

# 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 16, 2023**

Campus Center 205

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

**10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

### **HSMCC Board Meeting - Campus Center 205**

**Saturday, December 16 · 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Time zone: America/New\_York**

**Google Meet joining info**

**Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/kxy-evra-kab>**

**Or dial: (US) +1 402-971-0192 PIN: 788 795 047#**

**More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/kxy-evra-kab?pin=3618476531778>**

**Members in attendance:** Rear Admiral Tim Heely, USN (ret'd), Chair; Bonnie Green, Vice Chair; Bill Drew, Judy Fillius, Kyle Harmon, Rosemary Hinkle, Julie King, Owen Lewis, Hess Stinson

**Members virtual:** Father George, S.J., HSMC Foundation President; Heidi Fleming, BJ Hall, Julie Schablitsky, Aaron Tomarchio

**Staff Present:** Travis Parno, Acting Executive Director; Peter Carroccio, Joseph Kangas, Peter Friesen, Douglas Hunter, Henry Miller, Porzia Purves

Elena Langrill, Deputy Chief for Advice, Office of the Attorney General

**Guests:** Dr. John Seidel, Mr. Bob Simmons

10:00 Welcome and call to order

I. Approval of Minutes Rear Admiral Tim Heely, USN (ret'd), Chair  
Chairman Heely asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2023 Ms. Hinkle made the motion, seconded by Ms. Fillius - Motion approved unanimously.

II. Chair's Report Rear Admiral Tim Heely, USN (ret'd), Chair  
Chairman Heely reported that the search for the executive director has successfully ended with the selection of Dr. John Seidel, who will begin January 2, 2024.

a. Budget Update Presented later

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- b. Policy Working on this
- c. MOU – is a work in progress

### III. Committee Updates

- a. Administration Ms. Fleming

Capt. Fleming met on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December update presented by Travis and Pete, hiring executive director, ship captain, director of advancement. Financial update – hiring is a challenge looking at salary increases. MOU – a lot of work behind the scenes moving forward when complete it will be presented.
- b. Education Ms. Dillahunt

Mr. Harmon group met on Monday, December 11, updated from Mr. Friesen, validated the staff does work during the closed season. Discussion regarding the entire story is told. Moving forward the conversation let us to move forward with the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, they would like to sit down in January 2024 as two communities working together. We want everyone to enjoy the space, and this is a great opportunity to get this story right. The visitor center continues the exhibit fabrication may be delayed. Ms. Fillius indicated that should have support in Annapolis now.
- c. Grounds Mr. Lewis

The committee did not meet this quarter – the team is moving rapidly. The ghost frame reconstruction is going on. We don't have a clear definition regarding rental properties, there should be a return on investment. Mr. Kangas put together a complex report. Are the properties worth repairing? What is the economic impact? Does it make sense to replace some of the older homes with trailers? There are a lot of ideas to discuss in January. Mr. Lewis indicated he would be moving in May to California.
- d. Planning Ms. Walker

Ms. Walker had an initial in-person planning meeting. This committee should be meeting with all committees. There are a variety of elements in the planning committee, we are moving towards 2034. What are the top three plans? What is the groundwork and rules what do we need to focus on. We are at ground zero for the 2034 celebration. Ms. Walker is on the Fort to 400 Committee – they are stalled at this time; this is a state entity, and they are getting PINs for positions. There is a real focus on stories that haven't been told. There was discussion regarding the 2034 Commission and the Fort to 400 Committee. Ms. Fillius, is there a vision for the HSMC Commission's responsibilities? Ms. Walker indicated we need to present the plan to Annapolis. Mr. Drew reminded the board that we have a clear path with the

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Master Plan. Ms. Walker questioned that is this plan up to date? Mr. Drew said this has been done by professionals and is very clear. Ms. Green added it would be great to discuss this plan. How do we take what we have and amend it if necessary. The focus is very strong with telling the complete story. Ms. Walker indicated Mr. Drew made a great point and he should have started with it.

#### IV. Foundation Report

Father Bill George, SJ

Father George indicated the MOU draft was delivered to the Commission Board. There is a president's advisory board indicated in the Foundation Bylaws. Father is looking for suggestions on members. Signed the contract with Cornerstone. We are looking for board members, we have five slots available. We are working on a joint event with the Foundation and St. Michaels Maritime Museum. Ms. Greenaway is on the College board we are looking forward to doing this. Father George added that we are behind the curve on the 400<sup>th</sup> Commission. The Foundation is covering the

#### V. Executive Report

Dr. Parno & Mr. Carroccio

Rear Admiral Heely thanked Dr. Parno for stepping into the role of Acting Executive Director. Mr. Carroccio commented on the selection of Mr. Dan Kerns to join the Foundation Board. Mr. Carroccio and Dr. Parno presented a complete update on projects. Mr. Carroccio along with Ms. Green reminded the Commission that we are not running the MHIC Project. The Farthing's Parking Lot construction should be completed in three months. Mr. Drew reminded the Master Plan addresses the parking situation. Dr. Parno, the original MHIC plan had a sidewalk included in the plan. Mr. Carroccio continued the project report. Rear Admiral Heely asked about the architecture of the State House. The State House was built based on the original architectural plans. Continuing there are 15 ghost frames being replaced. Mr. Lewis asked would it make sense to purchase 10 additional ghost frames. The pathway project is scheduled to go to BPW in January 2024. The project essentially to mill and replace. Ms. Hinkle asked about the small bridge being repaired. The Chapel is about 95% complete, Dr. Miller updated the board on the Tabernacle – the project began in 1988. We are nearly 100% and we will be putting in climate control in the Chapel. Climate control will be in the attic. The Tabernacle is under construction, funded by the Society of Colonial Wars, and is about 70% complete. We are hoping for a March completion date, we are having a reproduction of the picture behind the alter, and the projected completion is 2024. Ms. Walker is trying to understand the history of the Chapel, Dr. Miller gave a brief review of the history. Ms. Walker asked about the tabernacle and the painting. Dr. Miller indicated the tabernacle is in the archives in Baltimore, and the painting is in Rome. Father George the Chapel would be viable to use as a venue for weddings. Mr. Carroccio continued with his report regarding the RFI and RFP for the use of Farthing's Kitchen and Ordinary. Angelika's Bakery at Farthing's and partner Dan

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Bedford provided a plan, and we are selecting them for the business. We are going to move the gift shop into one room and utilize the spaces. There are a number of employees being displaced to move this project forward we are hoping to open in Spring 2024. Dr. Parno explained that we are fostering a place of safety and historical accuracy. Dr. Parno explained Angelika and Dan Bedford's interest to be invested in the organization. Mr. Carroccio added that Becca Salisbury from the AG's office has been working with us all along the way. There was discussion regarding the new VC (MHIC) not having a gift shop, Dr. Parno indicated we can revisit this in the future. Mr. Carroccio continued his report, we put out an RFI, we received a significant amount of memories regarding the Brome Howard. Mr. Carroccio spoke with Michael Kelley. We put out an RFP, which closes January 9, 2024. We have met a number of proprietors and we have seen a lot of interest. The lower lever apartment has been repaired and is getting ready for rental. The front rails and posts are being replaced; we will be putting in a lift. The current ramp does not meet the ADA compliance. We worked with Brian Norris who owns Cove Point Construction, he introduced us to Evolve who manages his properties and we would like to keep them in the equation. Ms. Hinkle asked about the use of the apartment and what about the kitchen. We should have something to report at the next meeting.

Dr. Parno reported on the community engagement who are working with us on the Chancellor's Point Project. The working group will be putting together a mission statement and ethical plan. It's important to tell the story of the two individuals and tell their narratives. Ms. Stinson reported how incredibly transparent this project is, the DNA portion is on hold until the plan and statement are in place. Ms. Walker asked if there was an endpoint to the research. Dr. Parno stated we need to see what else is on the site, we have a few places that need to be investigated. We have worked with Joe to get a plan in place for tree management. Ms. Stinson stated we want the remains to stay here at St. Mary's, that's their home. Ms. Stinson stated there is some funding for outdoor spaces for commemoration. Dr. Parno continued with the Fort update and showed some artifacts. We were successful with the Maryland Heritage Authority to redirect monies for the Bastian project, and we will begin this project with next year's field school. We will move the canon from the path from the Chapel. Ms. Walker added the time-lapse video would be a great promotional piece "unveiling Maryland's beginnings." Ms. Hinkle added we discussed this at the Education Committee meeting. Dr. Parno added that Ms. Stinson added the museum should be using influencers. Ms. Walker continued, "this is a great opportunity to tell the entire story." Dr. Parno continued we are making great progress with the Calvert House Project.

Dr. Parno updated the commission on the personnel updates, the retirement of Captain Gates, we have begun the process of hiring a new Captain, we have decided to revisit the events manager position, the Membership Coordinator position is supported by the Foundation and Ginger Newman-Askew has accepted the position. Continuing Donna Bird has announced her

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retirement and we have begun the process to replace the Public Programs Manager. A new Laboratory technician begins in January. And we will begin the process for the Director of Advancement once Dr. Seidel comes on board.

Congratulations to Mr. Friesen and the staff on the very successful Hearth and Home event.

## VI. New Visitor Center Update

Rear Admiral Tim Heely, USN (ret'd), Chair

Dr. Parno the MHIC building will be broom clean in 2024 – the other component is the exhibit space and the interactive media pieces. There was a series of sessions asking about the stories, including a community of stakeholders who have been involved, we have an exhibit design that is 99% completed but there are gaps. The plan is to tell before Europeans arrived, religious conflicts, arrival here, and the early period, pulling the entire story together. We want to take it all the way through the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries to today. The exhibit designer is ready to send to fabrications. We do not have the buy-in of all the key players we have fallen short with the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, we met earlier in the year to discuss this project. Francis Grey asked how we are fundamentally changing. We have an opportunity to right some wrongs and build a relationship. Dr. Parno is proposing that we press pause to finalize the exhibit design, not construction. We are using the Interpretive Master Plan, it's a living document that guides our exhibit development. We have an opportunity that once trust is established asking the Piscataway to help us write out an Interpretive Master Plan to tell the story. The prospect of delaying this portion has implications, speaking in hypotheticals, if we delay, we are looking at additional funds of \$4M. What are we going to do or put it on pause? Owen Lewis "is there any other groups that we should engage, and will there be archaeology that will change the way we think, can we have a part that will change?" Dr. Parno continued the new VC has 900 sq. ft. of exhibit changing space adding now is the time to ask Governor Moore for permission to delay. Mr. Harmon added that his role is to be a bridge builder and he's advocating for this pause. We can't change what happened, but we are here to do better. You want to leave the space better than how you inherited it, to see the importance and the value of having the Piscataway voice here. Ms. Walker added that trust takes a while, have a plan B on how to honor the indigenous culture. "Are you involving descendant population?" Dr. Schablitsky added it's a good time to do a diversity audit, and figure out where we are doing good and where we can do better. It will help the Commission do better. Ms. Stinson, "I would recommend the same thing. Thinking about Plan B, it could be about building bridges, it will give us time to build relationships back."

Chairman Heely asked for a Motion to Pause Mr. Drew asked for the motion, seconded Mr. Harmon, the motion carried unanimously.

## VII. New Business

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a. Farthing's Complex

Mr. Carroccio

Mr. Carroccio reported on the Farthing's complex during the Executive report.

VIII. Closed Session

Rear Admiral Tim Heely, USN (ret'd), Chair

Chairman asked for a motion to close the meeting, Mr. Lewis made the motion,  
Seconded by Ms. Hinkle.

IX. Adjourn

Moved to adjourn Bonnie Green, seconded Rosemary Hinkle

March 2, 2024

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