

NCSHPO

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

SUITE 342 HALL OF THE STATES
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Minutes of the
Board of Directors Meeting
July 8, 2007
Jackson, Wyoming

Participants: Jay D. Vogt, President; Cathie Matthews, Vice President; Ruth Pierpont, Secretary; Elizabeth Hughes, Treasurer; Milford Wayne Donaldson, Kathleen Kilpatrick, Franco Ruffini, Michael Stevens, Mark Wolfe, Katherine Slick, F. Lawrence Oaks, James Hamrick, and Aida Belen Rivera, Directors; Mary Hopkins, Audrey York, Joe Daniele, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office; Robert Puschendorf, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office; Suzi Neitzel, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office; Sara Needles, Wyoming Administrator of Cultural Resources; John L. Nau, III, and John Fowler, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Paul Loether, National Park Service; Nancy Schamu, NCSHPO. Members not present: Jean Cutler, Mary Edmonds, Edward Sanderson.

Call to order

The President called the meeting to order at 8:30 a. m. MDT with an expression of thanks from the Board of Directors to Mary Hopkins and her staff.

Minutes

Cathie Matthews moved, Michael Stevens seconded and the Board of Directors unanimously voted to adopt two sets of minutes for October 31, 2006, and February 27, 2007.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the National Conference was on track concerning expenses and income. The long term liabilities may change if the hiring of a government staff member involves opening a line of credit. The investment balance as of July 3, 2007, was \$2,274,000 indicating a return on investment since inception of 13.93%. Katherine Slick moved, Franco Ruffini seconded and the Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Audit for 20006

The Treasurer presented the audit, previously distributed to the Directors. The audit had

no material weaknesses in compliance with OMB standards. Wayne Donaldson moved, Katherine Slick seconded, and the Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the audit.

President's Report

The President drew the attention of the Board of Directors to his appointments to Committees and Task Forces, previously distributed to the Board of Directors. He directed the Board to the task force reports submitted with the Board materials. Copies of all task force reports are attached to these minutes. The President will appoint a National Register working group. The wildland fire and homeland security working groups are dropped. He closed with thanking each Director for their willingness to serve.

2007 Work Plan Review and Staffing Recommendation

The Board of Directors went through the 2007 Work Plan (June 29, 2007 revision) and made adjustments as indicated in the revision attached to these minutes. After discussion, Larry Oaks moved, James Hamrick seconded and the Board of Directors unanimously voted to adopt the 2007 annual work plan as amended.

The Executive Director presented the Staffing Recommendation presented previously to the Board of Directors which envisions a four-member staff: Executive Director, Business Manager and two additional staff members to do communication among the State Historic Preservation Officers and government relations. She indicated she had found someone to fill the communication position. The Board of Directors then discussed the government relations position and came to the conclusion that the Executive Director should continue the recruitment process (including a more targeted approach involving SHPOs' requests to their Congressional contacts) to find the right person to represent the National Conference within the budget parameters approved in the 2007 as amended at the February 27, 2007, Board of Directors meeting.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation—John L. Nau, III, Chairman

The President introduced John Nau who began his remarks by thanking the State Historic Preservation Officers for all they work they do around the country. He acknowledged the major role the President and the First Lady have had in raising the profile of historic preservation within the federal government.

1. Preserve America
 - a. On July 12, 2007, the First Lady will host an event on Capitol Hill to acknowledge the new Preserve America Communities and the first round of forty-three Preserve America grants totaling \$2,600,000.
 - b. Pending White House review, the ACHP will publish the Preserve America Sum-

mit recommendations. The Summit celebrated forty years of historic preservation achievement and set the preservation agenda for the next ten years. The report makes thirteen recommendations including the creation of a comprehensive and accessible inventory of historic places in a State-based digitized format designed to provide information for Section 106 planning. The President had included a \$5,000,000 request in the fiscal year 2007 Budget for this task as a first step in a multi-year funding effort. The Office of Management and Budget included the funding largely because of the effectiveness of the special \$3,000,000 appropriation for the Louisiana and Mississippi Historic Preservation Offices to address the increased Section 106 workload generated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

While the House and Senate had not included the funding in their appropriation bills, the ACHP intends to try to get the money restored through the House-Senate conference, or possibly through an amendment on the Senate floor.

In response to a question, John Nau indicated that the investigation into the federal government historic preservation structure “is far from dead.” He is working with Interior Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett to put together a high-level panel to investigate the effectiveness of the current structure. This is a top priority of both Scarlett and Nau.

- c. Preserve America Awards categories will be expanded to add outstanding government presidential achievement. Applications for fiscal year 2008 open this month and close in November. The ACHP urges all SHPOs to submit nominations.
 - d. Preserve America Stewards is the second award category aimed at recognizing volunteers who make extraordinary contributions to the preservation of historic properties. The Preserve America Steering Committee is planning listening sessions around the country to develop this idea
 - e. The Administration is submitting legislation that will authorize appropriations for Save America’s Treasures and Preserve America from sources other than the Historic Preservation Fund. The ACHP is working closely with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to “expand the pie” for historic preservation.
2. To obtain an increase in the Historic Preservation Fund, States must develop a good business model with performance measures and benchmarks to demonstrate the efficiencies gained in the 106 process through a small investment from the HPF. Quantifying the savings, as has been done by Wyoming and Louisiana and Mississippi, is essential in making the case.

Legislation

The Executive Director reviewed the status of Historic Preservation Fund appropriations for the States. The House is at \$45 million and the Senate at \$39 million. Michael Stevens the

chair of the Appropriations Task Force will work with SHPOs and the Executive Director to design and implement a strategy for the House-Senate Conference.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation – John Fowler

1. The summer meeting will be in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and focus on landscape restoration of battlefield parks. The Federal Agency Programs Committee will discuss changes to Appendix C. The Department of Defense is committed to improving Appendix C in the next eighteen months. The ACHP needs SHPO comments prior to the August meeting. The Governor of Mississippi will recognize the Mississippi SHPO office recovery efforts. The Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama SHPOs will give a presentation on the implementation of special grant funds related to Katrina.
2. The archeology guidance is now up on the ACHP web site.
3. The Bureau of Land Management has provided a liaison to the ACHP on a six-month trial basis.
4. Preserve America Summit recommendations implementation is proceeding. Seven of the thirteen are already started. The review of the federal preservation infrastructure will involve high-level, knowledgeable people who do not have a current stake in the organization.

National Park Service–Paul Loether

Paul Loether, Chief of the National Register, presented information about the progress on the digitization of the National Register information. Within three to five years, National Register nomination forms (and photographs) will be on the web in a searchable form. He also indicated he had surveyed thirty-one State Historic Preservation Offices about their three top digitization needs as a way to define how the \$5,000,000 would be used. This information formed the text of latest NPS project description, distributed at the meeting. The NPS goal is to come up with a project that makes sense, is compatible with existing State systems, and initially focuses on streamlining the Section 106 process. The process will consist of competitive grants with broad selection criteria emphasizing digitization of existing records but not precluding new survey work. The NPS is also looking at coordinating its internal databases and electronic information systems.

Archives

Jim Glass indicated that he had communicated with former Georgia SHPO Liz Lyon about a NCSHPO history and archiving NCSHPO records. The Elective Director indicated she was meeting with a representative of the National Trust Library at the University of Maryland about donating archival records.

Resolutions

Jonathan Fricker

Larry Oaks moved, Merl Paaverud seconded and the Board of Directors unanimously adopted the following resolution drafted by Robert Collins, Louisiana Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

WHEREAS, Jonathan Fricker began his professional career in the field of historic preservation in 1975 as a Field Architectural Historian at the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office; and

WHEREAS, The Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office persuaded Mr. Fricker in 1977 to leave the fertile historic fields of the Garden State for the balmy climate of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, From 1977 to 1980, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office benefitted from Mr. Fricker's considerable skills as a Field Architectural Historian; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as a Field Architectural Historian in Louisiana, Mr. Fricker prepared the National Register nomination forms for more than 100 historic properties, places, and districts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fricker's professional accomplishments caused the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office to elevate him in 1980 to the position of Chief of the National Register Section of its office; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fricker distinguished himself in his years of service as Chief of the National Register Section to such an extent that, in 1988, he was elevated to the position of Director of the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; and

WHEREAS, since 1988, Mr. Fricker has served the citizens of Louisiana steadfastly and unselfishly in overseeing the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation, for example:

--He was instrumental in seeing to it that his division substantially completed the ambitious goal of listing every major historic neighborhood in New Orleans in the National Register;

--He consistently saw to it that grant funds were deployed to Architectural programs at Louisiana universities to foster projects in the Historic American Buildings Survey, and those grantees have earned national honors for excellence in majority of the annual Charles E. Peterson competitions since 1989;

- He nurtured working partnerships with other preservation organizations, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans;
- He has overseen his division's many efforts to assist Louisiana in its recovery from the worst national disaster in American history, Hurricane Katrina; and
- He contributed his always droll sense of humor to many meetings of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fricker has announced that he will officially retire from the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office in August, 2007;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers officially expresses its appreciation for Jonathan Fricker's faithful public service, and wishes him well as he embarks upon the next chapter of his life.

Elizabeth Szufnar

Katherine Slick moved, Cathie Matthews seconded and the Board of Directors unanimously adopted the following resolution drafted by James McConaha, New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer.

WHEREAS, little did we know the holiday gift the NCSHPO was receiving when Elizabeth Szufnar joined the staff just before Christmas in 2003; and

WHEREAS, this bright and talented young lady with a BA and MA in Art History, and an MS in Historic Preservation, brought all of that and an unparalleled work ethic to our NCSHPO; and

WHEREAS, she lightened our load at every turn; no matter our assignment as a board member, she would manage every detail, write our speeches, and give us our cue if we faltered; and

WHEREAS, she was the consummate professional in all that she did, with never a detail left unattended to, quietly confident, impossible to ruffle, always smiling; and

WHEREAS, she was a cheerful nagger for us foot-draggers who never got anything back to her on time, always kind even when we deserved a good thrashing for our recalcitrance; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, she went off to Mississippi and Louisiana to help and contribute her delightful spirit and expertise; ideas, perspective, inspiration, she gave us something good to think about every day; and

WHEREAS, she was beautiful and indefatigable, getting mugged but back on her feet and back to work, breaking her leg just to fit in with the Executive Committee, surgery on Christmas day, back into snowy DC on crutches, looking good even in the big boot; and

WHEREAS, who can forget the late nights yet at every early morning conference she was the first person on the scene with hair and makeup and couture done, making everything happen with that determined stride in high heels, always a great dresser and just plain sweet; and

WHEREAS, she brought the spotlight on the SHPOs with newsletters, round-tables, square-tables, training sessions, always looking for ways for us to shine, always modest with a willingness to give others credit; and

WHEREAS, we now realize those Michigan waters run deep and the call of the Northern Lakes, the call of family, and the call of home have finally taken Elizabeth away from us and on to a new career;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers hereby extends its thanks, appreciation, and great affection to Elizabeth Szufnar, for all that she has done for us and for all that she has given to us. We will miss her very much as she takes her wonderful personality and exceptional skills on to a bright and rewarding future: You are the best, Elizabeth.

The meeting recessed at 3:00 pm MDT and reconvened at 7:00 pm MDT on Tuesday July 10, 2007, for one final resolution.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS to MARY HOPKINS

James Hamrick moved and the Board of Directors adopted by enthusiastic acclamation the following resolution.

WHEREAS, our SHPO and DSHPO colleagues have figured out that the summer board meeting is always better when held in the West (some of us knew this already); and

WHEREAS, the stunning Wyoming landscape provided a natural 'construction' which more than rivaled the haloed built environment so beloved by our profession; and,

WHEREAS, our visit began auspiciously in the midst of that landscape, thanks to John and Bobbie Nau's gracious dinner invitation to their modest cottage, bookended between the Tetons and the Snake River (the Buffalo Stew was awesome!); and,

WHEREAS, dressing up meant dressing down, and fresh critters of every stripe (yes, fish are critters) appeared at our many hearty and delicious meals; and,

WHEREAS, "Jackson Hole" turned out to be "Jackson", with its charming ersatz architecture and bizarre rotting wooden "boardwalks", and the "Cowboy Village" **was** one, even if its rates and amenities demonstrated a decidedly more Urban Cowboy vibe (yes, we all appreciated the log-bound comfort); and

WHEREAS, our belief that we only had to work on Sunday was somewhat dispelled on Monday with our trip to Pinedale and environs; and,

WHEREAS, we experienced what surely was one of our most unique tours, with its sobering views into the future of energy extraction and its effects on cultural resources and landscapes. The bumpy excursion though the bleak Pinedale anti-cline was, however, happily mitigated by our riverside picnic and the tour of the Museum of the Mountain Man; and,

WHEREAS, everything went back to "normal" on Tuesday (whatever that means to this group), with our soothing tour through the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, once again feeling secure and breathing normally, thanks to our proximity to the revitalized Old Faithful Inn, and also to its knowledgeable and dedicated caretakers: once again we were reminded of the importance of historic preservation to the American public; and,

WHEREAS, we were ably assisted in all these endeavors by the more-than-accommodating, seamless efforts of you, Audrey, Joe, Sara and Milward, but especially you, Mary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers Board of Directors extends its heartiest, big-as-the-West appreciation to Mary Hopkins for effortlessly making our yearly summer chore a pleasure.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned immediately after adoption of the resolution.

Nancy Schamu, Executive Director, for
Ruth Pierpont, Secretary