



## National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

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### NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS Minutes of the Board of Directors Summer Meeting July 9, 2009

#### Participants:

Ruth Pierpont, President; Elizabeth Hughes, Vice President; Cathie Matthews, Secretary; Michael Stevens, Treasurer; Jean Cutler, M. Wayne Donaldson, James Glass, Patrick McIntyre, Wilson Martin, F. Lawrence Oaks, L. Robert Puschendorf, Frank White, Directors; Nancy Schamu, Elizabeth Belleville and Kristen Harbeson, NCSHPO staff. Members not present: Jay D. Vogt, Immediate Past President; Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr., Roger Roper, Timothy Slavin, Directors.

#### Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 9:24am CDT with an expression of thanks from the Board of Directors to F. Lawrence Oaks and the staff of the Texas Historical Commission.

#### Welcome

The Texas SHPO, provided a welcome to the Board of Directors on behalf of the Texas Historical Commission

#### Minutes

Secretary Cathie Matthews presented the minutes from the December 7, 2008, Board of Directors Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. Larry Oaks moved, Elizabeth Hughes seconded and the Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

#### Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported on the May 2009 financials, electronically distributed to the Directors prior to the meeting. He stated that the spending and revenue were on track thanks in part to the continuing benefit of the Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service. Dues are on target, but he suggested that the Board may need to consider adjusting the 2010 Budget in anticipation of further State budget restrictions.

Following an Investment Committee conference call with Thomas Gletner of SunTrust Investment Services, Inc., the Treasurer reported that investments show a modest improvement and that most accounts outperform indices.

The Treasurer presented the audit, previously distributed to the Directors. The audit had no material weaknesses in compliance with OMB standards. The staff is implementing the recommendations in the management letter.

Wayne Donaldson moved, Cathie Matthews seconded and the Board of Directors accepted the Treasurer's report and the 2008 audit.

The Treasurer presented the 2009 990 tax form, previously distributed to the Directors.

After discussion, Larry Oaks moved, Cathie Matthews seconded and the Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the 2008 audit and 990 tax form.

### **President's Report**

The President reported on her activity with the Preserve America Presidential Awards Jury, on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and on Capitol Hill meeting with legislative staff. She asked the Directors each to update the Board on their activities with the American Recovery and Revitalization Act funds. The staff will prepare a summary of the comments. The Executive Director of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers will work with the Executive Director of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to compile a "best practices" document for distribution to the Federal Agencies and State Historic Preservation Offices.

Executive Director provided an update on Preservation Action. Their president Heather MacIntosh has resigned and they do not intend to recruit a replacement immediately. The Board directed the Executive Director to forward a letter of support to the Chairman of the board.

### **Strategic Plan**

The Vice President Elizabeth Hughes proposed, and the Board of Directors agreed, revisiting the 2006-2009 Strategic Plan as a basis for the 2009-2012 plan at the October Board of Directors Meeting in Nashville. Staff will work with the Vice President to create a survey of membership for key issues and obstacles, which will be sent out to the membership in September. She proposes that the facilitator for the October meeting compile a report and plan to be presented to and approved by the Executive Committee in January 2010.

### **Performance Measures**

Michael Stevens, Chair, reviewed the activities of the Task Force on Performance Measures (Edward Sanderson, RI, Patrick McIntyre, TN, Roger Roper, OR). After discussion, Larry Oaks moved, Jean Cutler seconded and the Board of Directors of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers unanimously adopted the following resolution, with expressions of gratitude to the committees.

**WHEREAS**, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the National Park Service and others worked with the National Academy of Public administration to develop performance measures as described in the Towards More Meaningful Performance Measures For Historic Preservation, January 2009 report; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the National Conference appointed a task force chaired by Michael Stevens to draft measures for the national program related to State Historic Preservation Offices; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 27, 2009, the task force, after consultation with the National Park Service staff (headed by Hampton Tucker), prepared a set of measures meeting the following criteria

1. Constitute "leading indicators" of the national program, surrogates for outcomes,
2. linked directly to the National Historic Preservation Act,
3. assess the program nationally and not compare state against state,
4. not count "widgets,"
5. minimize data gathering required by the SHPOs; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2009, the Associate Director for Cultural Resources, National Park Service, supported the proposed measures in principle,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors supports the performance measures contained in the April 27, 2009, memo from Chair Michael Stevens to Hampton Tucker, acknowledges that additional data definitions are needed prior to use by SHPOffices, supports use of these measures for federal fiscal year 2010 reporting, and directs the staff to forward this resolution to the National Park Service.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

The Executive Director reported on NCSHPOs activities working with Federal partners to track and activities with the American Recovery and Revitalization Act, especially with regards to window replacement and weatherization, and the push for solar, wind and geothermal projects. She briefed the Directors on the Conference's efforts to connect the Historic Preservation Fund with the Land and Water Conservation Fund as they seek permanent funding streams. Ms. Schamu reported on the several federal agencies (Bureau of Land Management, Minerals and Mining Service, and the Federal Geographic Standards Committee) working on electronic data bases and geographic information systems that may benefit States' historic site inventories. The State Services Director reported on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Service Learning Initiative and a program launch at Harpers Ferry National Historic Park.

The Meeting recessed at 11:50am for lunch.

The Meeting reconvened at 1:36pm

#### **Sustainability Task Force**

Wayne Donaldson briefly reported on his efforts to compile information and resources for sustainable design and historic preservation as a follow-up measure to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Pocantico Summit.

#### **Legislative Update**

The Government Relations Director updated the Directors on Congressional activities.

**Appropriations:** The President's FY2010 Budget included a \$4 million increase to SHPOs within the Historic Preservation Fund, as well as increases to THPOs, Preserve America and Save America's Treasures. Both Senate and House Interior Appropriations Committees have requested similar figures. Nancy Schamu has been working with John Fowler at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to begin advocating for FY2011 Budgets.

**Tax Act:** Two Tax Act Bills are expected to be introduced shortly: the Community Restoration and Reinvestment Act, sponsored in the House by Representatives Schwartz (D-PA) and Tiberi (R-OH) and in the Senate by Senators Lincoln (D-AR) and Snowe (R-ME); a Historic Homeowner's Tax Credit, introduced by Congressman Carnahan (D-MO).

**Energy/Climate Change:** The Energy and Climate Change Bill narrowly passed the House of Representatives, creating a cap and trade program, and includes the Retrofit for Environment and Energy Performance Program which has provisions to give additional financial boosts for historic buildings to increase their energy efficiency. The Bill's future in the Senate is unpredictable.

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**Transportation:** Current Transportation Bill expires on September 30, 2009. Chairman Oberstar has released a draft Bill and hopes to bring it to the floor this fall. President Obama is pushing for an 18 month extension of the current law. Major proposed change includes the creation of an Office of Livability, out of which Transportation Enhancement Grants would flow, and which encourages “states, regions , local governments and Indian tribes to formulate Comprehensive Street Design Policies and Principals and Practical Design Standards”, which includes consideration of historic resources.

### **Federal Formula Grant Update**

Kristen Harbeson reported on the modest progress of the Federal Formula Grant Coalition. Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY) has agreed to champion the program, and succeeded in collecting 25 signatures to a “Dear Colleague” letter requesting support for \$50 million appropriation to IMLS for museum programs.

### **Disaster/Continuity of Operations Plan**

Kristen Harbeson presented a Continuity of Operations Plan for approval by the Directors. Wilson Martin moved, Patrick McIntyre seconded and the Board of Directors unanimously approved the Continuity of Operations Plan.

### **Partners Report**

The Advisory Council Executive Director reported on the activities of the ACHP and the status of the Chairman’s appointment.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:55pm

### **Resolutions**

**WHEREAS**, the NCSHPO Board of Directors, staff, and guests received a Texas-sized welcome that was warmer than the day-time high temperature in Big Bend National Park from Larry and Susan Oaks, Terry and Jennifer Colley, Mark Wolfe and Alyson McGee, Esther Garza and Mat Synatsch during its meeting in Big Bend, Texas; and

*Home, home in the vans*

**WHEREAS**, despite some early trepidations about signing a waiver that referred to death from gunshot wounds, snakebites, and scorpions, we all enjoyed the ambience of Cibolo Creek Ranch, which included a morning humvee ride up the Chinati mountains, tours of Cienaga, Morita, and Cibolo; and fine meals; and

*Exploring West Texas all day*

**WHEREAS**, on Friday, July 10, we were treated to a tour of Fort Leaton; enjoyed lunch n Terlingua at La Kiva, an eating and drinking establishment with memorable restrooms and where some of us tried the yet-to-be identified mystery meat; and then enjoyed the glorious splendor of Big Bend National Park; and

*We’ve drunk wine all night*

**WHEREAS**, we enjoyed margarita-fied musings on the meaning of petroglyphs and pictographs at the Gate Hotel and dined under the night sky and the watchful eye of the white buffalo; and  
*Now we'll see Marfa's Lights*

**WHEREAS**, we followed the path of the Southern Pacific Railroad from Marathon to Alpine, breakfasting at the Big Bend Museum, idling at the cool springs of Mitre Creek Ranch, and weltering in sympathy with the wool-clad Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Davis National Historic Site; and

*Thank you, Larry – we wish we could stay*

**WHEREAS**, the McDonald Observatory provided a glimpse into the secret life of stars, while the Donald Judd compound opened a window into the private and well-ordered soul of artist Donald Judd – whose intense desire for control makes Dick Moe look like a slacker;

*Home, home in the vans  
Exploring West Texas all day  
We've drunk wine all night  
Now we'll see Marfa's Lights  
Thank you, Larry – we wish we could stay*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the NCSHPO extends its gratitude and appreciation to the Texas Historical Commission and the aforementioned individuals for their hospitality and generosity which enabled the Board to have a productive meeting while gaining a new appreciation of the rich historical resources of Texas; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that NCSHPO offers Larry Oaks and his wife Susan its best wishes on Larry's impending retirement and its gratitude for his service to NCSHPO and the nation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that NCSHPO congratulates Mark Wolfe as he fills Larry's boots next month as Texas SHPO.

Adopted by the NCSHPO Board of Directors  
July 12, 2009

Kristen Harbeson for Cathie Matthews, Secretary