

Minutes – April 19, 2022

Upper Merion Township Historical Commission

Date: Tuesday, 04/19/2022 at 7:30 pm

Location: Hybrid / Henderson Room, Upper Merion Township Bldg

Meeting called to order at 19:33

Laura is taking minutes this month.

Attendance: (P – in person, V – virtual)

Name	Present	Regrets	Name	Present	Regrets
Laura Adlington	V		Matt McCaffery	V	
Kenn Brown	P		Dave Montalvo		X
David Dolga	P		Greg Philips	P	
Pat Jordan	V		Tina Smith	V	

Motion to approve Minutes from March 2022 Minutes made by Pat, seconded by Tina; All approved; Motion passed.

Agenda Items

1. Current Projects

- a. America 250 PA project discussion.
 - i. From America250PA website, “Bells across PA” as a model for some UMT projects
WWW.AMERICA250PA .ORG/BELLSACROSSPA
 - ii. Tina suggested writing an article on this to help organize UMT committee to work with the HC to plan, get ideas for semi quincennial projects
- b. Historical Commission webpage content
 - i. Pat’s Article: Once we approve the final draft, then can submit through Dave D/Tiffany to publish online
 1. Can we get this up on the UMT website before HC website is launched?
 - ii. (Tina to draft America250PA write up, as above)
- c. Historical interest displays/speaker project partnership with Parks and Rec Department Summer 2022
 - i. Pat liaised with them and brainstormed ideas for our partnership
 - ii. Speaker event – moving forward with this (Matt)
- d. Moore-Irwin House updates
 - i. There are federal grants, especially around semi-quincennial – but UMT/BOS needs to be behind it

- e. GMCA plaque, fountain rebuild / PHMC Marker at Hanging Rock
 - i. Monument rebuild taking place soon; will incorporate Pat's design
 - ii. We need to raise funds for the plaque (\$1500-\$2000);
 - 1. Are we (HC members) allowed to crowdsource funds in capacity as private citizens? Crowdfunding where the funds would go to the private citizen/HC member who then donates it to the project (e.g. GoFundMe) enters a grey area. Options where the funds are donated directly to the cause are better even if administrated by a HC member/private citizen (e.g. Facebook Fundraiser).
 - 2. BOS liaison advised that HC handle any donations through the UM Foundation page on the UMT website.
 - 3. HC previously cleared a process for the Foundation to accept money through UM Foundation paypal link. This process had been approved by Township Manager and others. Any donations for this HC project need to have a note to deposit to HC account for the plaque. Tina and Pat worked with Gerri Vatttimo in 2021, created a form for this that was digitized by UM Foundation.
 - 4. The donation form did not go live as yet because HC needs to agree on where the link will be placed if the HC webpage is not published yet.
 - 5. BOS liaison reminded HC that we could apply for BCA grant as well.
 - f. Rebel Hill PHMC research, consolidation with "Encampment" PHMC marker replacement
 - i. Tina going to do some research in person at Montgomery County Historical Society
 - g. List of Historical Properties, advisement to BOS for 2040 Comprehensive Plan
 - i. Pat has visited some private residences and soliciting more recent records/accounts than the historical society likely has
 - 1. Alderbrook
 - 2. Croton Mill
 - 3. Exley Log Cabin
2. Ask for volunteer to commit to write minutes for May and June; July and August; Sept and October; November and December. Other HC members will take notes to help edit primary minutes taker.
 - a. May – Tina
 - b. June - TBD
 - c. July & August – Pat
 - d. Zoom transcript very useful
 3. CLG Application
 - a. Application is in the works (Tina)
 4. Review of Power Point for joint meeting with Upper Merion Historical Commission and Upper Merion Board of Supervisors
 - a. Matt sent round the file and Tina submitted minor edits prior to the meeting
 - b. Will we be able to Zoom into that meeting?
 - c. Will make a handout? – Matt to do this
 5. KOP BID community update recap
 - a. Matt attended; Great presentation: BID is active, and does a lot of good, in the community; there is potential there to foster a fruitful partnership, raise funds for community projects
 6. Discussion of street names in future developments
 - a. PA code: it is the right and responsibility of the BOS to approve street names
 - i. Tina to send round the applicable code to us for our reference

- b. We could compile a list of possible names (and reasons why) to have as a reference for developers and the BOS – but BOS will need to take the lead in utilizing it
- c. Idea: perhaps we could involve school children and seek submissions from local history classes
- d. Idea: website could have information about or even a webform for submitting suggestions

Communications

A resident of the township at [address redacted] is seeking information on her property, she believes it is a 1700s farmhouse and would like to know if we have any other information on it.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Pat; seconded by Laura. All were in favor; motion to adjourn passed. Meeting adjourned at 20:22

Items tabled

1. Diversity Project with UMT Library
2. James Toner resume re Historic Preservation, architecture
3. PHMC Grant for document scanning, storage
4. Oral History Project
5. Saving Places submission regarding Moore-Irwin House and Property
6. Document Management for HC on UMT server—tabled till Spring 2022; update in April 2022 from Dave D: IT group working on bugs in UMT upgrades so project for HC stalled.

X

Matthew Paul McCaffery

Chair

