

Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments

October 26, 2022

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments was held as a hybrid meeting in person in the MHT Board Room at 100 Community Place in Crownsville and virtually via Google Meet.

Commissioners Present: Hon. Victor Butanis, Ellen Chase, Bryan Fischer, Stephen Hammond, Nancy Kurtz, Al Mendelsohn, Peter Morrill, C. Ryan Patterson, Lauren Schiszik, Gail Schnell, Raymond Shipley, Jr., and Susan Soderberg

Commissioners Absent: Cheryl Jewitt, Jenny Carson, Dennis Rude, and Sandy Schrader

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Greg Brown

MDP Staff: Maria Sofia

Public Guest: Evelyn Yuen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Elizabeth Hughes, sitting in for Chair Schrader, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. A quorum of Commissioners was recorded as present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Hughes called for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Butanis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hammond that the April 27 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public were present who wished to provide comment.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Hughes presented the financial report.

FY2021

- \$13,190 general fund encumbrance for 2022 maintenance and conservation of Western Region monuments (Maintenance Group 4), including:

M027 Monument to French Soldiers and Sailors, Annapolis

M028 St. John's College WW I Monument, Annapolis

M044 Henry Baldwin Memorial, Millersville

M148 Calvert County WWI Monument, Prince Frederick
M149 World War II Monument, Prince Frederick
M147 Korea and Vietnam Monument, Prince Frederick
M317 World War I Monument, Upper Marlboro
M311 World War II Plaque on Veterans Memorial, College Park
M266 Braddock DAR Plaque, Rockville
M267 John C. Brown Memorial Bridge Plaque, Rockville
M439 Pikesville Armory World War I Memorial Gate, Pikesville
M473 Pikesville Armory World War II Monument, Pikesville

- In May of 2021, an additional general fund encumbrance in the amount of \$3,810 for the following additional work:

M241 John O'Neill Monument, Concord Point Lighthouse, Havre de Grace – iron stain reduction.

M185 Thomas Holliday Hicks Monument, Cambridge – reduction of black sulfate crusts.

FY 2022

- \$17,000 general fund item for 2023 maintenance and conservation of Central Region monuments (Maintenance Group 1) was reallocated to support repointing and other related monument conservation projects, supplemented by \$850.40 in agency general funds and \$4,630 in MHT Board of Trustees funds (committed in 2021). Work includes:

M187 World War I Memorial Fountain, Cambridge – repair plinth.

M248 War of 1812 Cannon, Ellicott City – stripping and repainting, etc.

M028 St. John's College WW I Monument, Annapolis – repointing of masonry.

M241 John O'Neill Monument, Havre de Grace – Localized paint removal, mechanical rust reduction, and localized priming and repainting.

M240 GAR Monument, Havre de Grace – Straighten top stone that is out of alignment.

FY2023

- \$150,000 general fund item for stripping and rewaxing of all 41 monuments – RFP for this project is being drafted now with the work expected to begin in the summer or fall of 2023.
- \$17,000 general fund item for 2024 maintenance and conservation of Central Region monuments (Maintenance Group 1)

M048 Baltimore City College World War I Memorial, Baltimore City

M075 Francis Scott Key Plaque, Baltimore City

M093 Mount Washington War Memorial, Baltimore

M125 Westowne World War II Monument, Catonsville

M137 World War I Tablet, Relay

M138 World War II Monument, Relay

M146 World War I Memorial (Wayside Cross), Towson
M157 Western MD Railway WW I Monument, Union Bridge
M159 World War I Memorial Gateway, Westminster
M209 World War I *Victory* Monument, Frederick
M192 Braddock Monument, near Braddock Heights
M220 War Memorial, Woodsboro

Commissioner Mendelsohn inquired if \$150,000 would be sufficient to cover the costs associated with stripping and rewaxing of 41 monuments. Ms. Hughes and Commissioner Kurtz responded that this figure was expected to be more than sufficient when first proposed to the Department of Budget and Management in the fall of 2021 although it is uncertain how recent inflationary trends may impact costs.

Commissioner Patterson recommended that 18 months be proposed as the timeline for the completion of the scope of work in order to ensure that the selected conservator can work this project around any pre-existing commitments and to account for unexpected delays.

Commissioner Soderberg inquired about the number of monuments which are in the Commission's maintenance program today as she understood that 108 monuments were under the Commission's jurisdiction in 2016. Commissioner Kurtz responded that the Commission has assisted with conservation of 117 monuments over the life of the Commission but that the total number of monuments in the cyclical maintenance program is 58. These are the monuments that are not otherwise maintained by any other entity. Only 41 monuments are scheduled to be entirely stripped and rewaxed as part of the FY23 project because not all 58 monuments in the cyclical maintenance program require this treatment. Ms. Hughes indicated that she would work with Commissioner Kurtz to share an updated list of monuments treated previously as well as those under the Commission's care currently at the next meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

FY21 - Maintenance Group 4 (Western Shore Region)

Ms. Hughes reported that conservation work on these monuments had been completed and shared a before and after powerpoint showing images of the conservation work which was narrated by Commissioner Kurtz.

Commissioner Patterson recommended that the group working on the Pikesville Armory redevelopment project should be made aware of concerns regarding masonry deterioration of the memorial gates.

FY22 – Repointing and related monument conservation projects

Ms. Hughes reported on the conservation work that is completed or anticipated in the next few weeks on selected monuments and shared a before and after powerpoint narrated by Commissioner Kurtz.

Commissioner Kurtz added that the Spanish American War Memorial in Hagerstown is also receiving conservation treatment. It was not included in the FY22 presentation because this work is being paid for by the City of Hagerstown.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Testimonies They Bear – Story Map by Evelyn Yuen, Governor’s Summer Intern

Evelyn Yuen, a senior history major at UMBC, participated in the Governor’s Summer Internship program this past year. Ms. Yuen’s internship involved working with Greg Brown, MHT’s Cultural Resource Information Manager, and Commissioner Kurtz to research Maryland’s military monuments and enter locational and related data into a geographic information system data layer. Her project grew to include creation of a story map entitled “Testimonies They Bear” which is posted on the MHT website.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5f2893465ebd4a30891d611b42506ed6>

Ms. Yuen presented walked the Commission through the story map.

Commissioner Mendelsohn commended Ms. Yuen on her work and asked that the story map url be shared with the full Commission.

Commissioner Soderberg inquired if those monuments that were the works of individual artists could be highlighted separately from those that were mass produced. Ms. Yuen indicated that an additional story map could be created to address those artworks.

Commissioner Patterson thanked Ms. Yuen for her work on the Commission’s behalf and remarked that these sorts of interpretive products were critical to connecting the public with these important artworks.

Ms. Sofia, on behalf of Chair Schrader, presented Ms. Yuen with a Governor’s Citation commending her for her commitment to the common goal of making Maryland communities better places to live and work by preserving their memorials dedicated to those who have served Maryland and the Nation.

History Day

Ms. Hughes reported that in order for the Commission to sponsor a History Day prize as part of the Maryland Humanities Council’s History Day program, the total cost is \$500. This amount sponsors 2 prizes, one at the junior level and one at the senior level. Ms. Hughes will look into the timing for submittal of award sponsorships and how MMMC funds could be allocated for this purpose.

Commissioner Mendelsohn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hammond that the Commission seek to sponsor a Maryland History Day prize. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting Schedule

Ms. Hughes noted that in so far as Chair Schrader had proposed that the Commission reduce its annual meeting schedule from four meetings per year to two meetings per year unless otherwise necessary, meetings are being proposed for April 26 and October 25 in calendar year 2023. Commissioner Mendelsohn asked the Commission if all agreed that two meetings per year was sufficient. The Commission indicated that two meetings per year were acceptable, acknowledging that special meetings could still be called as needed.

Ms. Hughes inquired if an on-site meeting at a military monument would be of interest to the Commission. The Commission responded positively but suggested that it may not be desirable for this meeting to serve as a business meeting unless a meeting room could be available on site that provided virtual access.

MSAC Conservation Grants Program

Commissioner Patterson announced that the Maryland State Arts Council is now offering Conservation Grants to support the conservation and preservation of existing public artworks in Maryland. These grants range from \$5000 to \$50,000; the next grant deadline is March 24, 2023.

Baltimore Confederate Monuments

Commissioner Soderberg reported that two of the Baltimore City Confederate Monuments which are being stored by Baltimore City have been vandalized. Specifically, the sword of the Lee Jackson Monument and the arm of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument have been sawed off and removed.

Dan Toomey

Commissioner Kurtz reported that Dan Toomey, who served on the Commission for many years, recently suffered a fall in his home. She can provide his contact information to anyone who would like to contact him.

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.