



Minutes

Delaware Heritage Commission Meeting

Delaware Public Archives - Dover

March 5, 2014

Members in Attendance:

Richard Carter, Chair
Thomas Brown
Janice A. Durham
Michael DiPaolo
Deborah P. Haskell, Ph.D.
Harvey B. Rubenstein, Esq.
Jonathan Russ
Bradley Skelcher, Ph.D.
Sarah B. Williams
Terrence K. Wright

Guests:

Madeline E. Dunn - DHCA
Lori Hatch - DPA
Tom Summers - DPA

Chairman Carter called the Delaware Heritage Commission meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at the Delaware Public Archives in Dover.

Business Agenda:

1. **Greetings and Introductions** - Chairman Carter welcomed members and guests.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – Sally Williams made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2014 meeting as circulated. The motion was seconded by Michael DiPaolo and unanimously approved by members.
3. **Financial Report** – Lori Hatch reviewed the financial report as distributed to Commission members. Harvey Rubenstein made a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Janice Durham and unanimously approved by members.
Prior to the motion, members discussed a number of issues including the following items:
 - Members asked Lori Hatch to verify interest due dates.
 - Members expressed interest in establishing student scholarships. Chairman Carter asked members to think about possibilities and be prepared to share ideas during the May meeting.
 - Members discussed the possibility of establishing an annual event at which the McKinstry Scholarship Award(s) could be announced.
4. **Joint Publication with the Delaware Historical Society:**
 - Chairman Carter reported that he requested estimates for printing the “Forging Faith and Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980” publication from multiple publishing companies. While waiting for estimates,

Chairman Carter requested Commission members to approve printing expenditures up to the sum of \$24,000 and authorize him to move forward with this project. A variety of issues, outlined below, were discussed. Afterwards, Debbie Haskell made a motion authorizing the Commission to spend up to \$24,000. Janice Durham seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention (Bradley Skelcher – served as an academic advisor on this project.)

Discussions:

- Members were reminded that such expenditures could be authorized by an Executive Committee.
- Chairman Carter reported that he had spoken with State Senators from Wilmington who considered the subject important and encouraged the Commission to move forward with this publication.
- Quantities of publications: 500 hard bound copies and 1,000 soft cover copies would be printed for retail; the Commission anticipates giving away between 100 and 200 copies to schools and libraries. Estimated printing costs total \$23,970.
- Terry Wright suggested that Chairman Carter not proceed but allow Commission members to vote on expenditures. 
- Several questions were asked – Has the exhibit been evaluated? Will the Commission have final review of the “camera ready” version? What fiscal responsibilities will be assumed by the Delaware Historical Society?
- The Delaware Historical Society is paying for the design and layout fees which total about \$10,000. Both Dr. Cooper and Dr. Baldwin (Delaware Historical Society) will review content to ensure accuracy.
- Dr. Skelcher (Delaware State University) mentioned he served in an academic advisory capacity with the African American Interpretive Center and noted that their members are very supportive of this publication.
- Commission members discussed publicity issues. Several recommended that African American churches throughout the state be notified. Members suggested that Commission member J. Everett Moore be used to help market this book as well as other Commission publications. It was also noted that perhaps an Advisory Committee could assist with marketing publications.
- Commission members mentioned that the Delaware Historical Society could purchase books at a reduced rate and sell them at their museum store.

5. Chairman’s Report:

- a. Chairman Carter mentioned that conversations continued with Governor Minner and former Secretary of State Harriet Smith Windsor, and others. He also mentioned that the digital recordings of these interviews would be given to the Delaware Public Archives in the future.
- b. Chairman Carter indicated that Commission member Frank Ianni was approaching someone to purchase a large Delaware license plate collection who would hopefully donate the collection to the state. Interest in exhibiting the collection throughout Delaware in a portable display format was also under consideration.

5. Chairman's Report (Cont.):

- c. Chairman Carter distributed a copy of a booklet titled "Captain William Sterling Holland 1830 – 1892: Sailing Ship Master from Sussex County, Delaware" to Commission members.
- d. Chairman Carter informed Commission members that staff from the Delaware Public Archives had produced the layout and design for the Medal of Honor panel project. He distributed copies of the format for members' review and comment.
- e. Report on conversation with Mike DiPaolo will be discussed later.
- f. Chairman Carter announced that a possible McKinstry Grant application from Roger Martin is forthcoming for a book on Delaware Congressmen.
- g. Discussion RE: request to publish "Hidden in American: A Qualitative Analysis of Undocumented Hispanics' Lived Experiences" by Cynthia M. Mitchell. Members reviewed the text and offered a variety of comments – an interesting contemporary topic, concerns about publishing information about illegal activities, editing concerns, and not enough information provided regarding waivers for interviews. Debbie Haskell suggested that consideration of publication be tabled at this time due to other publication schedules. Chairman Carter will discuss issue with Commission member Charito Calvachi-Mateyko.

6. Grant Application - Purnell Grant application from the Lewes Historical Society (2014 Chautauqua Event)

Mike DiPaolo discussed the proposal submitted by the Lewes Historical Society for a summer program titled "With Malice Toward None – Delaware Life During the Civil War." He explained that a series of events would begin on June 15, 2014 and continue through June 19, 2014. Music, reenactments, presentations, and theatrical performances will convey information about Delaware and the Civil War. Performances and presentations are open to the public free of charge. Mr. DiPaolo also explained that this annual event is a cooperative venture involving the City of Lewes, the Division of Historical Affairs, and the Lewes Chamber of Commerce. The Society requested \$3,000 to cover expenses for actors, musical groups, and an emcee.

Commission members read the proposal and discussed a variety of issues. Terry Wright made a motion to fund the project as requested. The motion, seconded by Harvey Rubenstein, was approved. Mike DiPaolo abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest situation.

7. Remarks by Ex-Officio members in attendance:

On behalf of Steve Marz, Tom Summers reported that the Delaware Public Archives published a new bi-lingual brochure and announced that Revolutionary Pension Records and Correspondence project was underway. He also mentioned that a service, honoring Col. David Striker, a member of the Second Delaware killed at the Wilderness would be held on Sunday, May 25 (Memorial Day weekend) at the Methodist church cemetery in Dover. New acquisitions at the Archives included a hand written journal by Rev. Wells from Millsboro and a 19th century Railroad map of Nanticoke City (part of Seaford).

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8. Report on Special Commemorations -

Update not available.

9. Delaware Authors Day:

Event is scheduled for November 1, 2014 at the Lewes Presbyterian Church. Plans are being developed for speakers and the Commission will provide authors with lunch.

10. Report on Publications:

Chairman Carter provided the following information:

- Progress is underway regarding the reprinting of Roger Martin's publication titled A History of Delaware Through its Governors 1776 - 2008. Sections on Governors Carper, Minner, and Wolf are being written.

11. Other Business:

Nothing reported.

12. Adjournment:

Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m. and announced that the next meeting would be held at the Delaware Public Archives on Wednesday, May 7, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,

Madeline E. Dunn

April 30, 2014