

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

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

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION COMMISSION MEETING

April 18, 2026

Farthing's Ordinary
47414 State House Road
St. Mary's City, MD 20686
9:00 a.m. - Noon

9:00 Welcome and call to order Chairman Heely called the meeting to order at 9:13 and introduced Angelika's Kitchen.

The meeting is being recorded and all members have consented.

Members present:

- I. Approval of Minutes Tim Heely, Chair
Motion to approve the minutes made by Ms. Kramer, seconded by Ms. Green.
Minutes Approved.
- II. Chair's Report Tim Heely, Chair
 - a. Bylaws – Chairman Heely reviewed the Bylaws with respective changes, such as the requirement of four Executive Committee Meetings. Ms. Kramer stated there were some grammatical errors and she would send them to the AG. Ms. Fillius asked about number of years the officers serve. Ms. Langrill explained that it was decided two years ago that officers would sit in positions for two years.
Ms. Kramer stated when the meetings are too far apart the minutes should be approved ahead of 6 weeks. Ms. Langrill indicated that open meetings require the meeting minutes to be approved between meetings if meetings do not occur frequently.
A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Kramer and seconded by Ms. Fillius. The Bylaws were approved as written with corrections to be made.
 - b. MOU's – Chairman Heely reported the MOU has gone back and forth between the two agencies, HSMCC and HSMCF. We are still working on this. We have gone back and forth with the MOUs with the Foundation.
 - c. Chairman Heely reported Mr. O'Donnell has been here a little over four months. We are on a good path, moving forward.

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III. Committee Updates

a. Administration

Ms. Kramer

Ms. Kramer reported on the current budget that was presented to the committee a supplemental request has been made to the legislation. Ms. Green asked what the timeline for approval of the supplemental budget is. Mr. O'Donnell reported that it was not approved at this time and added that the DBM staff have been incredibly helpful in trying to help find funds. Ms. Kramer asked about the Foundation regarding support and earned revenue coming from the Foundation. Mr. Hunter responded it goes into our Special Fund revenue. Ms. Green requested the staff break out those funds for the report.

Mr. Kramer explained the state process is we spend the money and then asked for reimbursement. We look like we are on track to balance the budget.

For the working budget Ms. Kramer pointed out the special fund revenue is in the negative by \$30K, we do need to make this up before June 30.

There was discussion regarding fundraising, and Mr. O'Donnell indicated he would discuss this during his report.

b. Education

Mr. Harmon

Mr. Harmon reported the committee held their meeting, and he asked Dr. Parno to hit the highlights. He reported that we had a very productive dialog with Mario Harley including the possibility of using HSMC as a teaching project. Within the new visitor center there is a changing exhibit. We will have a new exhibit installed in January of the St. Mary's Fort Site. We will be working with the local community on other exhibits.

Mr. Frieson indicated that during the legislation session Senator Bailey asked about how we plan on increasing school tours. He gave a detailed explanation, and the report is also included in the board folder.

Mr. Kern asked about the outreach and is it being extended to private and parochial schools. Mr. Frieson reported we have not had a downturn in private schools.

Ms. Green asked about the ability to bring in environmental education. Mr. Frieson stated we don't get into specifics such as climate change etc. We do environmental education as it pertains to the 17th century. Ms. Walker stated as a national heritage area we can do mobile components, adding we are forming a new heritage area and as national heritage area this comes ahead of state. The Maryland heritage authority has rules that run state to state. She added that we are the startup for the next generation. Ms. Green asked if we still receive money from the Society of the Ark & Dove. Mr.

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Friesen stated the Ark & Dove was the first to donate \$60K to the education center.

Ms. Stinson asked if we'd begun using Liberty of Conscience and whether HSMC has engaged with the Henry Lewis Foundation. Mr. Friesen asked for the contact that Ms. Stinson referred to. Mr. O'Donnell indicated that the staff would work to put a bill in Senator Bailey's office for a pre-file.

Mr. Friesen reported the Maryland Dove caulking job was successfully completed. The ship is fully up rigged, and in June the ship heads to Norfolk for the 250th anniversary. Norfolk is organizing schools to sponsor ships. Then the ship will be heading to Baltimore for the 250th.

Our lecture series began this past week, with the Dr. Bell lecture. Ms. Green indicated that there is a need to really work on communication.

Ms. Fillius asked about the storage of the old Maryland Dove. Mr. Friesen indicated the staff will now have time to go over and remove items that can be reused and then remove wood for the Maryland Arts Council. Mr. Carroccio added that wood from the Baker Dove has been used for picnic tables for the new Farthing's restaurant. Ms. Kohler asked about the timing of the Baltimore trip for the Maryland Dove. Mr. Friesen stated the end of June.

Ms. King inquired whether assistance is needed for the Baltimore trip, The answer was yes. Ms. Green reminded the board that Aaron Tommarchio is very influential in Baltimore.

c. Grounds

Ms. Fillius

Ms. Fillius reported the highlights on the Maintenance and Grounds report. Ms. Fillius stated that the maintenance and grounds department is incredible and they are five people short. Farthing's restaurant is up and ready. There was a termite situation at the Slave Quarters, floors and joists had to be replaced. With the mold situation we have run out of money we need an additional \$500K to complete the mold remediation. We are looking at the interpretive sign package, and the board needs to set the priority. The Chase house we met with the architect to put in a pavilion on the spot of the Chase house. Money was shifted from the Westerly house to build the pavilion. DBM took back \$200K. The Branham house will be renovated and used for the costumer house, a conference area, and the scope of work is in process. It has not gone to BPW, and Ms. Green stated we haven't decided to do this construction.

The education center has received 8 bids.

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Ms. Fillius indicated that she and Pete Carroccio met with members of MSA regarding the study of a potential hotel in SMC.

Ms. Fillius added that she is on a committee to research affordable housing. She added that the more we grow the college and the commission together the better it is that legislation is eager to work with agencies that team up. Our group is meeting with Morgan State to talk about their partnership. We are looking at a P3 opportunity.

Ms. Green stated the college is hosting an affordable conference on June 4 to address the need for affordable housing.

Ms. Kramer asked about the housing authority money from Congressman Hoyer.

d. Planning

Ms. Kohler

Ms. Kohler met and discussed the liberty tree project. Ms. Walker will work with the staff on the planting. We have put in grants for murals, people movers, Chesapeake Gateways has grant opportunities for tech assistance that the letter of intent is May 1. The Pomeroy Foundation loves to donate signs; the letter of intent is due May 4. We spoke about doing a marketing strategy, when I get an additional 20 interviews I'll bring it back to the planning committee. A potential new logo design, and it's just a starting point. The Chair has supplied a priority list. The staff is working diligently on finding what we need and who our source is to supply. The question was when was the last Masterplan completed? And in our new by-laws we must begin planning. The committee suggested that the two boards come together for a retreat to all be on the same page.

Ms. Fillius asked about the Fort to 400 Committee. Mr. O'Donnell indicated that Ms. Stone is leading this, and we know that we need to be ready, it's a quiet phase, sort of a wait and see process. Ms. Walker added we are trying to find ways to fund this and she added she's been working with the federal agencies. Ms. Green stated that Senator Bailey had a lot to say about who was on the Fort to 400 Committee.

IV. Foundation Report

Mr. Dan Kerns, President

Mr. Kern reported that it's very important that the Foundation and Commission work together, in February the Foundation held elections. Chris Longmore is Vice President. Margaret McFarland, Secretary, and Bob Simmoms, Treasurer.

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Initiatives are important to share; Mr. Kerns reported that the Foundation has looked at standard operating procedures and is making headway and that it continues to work with Cornerstone to formalize the contract. Mr. Kern reported that the Foundation is working to support Mike Bellis and have requested a development plan from him. The Foundation board would like assurance that we are all on the same page and working together. The Foundation wants to enhance the 1634 Society and all memberships. Mr. Kern reported that the Foundation made a significant investment with Blackbaud, and is ready to put it to use. The Foundation Board's next meeting is May 30, 2026, and the executive committee meets monthly.

Ms. Kramer asked about sponsorship for MarylandFest. Ms. Walker asked to be approached for sponsorship.

V. Executive Director's Report

Mr. David O'Donnell

Mr. O'Donnell reported HSMC had a great legislative session, with PIN requests approved and increased funding. The finance office is going to create a new budget on how the Foundation can support and foster what the State does not support. This will eliminate the last-minute asks. Mr. O'Donnell took a moment to thank the staff. He reported that he is currently working to engage with the community. There have been several events, including the volunteer event last week. He added he wants to engage with both HSMCC and the Foundation board. With the Blackbaud contract, HSMC is working out a number of kinks and trying to determine its needs. Moving forward, Mr. O'Donnell indicated that he wants to improve communications and will work towards sending out monthly newsletters.

HSMC is are going back to SMCM to review the MOU between the parties.

Ms. Walker mentioned planting the Maryland Heritage Liberty Tree at MarylandFest. She reported that Senator Bailey has indicated that he's interested in participating in the planting ceremony.

Ms. Fillius asked about the audit and if it has all been resolved. Mr. O'Donnell stated that all issues have been resolved.

Mr. O'Donnell reported that MarylandFest needs a few more sponsorship, and the team is moving forward.

Ms. Fillius asked about fundraising and the opening of the new visitor center. Mr. O'Donnell indicated that there are a few opportunities leading up to the grand opening and that care must be taken to avoid double invitations. Ms. Walker added the outreach should be national. Mr. O'Donnell reported that with the assistance of Joe Kangas, Mr. Ted Koppel has agreed to be the

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narrator for the Orientation video. Ms. Walker added that certain invitations for the grand opening should come from the Executive Director and the Chair.

VI. New Business -

VII. Closed Session

Chairman Heely read the statement regarding closing the meeting under the Maryland Open Meetings Act and asked for a motion to close the meeting. Ms. Walker made the motion to close the meeting and Ms. Kohler seconded the motions. All voting members of the Commission who were present voted to close the meeting and the commission went into closed session.

VIII. Adjourn

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