

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS
Draft Minutes of the Board of Directors Winter Meeting
December 6-9, 2008

Participants:

Jay D. Vogt, President; Cathie Matthews, Vice President; Ruth Pierpont, Secretary; Elizabeth Hughes, Treasurer; James Glass, F. Lawrence Oaks, Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr., L. Robert Puschendorf, Katherine Slick, Michael Stevens, Directors; Marynell Branch and Frances McSwain, Arkansas Heritage e; Kenneth P'Pool, Deputy Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer; John Fowler, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Aida Belen Rivera and Karen Gonzalez, former Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Officer and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; Nancy Schamu, Elizabeth Belleville and Kristen Harbeson, NCSHPO; not present: Edward Sanderson, Immediate Past President; Jean Cutler, Pennsylvania; Wayne Donaldson, California; Franco Ruffini, Ohio; Kathleen Kilpatrick, Virginia, Directors.

Call to Order

President Jay D. Vogt called the meeting to order at 9:00am CST with an expression of thanks from the Board of Directors to Cathie Matthews and the staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Office.

Welcome

Cathie Matthews, Arkansas SHPO, provided a welcome to the Board of Directors on behalf of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

Tour of Hotel

The meeting suspended at 9:10am for a short tour of the Capital Hotel and its multi-million dollar tax-credit restoration.

The meeting reconvened at 9:28am.

Minutes

F. Lawrence Oaks moved, Katherine Slick seconded and the Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Elizabeth Hughes presented the October 2007 balance sheet and income statement. The Treasurer reported on the investment account. While the account is down 25% since February, 2008 the investments had fared better than the market average.. She further reminded the Board of Directors that beginning January 2009 transfers will begin from the brokerage account to the investment account as agreed to at the July 2008 meeting.. After brief discussion, Michael Stevens moved, James Glass seconded and the Board of Directors unanimously accepted the Treasurer's Report.

President's Report

President Jay Vogt updated the Board of Directors on the "Blue Ribbon Panel" of historic preservation experts, which has been meeting to assess the structure of the federal historic preservation program in response to the thirteenth recommendation of the Preserve America Summit Report. The panel is in the final stages of creating a series of recommendations to be presented to the incoming Administration. These recommendations include:

- Make the ACHP Chairman a presidentially appointed, Senate approved, full-time position that would also serve on the President's Domestic Policy Council.
- Create a position within the Secretary's office in the Department of the Interior, responsible for historic preservation policy.
- Seek increased funding for both State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
- Raise profile of Federal Preservation Officers within all departments.

The report will become part of the material the Department of the Interior presents to the transition team.

The President, along with Edward Sanderson, Ruth Pierpont and Michael Stevens, reported to the Board of Directors on the progress of the panel to create historic preservation performance measures in accordance with the recommendation issued in the December 2007 report by the National Academy of Public Administration. The panel has created draft performance measures broken into four different categories: Section 106 review and compliance, economic development, protective measures and education awareness. The final meeting will be held on December 15th, with the goal of finalizing the measures before the incoming Administration takes office in January. The NCSHPO members' goals are to "do no harm," to insure that the performance measures do not require substantial data collection by SHPOs and look at the program nationally, not pitting one State against another. It is hoped that the document will provide support to encourage the Office of Management and Budget to increase funding for the historic preservation. Following discussion of the proposed measures, Jay Vogt thanked committee members Ruth Pierpont, Edward Sanderson and Michael Stevens for their commitment, with special thanks to Michael Stevens for his leadership.

Jay Vogt continued the President's report with a brief update on the state of the National Park Service Programmatic Agreement (NPS PA) and the Bureau of Land Management Programmatic Agreement (BLM PA), and Appendix C. The NPSPA was signed at the November, 2008, ACHP meeting. An earlier document, which had been expected to be signed at the August, 2008, ACHP meeting was pulled at the last minute by the National Park Service for additional review. The President thanked the task force, with special thanks to Chair Judy Bittner, for her dedication and hard work in negotiating an agreement.

The BLM and the ACHP have proposed an addendum to the agreement focusing on tribal consultation. NCSHPO Task Force Chair Alice Baldricia is coordinating the NCSHPO response with the affected SHPOs.

The Corps of Engineers has withdrawn from consideration of revisions to Appendix C that would make it conform with 36 CFR Part 800.

Task Force Reports

Administration: Task Force Chairman, Larry Oaks, announced that with the change of Administration, the Conference should determine new leadership for the Task Force with better connections to the Obama Administration.

Legislation: Task Force Chairman, Michael Stevens, deferred discussion of legislation updates to Elizabeth Belleville for her report.

LEED: Wayne Donaldson participated in a National Trust for Historic Preservation sponsored retreat at Kykuit in Pocantico Hills, New York, immediately following the General Election on November 4. He forwarded his report to Kristen Harbeson, who will electronically distribute the files to the Board following the meeting.

Legislative Update

Government Relations Director Elizabeth Belleville provided a detailed legislative update. Congress is expected to stay in session longer than is traditional this December. The 111th Congress will convene on January 6th. It is possible that Congress will pass an omnibus appropriations to wrap up the FY09 budget. SHPO funding is still uncertain. The House had approved \$45 million for SHPOs with a lesser amount in the Senate.

An economic stimulus bill is expected to be the first item on the agenda following the inauguration. NCSHPO is working on a emergency grants proposal based on the successful 1983 Jobs Bill with the \$25 million adjusted for inflation.

The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 included several preservation-related provisions from the Community Restoration and Revitalization Act, including: increasing from 35% to 50% the percentage of tax exempt activity allowable from the leasing of tax credit properties, requiring State Housing Finance Agencies to address historic preservation in their Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Qualified Allocation Plans, and mitigating the basis reduction incurred when twinning the LIHTC and Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit programs. Interestingly, only one of the original four sponsors of the bill will remain in office in the 111th Congress.

Disaster assistance for the 2008 Midwestern floods will also carry over into the next Congress. The NCSHPO is requesting \$20 million for Historic Preservation Fund grants, plus \$1 million for additional SHPO capacity, for Iowa and Indiana, in the expected stimulus package. Larry Oaks reported that Texas had been in conversations about hurricane disaster relief. Ms. Belleville added that NCSHPO, with its partners, are seeking a permanent source for disaster relief specifically for historic properties.

The Preserve America/Save America's Treasures Authorization Bill passed the full House and Senate Committee, and was included into a Senate omnibus package which had been put on hold by Senator Coburn. The bill will likely be reintroduced in the new Congress, and NCSHPO will pursue the possibility of changes in the bill.

Elizabeth Belleville provided an overview of the results of the November 4th election. Senate Democrats hold a significant majority over Republicans (58-41) with two Independents caucusing with the Democrats and one Senate race is still undecided. House Democrats also hold a significant majority over Republicans (255-175) with three races still undecided. Ms. Belleville then reviewed the changes in leadership within the two main Parties, as well as the changes in leadership in relevant committees: Senate and House Appropriations Committees,

Senate National Parks Subcommittee, House Natural Resources Committee and National Parks, Forests and Public Lands subcommittee, Senate Finance Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, House Energy and Commerce Committee and Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

In the 111th Congress, only modest (if any) increases in appropriations are expected given the current economic downturn.

Elizabeth Belleville reported on the efforts out of the Partners “Sustainability Charette” held on October 29, 2008. A one-page policy agenda was produced which was distributed to the Board of Directors with the meeting materials. The five main policy priorities were:

- 1) Creating financing tools to improve energy efficiency in historic buildings (both residential and commercial)
- 2) Job training for building trades and techniques for sustainable rehabilitation
- 3) Comprehensive approach to protecting historic sites and communities in the face of global climate change.
- 4) Infrastructure rehabilitation and improvements that are critical to the preservation and sustainability of historic urban and rural communities,
- 5) Expanding resources for the National Preservation Program, which is key to the success of all of the above priorities.

Key legislative proposals for the next Congress include the following.

- 1) Finding a permanent funding source for the HPF through a climate change bill.
- 2) Resurrecting a homeownership tax credit program based on the Rhode Island model
- 3) Creating a fund or credit for energy retrofits on historic properties
- 4) Implementing the section 104 loan guarantee program, perhaps funded through cap & trade bill.
- 5) Manufacturer’s tax credit for research and development on projects compatible with historic preservation.
- 6) Permanent funding for disaster assistance for historic properties.
- 7) Historic resources inventory of “at risk” resources and “high risk” disaster areas- tied to a jobs initiative.
- 8) Green job creation

Additional legislation being followed includes the following.

- 1) The tentatively named “Renaissance Communities Act of 2009”, which is a much improved piece of legislation drawn from the vacant properties bill introduced by Rep. Brian Higgins in the 110th Congress.
- 2) Reauthorization of the Transportation Bill
- 3) Preserve America/Save America’s Treasures Authorization
- 4) Funding for Lighthouse Restoration.
- 5) Possible Blue Ribbon Panel legislation

Brief discussion included the importance of educating new Members, and tight communication between the ACHP and NCSHPO with regards to the Transition Team.

Transition Planning

Jay Vogt asked each board member to report on their actions to contact and welcome new members of Congress, reinforcing the need to communicate frequently with both Members and

their staff, thanking them for their support and keeping them abreast of issues. Each Board Member and guest reported on their actions.

Partners Report - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

John Fowler gave a brief report on the activity of the ACHP and their work with the Transition Team to smooth the transition to the Obama Administration. He reminded the Board on the structure of the Advisory Council and the likely delay in the appointment of a new Chairman. The ACHP is preparing “hot topic” papers, focusing on 106 review and the ACHP efforts on preservation and volunteerism. Chairman Nau is working to smooth the transition from First Lady Laura Bush to First Lady Michelle Obama for the stewardship of the Preserve America program. The Partners Report was concluded with the announcement that the new Director of the Office of Federal Agency Programs has been selected and will be announced on December 10.

Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Nancy Schamu, reported that, following the records retention policy approved by the Board of Directors in July, 2008, 25 boxes of records had been shredded. State Services Director Kristen Harbeson reported briefly on the creation of a draft business continuity plan, which will be revised in time to be finalized at the January Executive Committee Meeting.

2009 Budget, Dues and Work Plan

Nancy Schamu reviewed the 2009 Work Plan, Budget and Dues structure which had been distributed electronically to the Board. The Board discussion focused on future contributions to Preservation Action. After further discussion Michael Stevens moved, Larry Oaks seconded and the Board of Directors unanimously approved the 2009 Budget, Dues and Work Plan amending the budget to increase the contribution to Preservation Action to \$25,000.

Adjourn

President Jay Vogt adjourned the meeting at 2:58pm

Resolution of Thanks

WHEREAS it was a capital idea to have the NCSHPO Fall 2008 board meeting in the Capitol of Arkansas and at the Capital Hotel; and

WHEREAS (ma’am) we were greeted by name at the grand Capital Hotel where we were shown the finest Southern hospitality and the intricacies of our lovely rooms; and

WHEREAS (sir) we were met by those lovely Southern ladies, Cathie, Missy and Marynell and led to our first shopping opportunity, the Clinton Souvenir Shop & where the most conservative and most liberal among us were able to find something to our liking; and

WHEREAS (ma’am) we made a “Billgramage” to the Clinton Library led by the knowledgeable Bill Gee who shared interesting stories with and let us sit in all the important chairs; and

WHEREAS (sir) we were then taken on a private tour of the Clinton archives where Nancy searched in vain for a certain little blue dress and where we all left empty handed; and

WHEREAS (ma’am) we had the incredible pleasure of a reception at the Clinton School of Public Service and were treated to conversations with the students who left us with renewed confidence in the fate of the nation; and

WHEREAS (sir) we had a tour of Argenta, followed by a delicious and happy meal at the Argenta Seafood Company; and

WHEREAS (ma'am) we all retired to the luxury of our rooms where some of us were confused and confounded by the "blue light special;" and

WHEREAS (sir) our board meeting began with a tour of the hotel's \$6 million kitchen, which produced the best continental breakfast and lunch ever served in the history of board meetings; and

WHEREAS (ma'am) we ended the meeting early enough for our President to get his Sunday afternoon nap in and the rest of us to tour the Old State House; and

WHEREAS (sir) we ended the day in the finest and warmest way possible - at Trapnall Hall, with fine food, carols at the piano with the renowned Marynell, lessons on Arkansas travelers and toothpicks, and being made to feel like the most welcome guests ever; and

WHEREAS (ma'am) the next day began with the best to go breakfast ever served in the history of any board meeting, anywhere, any time (oh! That granola and yogurt) and;

WHEREAS (sir) we toured Little Rock's Historic Districts under the guidance of Cherie Nichols of the Order of the Black Ribbon; and

WHEREAS (ma'am) we were reminded about the importance of preserving places of conflict and conscience at Central High School; and

WHEREAS (sir) we mourned the loss of the original Mosaic Templars, and learned the history of African Americans in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS (ma'am) we traveled to Hot Springs, enjoyed Barbeque and reveled in a good working relationship with a National Park and National Landmark while reflecting on the improvements (?) in modern medicine, with some desiring to return to doctor prescribed hot tubs and massages; and

WHEREAS (sir) we visited Cathie's family retreat as friends and intimates and were reminded of the importance of our families' stories in preservation; and

WHEREAS there is still more hospitality and adventure ahead of us which may impede our departure from this lovely state but we will persevere and eat our way through whatever is presented to us.

NOW THEREFORE:

We all tip our hats to the work done and hard work ahead of our Arkansas compatriots and thank them for a capital event.

Adopted December 9, 2008

Kristen Harbeson, State Services Director, for Ruth Pierpont, Secretary