

**Culture & Heritage
Board of Commissioners Meeting
September 22, 2014
6:00 PM
Museum of York County**

Approved 10-27-2014

Person Presiding: David Plexico
Members Present: Ragin Craig, David Duncan, Dennis Getter, Leo Yakutis
Members Absent: Carlos Bryson, Rick Lee
Ex Officio Present: Nancy Craig
Staff Present: Carey Tilley, Barbara Ardrey
Others Present: County Attorney Michael Kendree

Chair, David Plexico, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. The first order of business was approval of draft minutes of the August 25, 2014 monthly meeting as well as the minutes of the special called meetings on August 27 and September 2, 2014.

Plexico called for a motion accepting the minutes of the three meetings; David Duncan so moved; Ragin Craig seconded; discussion; all voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports and Information

- Report of Executive Director – (Full report attached to these minutes as Addendum A.)

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee
 - Getter noted that there was nothing to report; the committee had not met.
 - Tilley advised that the Financial Statement would be forthcoming as well as updated budget from Beth Latham after she received a copy of the approved minutes of the August 25, 2014 meeting.
- Governance Committee
 - Ragin Craig noted that the committee had not met but that he would be calling a meeting once the applications for the ex officio position are in.
 - There was some discussion about procedure for finalizing Tilley's review; Craig will check with HR Director.
 - Tilley noted that he had a meeting set up with the County Manager to resolve the issue with the HR rules discussed at the last meeting.
- Collections Committee
 - Duncan advised that the committee had met and that there was only one Recommendation for Accession.

Duncan made a motion to accept the Recommendation for Accession brought before the Commission; Dennis Getter seconded; no discussion; a vote was taken and all voted in favor; the motion passed unanimously.

(The Recommendation for Accession is attached to these minutes as Addendum B.)

A suggestion was made to have staff provide one or two slides showing the items being considered for accession/deaccession to give commissioners an idea about what the collection items look like, etc. Duncan interjected that the Recommendation form is in the process of being revised in order to provide additional information about the items being considered. The size of the item or entire collection would be noted as well as such things as explanation of potential uses and cost of ownership. The new form will help give a clearer picture of the items under consideration.

Old Business

- Brattonsville Road Discussion
 - Getter suggested taking this item off future agendas and incorporating the matter of eliminating the road into the Historic Brattonsville Master Plan. Ragin Craig inquired about timeframe. Tilley noted that after we have the money to pay for the Master Plan, it will probably take around seven months to have the plan ready.
- McCelvey Rentals
 - Tilley noted that in addition to what to do with McCelvey, there is a related matter that has come up recently and that is, what is being done with the courthouse. Several preservation-minded groups have shown concern about what's going to happen to the courthouse. Since it touches on preservation and historic resources of the county, people may look at us and where we stand on the issue. Tilley will meet with David Larson and get some additional information and see how we can help.
 - Strategic Objectives and Initiatives
 - Tilley asked if the Commission had reviewed the objectives and initiatives passed out at the last meeting and noted that if some sort of consensus or approval could be reached, it would help give the staff some direction and then act as a foundation for the strategic plan.
 - Lengthy discussion followed. Tilley answered questions.
 - Yakutis commented that he thought some of the initiatives needed to be more specific.
 - Getter requested that strategic initiatives #15 and #16 under Objective VI be restated.
 - Tilley asked for a decision on how to proceed. It was decided to delay a vote until next meeting. Tilley requested input from Commissioners in the meantime.

New Business

- No new business

Plexico asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Ragin Craig so moved; Duncan seconded; discussion followed resulting in consensus that there was no need for executive session; Craig withdrew his motion; Duncan withdrew his second.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by: Barbara Ardrey

Submitted by: Dennis Getter, Secretary/Treasurer

Addendum A

Culture and Heritage Museums Director's Report September 22, 2014

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

CHC Commissioners,

I would like to thank you again for your continued commitment to the Culture and Heritage Museums. As included in my previous report, August saw a very strong public response to Countdown to Kindergarten at the Main Street Children's Museum and the second of our two Summer Concert shows (WBT Briarhoppers and the Hinson Girls). The Award-winning "Sweat of our Brows" was held at Historic Brattonsville on September 13th. Although the threat of rain and swamp-like humidity kept attendance down significantly from last year's turnout, we still had our second-highest attendance in the past five years. The past month has also been a very busy time behind the scenes as we prepare for a new season of school field trips, new exhibitions, and fall events. In addition, we are taking advantage of a lull in our capital projects to give attention to other preservation efforts at Historic Brattonsville. All the while, we continue to prepare for re-accreditation with the AAM Deadline for internal paperwork coming up in March.

Settlement Agreement

As you are aware, since our last meeting a settlement agreement has been reached with the Culture and Heritage Foundation (signed September 3rd). This agreement will ensure that the remaining assets of the Culture and Heritage Foundation, with the exception of \$200,000 to pay their continuing operating expenses, will be used to support the Culture and Heritage Museums. Net proceeds from the pending land sale with Crescent Community are expected to be around \$8,000,000. Once this sale is finalized, these funds will be held by the Foundation for the Carolinas for the exclusive benefit of CHC capital projects. The remaining funds set aside as the old Friends of MYCO Endowment (slightly under \$500,000) will be moved to the Foundation for the Carolinas to establish a new endowment that will remain restricted for collections and exhibits. The CHC will also receive sixty acres of land along the Catawba River for cultural, nature, or recreational use. In addition, CHF and SDG have agreed to a Forensic Audit to determine whether or not any fraud or wrongdoing was committed. Currently, we are working to select a CPA firm to conduct the audit.

Current Capital Projects

We continue to work through the difficulties with the Climate Control system at the Historical Center of York County (McCelvey Annex). We are awaiting cost estimates to implement the new design from the contractor. This project is being handled under the auspices and budget of the county and they are working with our staff to make sure we achieve the designated criteria. At Historic Brattonsville, we are currently gathering cost estimates for work on the gutters and downspouts for the Brick House. We do anticipate that funds that were unused in the Roof and Mortar phase of the project will be sufficient to complete the water diversion efforts. Also at Historic Brattonsville, we continue to finalize the Electronic Battlefield Component of the Huck's Defeat Battlefield Interpretive Trail. Funding is in place for this last piece of the project and we currently anticipate a launch in early October.

Visitation Numbers through August

Year-to-date visitation at all of our sites continues to be strong through the second month of the fiscal year. Despite a decline at Historic Brattonsville and a slight drop at the Museum of York County in August, overall attendance at the Culture and Heritage Museums for the month is up 16% from August of 2013 thanks to a strong showing at Countdown to Kindergarten (MSCM) and the WBT Briarhoppers / Hinson Girls Show (Lowery Family Theater, McCelvey). In addition, the strong July numbers throughout the organization leave us up in year-to-date on-site attendance at all four of our sites. We also are significantly ahead of the average of the three previous years at all of our sites.

Year-to-date On-Site Visitation Comparisons

	Overall	MYCO	HB	MSCM	McCelvey
YTD 2014-2015	16,658	6,008	4,219	5,663	768 ¹
YTD 2013-2014	14,770	5,905	3,935	4,712	218
Change from Previous Year	+1,888	+103	+284	+951	+550
% Change from Previous Year	+12.8%	+1.7%	+7.2%	+20.2%	+252.2%
Avg. of last 3 yrs.	13,155	5,104	3,416	4,315	320
Change from Avg.	+3,503	+904	+803	+1,348	+448
% Change Avg.	+26.6%	+17.7%	+23.5%	+31.2%	+140.0%

Special Events

Overall, Special Event attendance continues to grow – building on last year’s great numbers. Still, it should be noted that the threat of rain and high humidity brought down our *By the Sweat of our Brows* numbers while we discontinued *Occupations of the Past*, one of our smaller events that was held last year over Labor Day weekend.

CHC Special Events to date

	Site	Date	2014-2015	2013-2014	% Change
Independence Day	HB	July 4	577	461	+25%
Huck’s Defeat	HB	July 12 & 13	1,328	1,086	+22%
Countdown to Kindergarten	MSCM	August 7	1,041	500	+108%
Summer Concert Series (two shows)	McCelvey	July 26 & August 16	550	New	+New
Occupations of the Past	HB	August 30	Discontinued	175	Discontinued
By the Sweat of our Brows	HB	September 13	285 ²	426	-33%

¹ Includes two performances in the Summer Concert Series started in 2014-15.

² Threat of Rain, very humid.

Retail Membership through August

Income from Retail Membership remains at a five-year high through the first two months of 2014-15. The year-to-date total of \$12,913 is up by almost 30% from last year's numbers at this time which were already at a five-year high and 25% over the 2012-13 results.

Upcoming Events and Exhibits

A Salamander's Tale opened on Saturday replacing *What's Bugging Belva* as a small travelling exhibit for children in the MYCO auditorium. It will continue through January 14th, 2015. Work continues on preparing our Springs Gallery for our new feature exhibition at MYCO entitled *Life: A Journey through Time* which will open on October 1st and run through May 17th, 2015. This exhibition features the work of renowned nature photographer Franz Lanting as he interprets the past through photographs of the present. Mr. Lanting's work will be supplemented by fossils and the debut of "Phyllis", our new model of Coelophysis – a Triassic Dinosaur whose relatives once roamed the Carolina Piedmont. Jeffrey, the Jeffersonian Ground Sloth and the star of our "Way Back When" exhibit that came down last month has re-emerged as a permanent exhibit in our Naturalist Center. At Brattonsville on September 27th, we will host the *Piedmont Pottery Festival* at Historic Brattonsville featuring the work of potters of the Carolina Piedmont. The pottery will be available for purchase directly from the artists. Other upcoming events at Historic Brattonsville include *Spirits and Stories: Brattonsville by Twilight* on October 19th and our annual *Civil War Reenactment* on October 26th and 27th.

Conclusion

At today's meeting we will continue our discussion of Strategic Initiatives and Objectives. The commitment of the Commission on these issues will help guide a more comprehensive three to five-year Strategic Plan as well as a Capital Projects Plan. Over the past couple of years we have been moving in a direction that I believe reflects a consensus of the organization and the interests of the community. This direction has built upon past success while reflecting a response to existing challenges. We have been successful in serving more people while exercising increased fiscal responsibility. We have also embarked on significant capital improvements including those that enhance visitor experience as well as those that demonstrate a commitment to preservation and taking care of the resources we currently have. In the coming months we need to better define our long-term goals through a formal approval process in order to better communicate these goals to the community.

I appreciate your support of the mission of the Culture and Heritage Museums and your service to the people of York County as well as our larger audience. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

(submitted electronically)

Carey L. Tilley
Executive Director

Addendum B



RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCESSION

Temporary Custody ID:	Collection Type:	Method of Acquisition:
CEUD	Archival	Donation

Name of Donor:
Nancy Jo Smith

Description of Object(s) <i>(Expand as needed)</i> :	Condition:
Loose page from Activity Book	Fair
(2) Workbook, "Monthly Activity Unit for February", The Continental Press, 1960	Fair
Workbook, "Monthly Activity Unit for April", The Continental Press, 1955	Fair
Print, "Shoeing the Bay Mare", original by Sir Edwin Landseer	Fair
Print, "Madonna of the Chair", original by Raphael, on blue construction paper	Fair
Print, woman holding a small child in front of fireplace, mounted on white board	Fair
(13) Books:	
Economy Primer, Book Two, Second Steps in Reading, 2 nd edition	Fair
The Courtship of Miles Standish, Instructor Literature Series – No. 13	Fair
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch	Fair
The Elson Readers, Book One	Fair
The Elson Basic Readers, Book Two	Fair
Elsie's Friends at Woodburn	Fair
Elsie's New Relations: What They Did and How They Fared at Ion	Fair
The Last of the Mohicans, A Narrative of 1757	Fair
McGuffey's Fourth Reader of the Eclectic Series	Fair
Holmes' Third Reader, New Edition	Fair
Fairy Tales and Stories	Fair
Poets of the South, A Series of Biographical and Critical Studies with Typical Poems, Annotated	Fair
Holmes' Second Reader, New Edition	Fair

Justification Mission Rating: 5 (Scale of 1 – 5; 5 matches mission 100%)

Specific reasons for recommending the accession of the object(s):

This collection was utilized by a Winthrop alumnus who taught at what is now the Feasterville Academy Historic District and represents educational materials used in the Carolina Piedmont in the early half of the twentieth century. Today, education is standardized across the Nation and it is important to collect regional educational materials that teachers and local schools once used to create their own curriculum. These books provide an example of the resources utilized by early 20th century educators that we do not have in our collections. These materials will be preserved for research and exhibit. In the future, we hope to create an exhibit at McCelvey that would include a school classroom and these books would be excellent candidates to tell that story.

These original items belonged to Mary Bess Coleman (1897-2002), a 1918 graduate of Winthrop Normal



and Industrial College. She is the daughter of Elizabeth and William Y. Coleman of Feasterville, SC in Fairfield County. Mary Bess and her three sisters attended Winthrop on scholarships. She received her two year teaching certificate at Winthrop and first taught at the Thornwell Orphanage in Clinton, SC. She then moved home to Fairfield County and taught at the Feasterville School in the 1920s and 30s, a two-room schoolhouse she attended as a child.

The Feasterville Academy Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The district contains four frame buildings believed to have been built between 1830 and 1845: a church, a boarding house, a kitchen and a school. In 1844 it was known as the Feasterville Female Seminary with Catherine Ladd as principal (Ladd also taught at Brattonsville). The school operated until 1929 when a county consolidated school replaced seven rural one-teacher schools. After the closing of the school, the Boarding House was used as the Feasterville Community Building. The buildings were renovated as a WPA project and the grounds landscaped in 1937 by Mother Walker of Winthrop College. In the 1930s and 40s the Feasterville Demonstration Club used the first floor and the Coleman Masonic Lodge No. 97 occupied the front upstairs rooms. The Coleman, Feaster, Mobley Family Association was formed in 1941 and the group owns and maintains the Feasterville Boarding House and Schoolhouse, the Liberty Universalist Church, the Antioch Methodist Church and family cemeteries.

Mary Bess Coleman returned to college for an advanced degree and graduated from High Point College, NC in 1955. She taught second grade at Pleasant Garden School from 1949 until she retired in 1963. She went back to teach at Nathanael Greene School in order to financially aid a younger family member's college education.

Some of the Workbooks in the collection were obtained by Mary Bess Coleman from the Home Demonstration Club at Winthrop College. The 13 books may have been used at Feasterville School or Pleasant Garden School. These school books are representative of the types of materials possibly used by grade school teachers in the Carolina Piedmont from 1918 to 1963.

This donation of school books, workbooks, and prints was originally given to CHM in 2004 but not formally accessioned into the collection.

Does it complement another collection? There are many school books within the collection of rare books. There are also many references to schools and education in the Carolina Piedmont throughout the library resources and manuscript collections.

Potential Uses:

Research Exhibition Loan

Restrictions:

None

Potential Costs:

Letter Size Document Box (\$7.00)

Archivist's/Collection Manager's Signature:

Date:

<i>Nancy Lamberto</i>	9-3-2014
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Approved by Culture & Heritage Commission: 9-22-14

Signature, Title:

Date:

<i>Gregory L. Kelley</i>	9/23/14
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