

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

October 14, 2007

Boykins Tavern, Isle of Wight, VA

Participants:

Jay D. Vogt, President; Cathie Matthews, Vice President; Ruth Pierpont, Secretary; Jean Cutler, Kathleen Kilpatrick, F. Lawrence Oaks, Franco Ruffini, Aida Belen Ruiz, Michael Stevens, Mark Wolfe, Directors; Nancy Schamu, Executive Director; Kristen Harbeson, State Services Director; Elizabeth Bellville, Government Relations Director; Karen Gonzolez Jensen, Puerto Rico DSHPO, Reid Nelson, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Maureen Sullivan, Department of Defense.

Absent: Elizabeth Hughes, Treasurer; Wayne Donaldson, Katherine Slick, Merl Paaverud, Directors.

Call to Order

President Jay. D. Vogt called the meeting to order at 8:40 am EDT.

Announcements

Jay D. Vogt welcomed the Board of Directors and guests at the meeting: Maureen Sullivan and Reid Nelson.

Jay D. Vogt also thanked Kathleen Kilpatrick for hosting the meeting. Kathleen Kilpatrick welcomed everyone to Virginia and provided a brief overview of the schedule of events.

Jay D. Vogt and Nancy Schamu welcomed new NCSHPO staff, Kristen Harbeson and Elizabeth Belleville.

Minutes

Aida Ruiz moved, Cathie Matthews seconded and the Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting.

Financial Report

Nancy Schamu provided a brief report indicating that NCSHPO is on track with their 2007 budget. Franco Ruffini moved, Kathleen Kilpatrick seconded and the Board of Director unanimously accepted the financial report.

St Paul Meeting

Jay D. Vogt provided a brief overview of the general membership meeting held at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference on October 1, 2007, in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Board discussed future meetings at the NTHP Conference. Nancy Schamu reiterated work items raised during discussion: 1) encourage SHPOs and their staff to participate on NTHP Conference panels; 2) host general membership and partners meeting during conference (as opposed to during the pre-conference “partners day”); 3) explore possibility of having a booth in exhibit hall to highlight the work of SHPOs.

Preserve America Summit Report

Jay Vogt summarized the recent Preserve America Summit and NCSHPOs involvement in the 13 priorities within the 70 official recommendations. Nancy Schamu requested that the board establish its own priorities within those laid out by the Preserve America Summit Executive Summary. The Board agreed on three tiers of priorities:

- Tier 1:
 - Recommendation 1: Create a comprehensive inventory of historic properties that expands current inventories and makes them more compatible and accessible.
 - Recommendation 13: Explore improvements to the program structure of the federal preservation program through an independent review panel.
- Tier 2:
 - Recommendation 7: Develop consistent measures of preservation impacts and do the research
 - Recommendation 8: Preserve America Community agent to increase technical assistance to locals.
 - Recommendation 9: Expand tax credit use by implementing the National Park Service Advisory Board Committee on the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit Report
- Tier 3:
 - Recommendation 2: Promote cultural diversity in the National Register listings, encourage local, state and tribal governments to evaluate inventories.
 - Recommendation 3: Disaster response technical advisory committee to develop guidance, training, mitigation strategies.
 - Recommendation 4: Guidance for security including all-hazards risk assessment.
- Tier 4:
 - Recommendation 5: Conserve cultural collections by pursuing collaboration between historic preservation and collections community.
 - Recommendation 6: Promote innovation through clearing house and dissemination mechanism at NCPTT
 - Recommendation 10: Enhance heritage education through strategy to the education community.
 - Recommendation 11: Engage youth in hands-on preservation and ongoing youth summit.
 - Recommendation 12: Optimize US participation in international preservation.

Task Force Reports

Larry Oaks presented the Administrative Task Force report. The Task Force is working with Secretary of the Interior staff and with John Nau, Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, to call together a meeting to discuss funding. Nancy Schamu reported that the Department of the Interior has requested further information about funding needs, and added that each new Administration starts with the budget prepared by the previous Administration, so hard work to establish good communication should continue to pay dividends beyond 2009.

Michael Stevens gave the report for the Appropriations Task Force indicating that the key challenge is finding a Senate champion for the (more favorable) House version of the appropriations bill. Additionally, SHPO involvement has been uneven. NCSHPO should work to educate and encourage all SHPOs to participate at the highest level - or to find surrogates within the states (either in non-profit partners or Preservation Action board members) to lead the charge if the SHPO can not.

Partners Reports

Maureen Sullivan provided an overview of the current historic preservation issues within the Department of Defense including Base Realignment and Closure (specifically concerning Fort Monroe), efforts to reduce the "footprint" of the Department of Defense and a new requirement that all federal agencies provide a Heritage Asset Report including conditions assessment. She also discussed the DoD's involvement with the Preserve America Steering Committee and efforts to rework the Army Corps' Appendix C to bring Army Corps into line with other agencies.

Reid Nelson reported for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, including Preserve America, increased training programs for and improved communication with SHPOs. He also shared the ACHP involvement with the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service Nationwide Programmatic Agreement and the Bureau of Land Management Task Force and Nationwide Agreement. Additionally the ACHP has been working with federal agencies to update guidelines for reporting the use of historic properties.

Nancy Schamu added that the ACHP has proposed testing their new Advanced 106 Training Course as part of the Annual Meeting in March.

Executive Director's Report

Nancy Schamu provided the Executive Director's report, opening with the announcement that the National Trust for Historic Preservation honored former Preservation Action President Nellie Longworth with the Louise DuPont Crowninshield Award in October.

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NCSHPO is working with Michael Stevens to come up with an appropriate donations proposal to send the organizational archives to the University of Maryland at College Park. The proposal would include a one-time financial contribution to support the maintenance of records more than 15 years old (currently approximately 15 bankers boxes).

Larry Oaks moved, Cathie Matthews seconded and the Board unanimously authorized the Executive Committee to approve the donation of the NCSHPO archives to the University of Maryland.

Nancy Schamu informed the Board that both the House and the Senate are working on legislation to authorize Preserve America and Save America's Treasures. She indicated that the bills were not likely to use the Historic Preservation Fund as the source for appropriations for both programs. The Board discussed the proposals in detail agreeing on a general approach. The Board has concerns that the proposal changes the forty year history of national historic preservation program of federal policy setting and State program delivery to one where programs would be delivered from the federal government. The federal government would be the source for positive designation and grant programs while the States would continue to operate more regulatory activities (e. g., Section 106, rehab tax credits, etc.). The Board is also cognizant of the importance of NCSHPO relationships with federal partners, particularly John Nau, Chair, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Any NCSHPO comments or testimony may reference concerns about shifts in the national preservation program but should not go as far as opposition to the bill.

Ruth Pierpont raised concerns about a Neighborhood Reclamation Revitalization Bill introduced by Senators Clinton, Reed and Higgin which would support demolition as a means of revitalizing diminished urban communities. Nancy Schamu suggested that the discussion is still new enough to be able to have a substantial effect on the outcome. Nancy Schamu will draft a statement to send to the bill's sponsors to oppose the proposal.

The meeting recessed at 12:30 and reconvened at 1:30

2008 Work Plan

Cathie Matthews led the discussion of the proposed 2008 NCSHPO Work Plan, incorporating comments and suggestions. The following changes were recommended:

- "GR" should be replaced with Elizabeth Belleville wherever it appears
- 1.D.4.c should be 2008
- 2 B 6 - Assigned to Nancy
- 2.D.1-3 - Assigned to Jay Vogt to assign SHPO
- 2.F.3 - Reassign Schamu to Harbeson
- 2.G.1-2 - Remove from Work Plan. Work with NAPC to make meeting more attractive to commissioners should be moved under Advocacy under Section 1.
- 2.H - Accept. NCSHPO should be able to reimburse travel expenses for those board members traveling on NCSHPO business, not including board meetings.
- 3.F - Fall board meeting to be held in Arkansas. Date to be determined

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- 4.F - Change “Launch” to “Investigate the Feasibility of...and re-evaluate next year” with an eye towards a 50th anniversary report on the success of the 1966 Historic Preservation Act.
- 4.H should be 4.G

Aida Ruiz moved, Kathleen Kilpatrick seconded and the Board unanimously approved the 2008 Work Plan.

Budget and Dues

Nancy Schamu explained the proposed Budget and Dues Schedule as consistent with the approved 2008 Work Plan. The “President’s Board Travel” will be changed to allow for other member representative travel. The proposed dues increase from .00925% of the 2007 HPF grant award to .0095% of the 2007 HPF grant award allows for a stabilized budget and an expanded staff.

Michael Stevens moved, Cathie Matthews seconded and the Board unanimously approved the 2008 NCSHPO Budget and Dues Schedule.

Meeting Adjourned 2:49pm EDT

The following Resolution was submitted to the record on October 16th at the Williamsburg Inn in Williamsburg, VA, following the completion of the Fall Board Meeting Activities:

RESOLUTION

Whereas, this meeting began on Saturday, October 13th with the skillful services of Pam, driver extraordinaire, who insured that everyone found their way to Smithfield, and

Whereas, once in Smithfield we were checked into our excellent suites, many of which overlooked the waterfront, and

Whereas, many of us were then escorted on a walking tour of beautiful historic Smithfield by the knowledgeable guide Pinky, assisted by Calder, and

Whereas, following the tour we partook of she-crab soup, caesar salad and other delicacies at the venerable Smithfield Inn, and

Whereas, on Sunday, October 14th the board of NCSHPO was accommodated, fed and entertained at Boykin’s Tavern Museum, Isle of Wight (which tavern, it should be reported, was of the non-alcoholic variety) and where much business was done and where an informative tour was provided by Mary, and

Whereas, many local preservationists including the honorable Senator Quayle joined the NCSHPO board for an evening of food and festivities at Smithfield Station, and

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Whereas, Monday, October 15th was organized with military precision and consisted of tours of several resources associated with the army and navy including Fort Monroe where, for the first time in the 41-year history of the NHPA, Section 106 was heard to be referred to as “a breath of fresh air”, and the Hampton Roads Naval Museum including a visit to the deck of the USS Wisconsin with a reception high above Norfolk at the Old Dominion and a splendid repast at the Trilogy Bistro, and

Whereas, Tuesday, October 16th was likewise a day of discovery with visits to Bacon’s Castle where we learned that only two people at a time can look into a room and that SHPOs simply do not walk quickly enough, and to both Jamestowns, the one that is where Jamestown was and the one that isn’t where it was but looks kind of like it looked when it was wherever it was, followed by yet another excellent dinner at the Williamsburg Inn,

Now, therefore, it is hereby resolved by the Board of NCSHPO that the highest honors be accorded to Kathleen Kilpatrick, SHPO of the Commonwealth of Virginia for her exemplary service to this organization and to its members and to the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia and that our gratitude be expressed to her, to the many organizations and individuals who assisted her in this regard, and to the staff of the NCSHPO without whom the wine would have run out long ago.

Adopted this 16th Day of October, 2007

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