

NCSHPO

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS Minutes of the Executive Committee Conference Call September 15, 2008

Participants:

Cathie Matthews, Vice President; Ruth Pierpont, Secretary; Elizabeth Hughes, Treasurer; F. Lawrence Oaks, Committee Member; James Glass, L. Robert Puschendorf, Michael Stevens, Board Members; Nancy Schamu, Executive Director; Elizabeth Belleville, Government Relations Director; Kristen Harbeson, State Services Director, NCSHPO. **Members not present:** Jay D. Vogt, President; M. Wayne Donaldson, Committee Member; Edward Sanderson, Immediate Past President.;

Call to Order

Vice President Cathie Matthews called the meeting to order at 2:35pm EDT.

Minutes

Ruth Pierpont moved, F. Lawrence Oaks seconded and the Executive Committee approved the minutes of Executive Committee conference call held on June 16, 2008.

Treasurers Report

The Executive Director reviewed the financial statements through July 31, 2008. The Committee raised no questions.

Appropriations Update

Elizabeth Belleville reported that no progress had been made on passing any fiscal year 2009 appropriations bills, and none is expected with the possible exception of a Defense Appropriation. House Subcommittee staff has indicated that they plan to pass a Continuing Resolution through mid-November 2008, with further action dependant on the results of the Presidential election.

Disaster Funding Update

Elizabeth Belleville briefed the Committee on supplemental funding for disaster relief. She has been working with the Iowa SHPO office to determine a need of \$20 million for HPF rehab grants and \$1.5 million for SHPO office in the aftermath of the Iowa floods. Congressman Dave Loebsack is hopeful to include money in a House disaster package to be introduced before the end of September. She is working to gather information from states affected by recent hurricanes to try to include funding for hurricane relief in the package as well.

PA/SAT Authorization

Elizabeth Belleville reported that the Senate version of the Preserve America/Save America's Treasures authorization bill currently rests in an omnibus package of 90 bills awaiting floor action. The Senate may pass the House version of the bill to avoid sending the bill to conference.

Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008

Elizabeth Belleville reported that the President signed the bill on July 30th. It incorporates two historic preservation provisions: requiring State Qualified Allocation Plans for their Low Income Housing Tax Credits to "address historic preservation," and allowing Housing Finance Agencies to give a 30% basis boost for certain projects they felt worthy. She has been working closely with partners to disseminate information and encourage SHPOs to develop close relationships with their Housing Finance Agencies to maximize the effectiveness of the provisions.

National Parks Second Century Commission and Outdoor Resources Review Group

Elizabeth Belleville discussed the National Parks Second Century Commission, chaired by former Senators Howard Baker and Bennett Johnston, to examine the National Parks system and its future, and the Outdoor Resources Review Group, chaired by Senators Lamar Alexander and Jeff Bingaman, to review conservation and outdoor recreation issues and the resources available to the public. She is sending letters, signed by all the preservation partners, to members of both commissions to remind them of the historic preservation component of the Park Service mission and operations.

2008 Election

Elizabeth Belleville announced that she had responded to a request for information on the national historic preservation program from an individual to the Obama campaign. She is working to find contacts within the McCain campaign to provide the same information. The information provided was educational, only, consistent with rules guiding the behavior of 501 (c)(3) organizations.

Partners charette

Elizabeth Belleville informed the board of the discussion among the partners to create a historic preservation policy platform, especially as regards funding, tax incentives, sustainability, and energy policy. The first meeting towards this goal will take place on Thursday September 18, with subsequent meetings taking place in October and November.

NAPA Performance Measures

Ruth Pierpont and Michael Stevens reported on the progress of the National Academy of Public Administration performance measures initiative. They have had one meeting, so far, with additional meetings to take place in October and November. The committee will endeavor to collect information from SHPO offices on existing performance measures and the kinds of measures which would be most useful in the future.

National Park Service Programmatic Agreement

Nancy Schamu reported that although the NPS PA was expected to be signed at the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation meeting in August, the NPS has pulled the agreement for revisions. A new draft is anticipated no later than Monday, September 29. President Jay Vogt, task force chair Alaska SHPO Judy Bittner, and Nancy Schamu are working with the NPS to insure that the NCSHPO will have adequate time to review before signing.

Alaska Railroad

Nancy Schamu reported that Judy Bittner is meeting with the Park Service and ACHP to create a procedure that will help to streamline Section 106 processes with regards to the Alaska Railroads. Initial discussions center on the National Register eligibility of railroad corridors.

Upcoming Meeting Update

Kristen Harbeson provided a brief report on upcoming NCSHPO meetings:

- National Historic Tax Credit Conference - September 24-26 - Chicago, Illinois
- General Membership Meeting - October 22 - Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Board Meeting - December 6-9, 2008 - Little Rock, Arkansas
- Annual Meeting - March 8-11, Washington, D.C.

Adjournment

Cathie Matthews adjourned the meeting at 3:21pm EDT

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