

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

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

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION COMMISSION MEETING

January 24, 2026

Campus Center 205

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

10:00am – 3:00pm

VIRTUAL MEETING

10:00 Welcome and call to order

- I. Approval of Minutes Tim Heely, Chair
Motion to approve Minutes by Ms. Green seconded by Ms. Walker; Minutes approved as written.

- II. Chair's Report Tim Heely, Chair
Chairman Heely reported there were 29 applicants for the Executive Director position, the committee selected David O'Donnell. His start date is January 30, 2026. Chairman Heely also reported that he and Dr. Parno met with Senator Bailey to discuss the old Dove, and it was agreed upon that HSMCC will disassemble the Baker Dove.

- a. Budget Overview –

- III. Committee Updates
 - a. Administration Ms. Kramer
Ms. Kramer reported the Governor's budget has been released. She reviewed the budget as set and reported everything is in the packet. The highlights were asking for a reversal of the cut. The museum has requested funds for the Dove deck repair, we asked for funds for staff to write capital project phases I & II. The governors recommendations included many requests, they will not assist with the 12 months or the \$75K for the COLA adjustment. Regarding the 400th Anniversary Dr. Parno will put together an outline.
For this quarter we had the following situations, retail sales declined due to size of GS, we are looking at a kiosk for the new visitor center. Event rentals are down, but we see improvement for this spring. We have increased the Dove sails.
Regarding cuts we have cut travel, supplies, and increased heating. Our annual charges for Anne Arundel all has increased and we discussed reviewing the 2018 agreement with SMCM.

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Capital projects mold remediation continues, the Farthing's complex is close to being complete.

Lease term with Angelika's is two five year contracts.

New VC should be handed over at the end of January, with installation of exhibits beginning immediately following. With completion and grand open end of July.

There was discussion of fundraising for the Ed. Center we need to raise \$500K for this building.

We will build a timber frame pavilion for Chancellor's Point.

Ms. Fillius asked about the MOUs. Dr. Parno explained we are working on consolidation of all MOUs. We will work with the new President and VP and begin taking care of this. Ms. Fillius was concerned because these were audit findings.

Ms. Kohler the \$970K funds what is the plan? Mr. Kangas reported that we will be putting in project justifications to DGS and those PJ's are due next month.

Ms. Fillius asked are we going to look at reestablishing buildings for rental properties? What are the plans?

Mr. Carroccio, the Duerfeldt and Hogaboom did not receive any remediation, they are in decent shape and we can rent them. We are looking at trying to find funds to repair locations such as Westerly. DBM will not fund income properties.

Ms. Fillius asked if there is a contact at SMCM regarding the rentals and she added she will speak to the college to see who is the contact.

Dr. Parno added the audit that was mentioned was the UHY audit and OLA has indicated the audit has been completely satisfied.

b. Education

Mr. Harmon

Mr. Harmon hit the highlights and indicated that the staff can add their notes if necessary. A good meeting was had. Dr. Parno reported school numbers are up and asked Mr. Friesen if he would comment. Mr. Friesen stated numbers have increased, transportation is still an issue, but the staff is working on increasing outreach for the Winter months.

Regarding the Maryland Dove, the captain and bosun will be heading to Norfolk in the coming weeks to determine the best dock usage etc. There is a lot of great activities surrounding the 250th celebration in Norfolk.

Ms. Fillius asked if HSMC has summer camps? Mr. Friesen replied we do not legally do camps, we don't have the budget or the bandwidth. He added that we are not open on Mondays and we need to have a medical professional on staff.

Ms. Walker asked for a goal report for the future. Mr. Harmon added we would add this to the next agenda.

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c. Grounds

Ms. Fillius

Ms. Fillius reported that there has been a need for affordable housing in St. Mary's County, this is a nationwide problem but this County is worse because of the base. The County is rewriting their comprehensive master plan. The commission follows many aspects with the SMCM. In support of the housing issue we will work together. We are looking at partnerships much like MSA. The next step is identifying land. Ms. Fillius is going to sit with the group and review the properties that are outside of the historic lines. We are hoping to build affordable housing for faculty, staff and HSMC staff.

Ms. Langrill added the State has attorneys with extensive P3 experience and suggested that we explore speaking with one of them.

Ms. Green attended the MD legislative conference and there was a lot of P3 conversation. There is a lot of formal processing that needs to be done to move forward with this project.

Ms. Walker asked if there will be rentals and ownership.

Ms. Fillius said at this point yes.

d. Planning

Ms. Kohler

We began with the 250th Anniversary celebration. There will be two tree plantings, Ms. Walker reported the Liberty Tree project, every county will have a Liberty Tree planted with a plaque. March 25 in Annapolis will have a special ceremony. Tying this to MarylandFest would allow the state to promote. There was significant discussion over the funding for MarylandFest along with other items.

Signage from TAC tourist area and corridor area. This is from state Highway, there is a \$500 application fee. The corridor is Route 5, Ms. Kohler believes this is doable for HSMC. Hilltop does a lot of business for HSMC. Ms. Green added you still need State Highway's permission for approval.

Motion to approve the \$500 for signage application for state highway Bonnie made the motion, Lucille seconded – motion passed. Ms. Kohler added that there are organizations who pay for signage, and listed the amounts and deadlines. Ms. Walker added that MD Heritage Area added they also supply funds. If we make the right application this is a great way to go.

Ms. Kohler added that like Ms. Green HSMC must think bigger. We are positioned perfectly to do this, we understand the money is not going to come from the state, and the Foundation is working diligently to raise funds.

Ms. Kohler reported that in the first meeting of the committee we talked about marketing and branding. There is a draft executive summary, this is big and we have a new leader, not being one to wait, I believe we should reach out and begin surveys. The plan has a number of questions, and complete a list of 30 individuals to take the survey. Ms. Fillius added you could just talk to the average individuals in the local area. Ms. Hinkle added be certain to

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speaking to the local community. It's a great idea and she welcomes the members of the commission to help.

- IV. Foundation Report Mr. Chris Longmore, President
Mr. Kern reported on the Foundation at the next meeting we will discuss strategic needs, the mou between the Foundation and the Commission and we are looking forward to this opportunity, this is critical to be sure we are on the same page. The foundation renewed the contract with Cornerstone, and bi-weekly meetings are being held. We are also looking for new members, we have several openings.
- V. Executive Director's Report Dr. Travis Parno
Dr. Parno reviewed his report
Chairman Heely thanked Dr. Parno for stepping into the role of Executive Director.
- VI. New Business – Next meeting April 18, 2026

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

Wes Moore, Governor Travis G. Parno, Ph.D., Acting Executive Director Rear Admiral Tim Heely, USN (retired), Chairman