

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

A MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY AT
MARYLAND'S FIRST CAPITAL

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION COMMISSION MEETING Saturday, December 14, 2024 Campus Center 205 St. Mary's College of Maryland St. Mary's City, MD 20686 **10:00am – 1:00pm**

HSMCC Commission Board Meeting

Attendees: Rear Admiral Tim Heely, Chairman; Bonnie Green, Vice Chair; Judy Fillius, Bill Drew, Bob Simmons, Hess Stinson, Linda Kohler, Adrienne Mathis

Attendees Virtual: Cindy Kramer, Owen Lewis, Julie Schablitsky, Lucille Walker, Heidi Fleming

Staff: Dr. John L. Seidel, Executive Director; Pete Carroccio, COO; Joseph Kangas, Travis Parno, Douglas Hunter, Peter Friesen, Michael Bellis

Guests: Elena Langrill

9:45-10:00 Coffee

10:00-10:15 Welcome and call to order

Approval of Minutes

Adm. Heely, Chair

Chair's Report

Adm. Heely, Chair

Chair reported fundraiser for filming in Owings Mills. Met with the MSA stressed more involvement with the Commission. Mr. Simmons will now be the interim president of the Foundation.

10:15-10:45 Committee Updates

Education

Ms. Mathis

The committee met December 3, reviewed the members of the committee.

There was an overview of the Education Department.

The committee learned that tours are increasing and fall events were successful.

The Committee discussed how to be more involved with the Education

Department. What are the things we want people to take away when they leave

P.O. BOX 39, ST. MARY'S CITY, MARYLAND 20686

Wes Moore, Governor John L. Seidel, Ph.D., Executive Director Rear Admiral Tim Heely, USN (retired), Chairman

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HSMC? We talked about the three stories we want to tell. Ms. Stinson added that advocacy is going to be key for increasing field trips. Can we look at grants to assist schools. Ms. Mathis added we need to build the relationship with the Maryland Department of Education.

Grounds

Mr. Drew

No committee meeting was held; Mr. Drew explained the team has explained every project and keeps current on the status of nearly 97 projects. Joe Kangas and Pete Carroccio are in constant contact with the staff in DGS, this is a major accomplishment. The property is in very good shape under the leadership. Two major things that came from the UHY Audit are the hiring of the COO and the hiring of the Executive Director after a nationwide search.

Planning

Ms. Walker

Ms. Walker waiting on the priority list, a lot of statewide initiatives, keeping HSMCC involved. Dr. Seidel referred to the detailed vision and priority list that he submitted in August. Mr. Drew asked for the Planning Committee's vision and priority list.

Administration

Ms. Fleming

Committee met December 11, staff went over the budget and there were concerns, the staff explained the lack of revenue. The staff is proactively managing the budget. Renovations of the Westerly and Branham houses the discussion was tabled for the larger group. The other discussion was putting funds into rental properties. HSMCC should not be in the rental business, this is a discussion for the larger group. The current MOU with the Foundation has been sent to the state for review.

10:45-11:00 Budget Overview

Dr. Seidel, Mr. Hunter

Dr. Seidel reported on the FY25 budget revenues are down this year, the budgets are made well in advance of the FY. There are a number of things that changed, and we are looking at ways to cost cut. We are managing towards a balanced budget at the end of the FY. Ms. Kohler stated it's important to review the budget. Dr. Seidel added we need to focus effort on private giving and the Foundation. This requires building a base, which will take time but is in progress.

Ms. Green we need to build relationships with the local community. Dr. Seidel added we need to build outside of the county as well.

11:00-11:30 Executive Director's Report

Dr. Seidel

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Quarterly summary – Dr. Seidel reported on the communications with the Piscataway. We are making good headway. Our FY26 Budget is in, we expected cuts, that did not happen and it looks like we are going to receive some conversions from contractual to PIN. A work in progress are the MOUs with SMCM. They are old and should be renegotiated. There are 7 that we are bringing into one overarching MOU. We meet with the staff monthly, in part due to the workplace climate study. The staff have been asked to give input and it's been energizing. We are working hard on the movement to 2034. The Commission needs to be aware of the DBM and DGS process. It takes five years sometimes to get money for projects. Working backwards, we may need to have Part I and II by May 2025.

Ms. Fillius asked about the priorities that Ms. Walker was asking about. Dr. Seidel indicated he did supply a list of priorities, but he's happy to talk further about it. Committee members and Commissioners may be pulsed to determine what among the priorities they can help with.

Ms. Green asked about the Farthing's Bathrooms? Mr. Carroccio stated it will go to BPW January 8; design and scope are all complete, but need BPW approval.

Reflections on 2024 Dr. Seidel reported his reflections for his first year, which were submitted with the quarterly report.

Mr. Drew added that the staff morale was low a year ago, but they showed commitment, the turnaround in one year has been astonishing. There should be no question in your ability.

Ms. Kohler added that if there is disfunction it's at the board level, we need to look at the disfunction within the board.

Ms. Stinson stated there are silos and communication is a major issues.

Dr. Seidel added that communication is an issue and we are working on that, we need to look hard at how we communicate.

Ms. Mathis added we need to have an email etiquette.

Ms. Langrill noted that your communications as commissioners are potentially subject to the freedom of information act.

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Mr. Bellis is working with a travel writer to get the word out about HSMC. A number of things are in motion. He also discussed the upcoming events for 2025. Mr. Bellis discussed MarylandFest connecting all of Maryland. This will be a free event for the community, you can experience this event for free, there will be cost to some portions such as pony rides, bounce house. We will charge vendors a vendor fee. The event is planned for May 3, 2025.

Chairman Heely asked the commission if we need to do Maryland Day. Dr. Seidel added we would like to let St. Clements Island take on Maryland Day and HSMCC will have a role to play.

The Commission agreed but did not take a formal vote to give Maryland Day to St. Clement's Island and have a role in the event.

11:45-12:30 Presentation – Public Programming Mr. Friesen and staff
Mr. Friesen reported about the programs

12:30-1:00 Closed Session Adm. Heely, Chair

Adjourn by 1:00 p.m.
