



Minutes
Gateways Network Working Group Meeting
Via Teleconference
March 12, 2003

Present: Lisa Gutierrez, Bob Carter, Ron Weiss, Robert Pickett, Wilmer Henninger, Marci Ross, Elizabeth Hughes, Pat Stuntz, John Davy, Bob Campbell, Marian Huber, Skip Meehan, Jonathan Doherty, Catherine Mueller.

Melanie Teems submitted electronic comments regarding the nominations.

The teleconference began at 10:07 a.m. with introductions.

Working Group members reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 12, 2003 meeting.

Review of the Pending Nominations:

Calvert Cliffs State Park: Bob Campbell thought it would be a good thing to fill out the billet of Maryland State Parks that tell the Chesapeake Bay story. Members reviewed and agreed on the nomination with no concerns. This becomes the 120th designated Gateway.

Fells Point Maritime Museum: The group concurred with the resubmitted amended nomination. Several members echoed the statement that the nomination gives credence to the saying “sometimes it is better to wait and let things mature.” The tabling of the nomination allowed the museum to develop. It opens in approximately 40-60 days. The museum becomes the 121st Gateway.

Shepherdstown, WV Historic District: Lisa Gutierrez, Paige Weiss and Marian Huber visited Shepherdstown in advance of reviewing the nomination. Lisa commented that it was very worthwhile, giving the members a real sense of what’s really going on. While the community has real potential, all felt the town is not ready for a historic district site designation. The museum displays are basic but provide a great deal of information, some of the best for small town museums. However, facilitation between the local groups is definitely needed. This would possibly assist the town in a resubmitted nomination of some kind, or it may help clarify other options.

Members began a discussion about historic districts and the criteria for accepting these in the Gateways Network. Discussion continued and it was decided to set up a separate meeting or conference call with Bob Carter and Elizabeth Hughes to discuss historic districts in the Gateways Network.

The Working Group agreed to table the nomination, finding that Shepherdstown is not ready for designation at the current time. However, members agreed to postpone notification until after

discussing the historic district recommendations at the next working group meeting. This might influence the kind of assistance offered to Shepherdstown.

Underground Railroad Scenic By-Way: This resubmission from early 2001 has addressed the previous concerns of the Working Group. The supporting organization has gone into greater length in connecting the Chesapeake Bay to the Underground Railroad through in depth research in its supporting documentation. Marci Ross said the UGRR is also seeking by-ways assistance and has been working on corridor management planning process. Elizabeth Hughes mentioned she still has questions about certain sites (not an issue with the nomination) but will definitely want to look at content of any interpretive projects for content. The group approved designation of the by-way as a connecting route in the Gateways Network.

Chickahominy Riverfront Park: Working Group members agreed the park would be a suitable addition to the network, due to its strong recreational resources. The nomination was accepted on the condition there is a strong message conveyed on the need to incorporate interpretation at the site.

Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Conference Plan

Jonathan Doherty synopsised the recent memo about the plans for the Fall 2003 conference. Discussion continued. John Davy likes model one with a more focused agenda. He also suggested that two days would be better than one (starting and ending with lunch.) Elizabeth Hughes said she tends to agree - use this first conference as a sounding board and model two as the next step. Straddling a weekend would be a good opportunity, since weekends would pose a problem for attractions with weekend only hours. It was also suggested that we hold the funding section to the last day to keep the audience till the close.

Important Dates to consider in the Fall to avoid conflict:

Governor's Tourism Conference – the week of October 20.

Yom Kippur – September 15 – 16 (Sunday/Monday)

Rosh Hashanah – September 26

Columbus Day (Federal Holiday) - October 13

Veteran's Day (Federal Holiday) - November 11

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2003.

Topic for discussion include: Past Grants Status Review; Network-wide Priorities

Other Upcoming Dates:

The 2003 Grant Applications are due COB (5:00 p.m.) on May 2. The Working Group will receive their review packets by the end of the next week.

The May 14 meeting will be combined with the Gateways workshop on Support Organizations.

June 11 meeting will be for grant review.

The teleconference adjourned at 11:15 a.m.