more than 45% from July of 2012 thanks to a strong showing at the Battle of Huck's Defeat Reenactment and the Independence Day Celebration. Not only did HB show a turn-around from the dismal July of last year, but posted its best July numbers since 2009. While Brattonsville exhibited an important reversal of a downward trend, The Museum of York County continued its strong growth with its best July (up almost 27%) since at least 2008. The Main Street Children's Museum (up 10%) experienced its best July yet since opening in December of 2011. Of our four sites, only the McCelvey Center was down in the first month of the year. This deficit was due to a one-time grant-funded performance series (New Harmonies) that continued into July of 2012 that did not occur this year. The number of visitors using our Research Room at McCelvey (185) was actually up 41%.

Onsite YTD (July) Visitation Comparisons – Previous Year

	Overall	MYCO	HB	MSCM	McCelvey
July 2013-2014*	8,628	3,397	2,762	2,294	225
July 2012-2013*	7,216	2,678	1,897	2,083	553*
Change from Previous Year	+1,462	+719	+865	+211	-328
% Change from Previous Year	+20.26%*	+26.84%	+45.60%	+10.13%	-59.31%

Visitation in all three major categories experienced increases from July of 2012:

- General Admission: up 14%
- Special Events: up 114%
- Groups: up 174%

* Correction on 9/23/13 from error in original version of this report

Membership

Membership numbers continued a positive trend in July - rising to 1,229 members. This number represents a net gain of 49 members since last month and an increase of 89 over this same time last year. It is our highest membership total in 17 months. 34 of the 58 new members joined at the Main Street Children's Museum – a great introduction to our family of museums and a “lifetime of learning”. Fourteen of the new members joined at the Battle of Huck's Defeat reenactment.

McCelvey Annex

The McCelvey Annex now has a new pitched roof as progress there on our new Collections, Archives, & Research Center is starting to become very visible. Despite several setbacks, we are still looking towards completion in December.

MYCO Roof

The Contract to Interstate Roofing has been awarded and work on replacing the MYCO roof began last week with the delivery of materials. The work is slated to be completed by late October. Along with the roof replacement, we are replacing an air conditioning unit for the Planetarium.

HB Brick House

The County Council has approved Centennial Preservation to carry out the work on the first phase of restoration of the Brick House (Roof & Mortar). Notice of Award will be issued this week and Notice to proceed will be given as soon as Centennial files the proper paperwork. We still hope to complete the first phase of the project by late November. Funds to cover the costs are being carried over from last year. The second phase of the project (Exterior Stabilization and Restoration) has been divided into four stages: (1) Front Porch Restoration (\$45,000), (2) Water Diversion and Painting of Soffits (\$26,635)¹, (3) Siding, Windows, & Doors (\$123,450), and (4) Rear Porch Restoration. The total cost of the second phase is projected to be c. \$295,635. We have already received the funding for the Front Porch through the York County Hospitality Tax. By invitation from the Robert H. Morrison Foundation, we have submitted a grant request for \$150,000 which would cover the work for stages two and three. Additional funding will be needed to complete the restoration of the rear porch.

HB Huck's Defeat Battlefield

On July 26th, the State Board of Review for the National Register of Historic Places approved the Williamsons Plantation Battlefield (Huck's Defeat) for placement on the National Register. The state recommendation has been forwarded on to the Keeper of the National Register at the National Park Service for final approval. This nomination is distinct from the more general district at HB. The County Council has approved \$96,000 in Hospitality Tax funds to be used for the interpretation of the battlefield. Staff is currently putting together a plan for launching the project and getting companies and individuals under contract to carry out the various components of the effort.

¹ Stage 2 encompasses work deferred from Phase I to accommodate the budget. While essential to the long-term health of the building, this deferment will not keep the remainder of the first phase (Roof and Mortar) from addressing the most immediate threats.

Countdown to Kindergarten

In the early part of this month (August), we hosted a new event on Main Street that featured our Children's Museum in a celebration of and preparation for the beginning of Kindergarten. This event was part of a statewide collaboration led by the Edventure Children's Museum in Columbia with major sponsorship from Boeing. We also had strong local sponsorship from Publix Supermarkets. The afternoon event featured music and educational booths all along Main Street in addition to the museum. The Museum itself tallied 327 visitors with an estimated total of 500 people participating in the event.

Personnel News

Two of our long-term employees will be leaving us in the coming weeks. Mary Lynn Norton (Community Relations / Facilities Rentals) is retiring from the organization after thirty-two years of service. Pat Holman (Membership Coordinator) is leaving after fifteen years of service. Together they represent over forty-seven years of institutional knowledge that will be greatly missed. Both have been proven to be dedicated to the mission of the organization and they are leaving on respective high notes with significant gains in membership and rentals tripling the budgeted amount. While it will be difficult to replace what Mary Lynn and Pat brought to our team, our staff will be working with HR to come up with a new plan for covering their duties.

Conclusion

This report only hits the highlights of the past month at the Culture and Heritage Museums. I encourage you to come and check out what is going on. We have three exciting events coming up in September. "*By the Sweat of Our Brow*", featuring the historic experiences of African Americans at Brattonsville, is slated for September 14th. Also at Historic Brattonsville, *The Carolina Piedmont Festival* is scheduled for September 28th. On September 21st, we are happy to be part of the *World-wide Day of Play* sponsored by Nickelodeon at the Main Street Children's Museum. I look forward to seeing you. Thank you for your continued service and support.

Sincerely,

(submitted electronically)

Carey L. Tilley
Executive Director