



MINUTES

FALL BUSINESS MEETING

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DECEMBER 15, 2021

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MEETING
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Zoom
December 15, 2021

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Call to Order 1:30 p.m. EST

- I. Vice Chairman's Welcome and Report
- II. ACHP/HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation
- III. Acting Executive Director's Report
- IV. ACHP Strategic Plan Update
- V. Climate Change and Historic Preservation
 - A. Climate Change Task Force Update
 - B. America the Beautiful
- VI. Historic Preservation Policy and Programs
 - A. Legislation
 - B. Other Reports
- VII. Section 106
 - A. Program Comment Panel Recommendations Implementation
 - B. Other Reports
- VIII. Native American Affairs
 - A. White House Tribal Nations Summit Report
 - B. Other Reports
- IX. Communications, Education, and Outreach
 - A. C-SPAN National Outreach
 - B. Other Reports
- X. ACHP Foundation Report
- XI. New Business
- XII. Adjourn

IN ATTENDANCE

Jordan Tannenbaum, Vice Chairman
John Finley
John Frey
Rick Gonzalez
Kristopher King

Luke Nichter
Jay Vogt

Architect of the Capitol

Secretary of Defense

Administrator, General Services Administration

Secretary of Homeland Security

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Secretary of the Interior

Secretary of Transportation

J. Brett Blanton

Represented by:

Richard Kidd
Deputy Assistant
Secretary of Defense
for Environment and
Energy Resilience

Represented by:

Beth Savage
Director, Center for
Historic Buildings,
Public Buildings
Service

Represented by:

Teresa Pohlman
Executive Director,
Sustainability and
Environmental
Programs

Represented by:

Arthur Jemison
Principal Deputy
Assistant Secretary for
Community Planning
and Development

Kevin Bush
Deputy Assistant
Secretary for
Grant Programs, Office
of Community Planning
and Development

Represented by:

Caroline Henry
Federal Preservation
Officer

Represented by:

Colleen Vaughn
Federal Preservation
Officer

Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Represented by:

Anthony Costa
Deputy Executive
Director, Office of
Construction and
Facilities Management

Mayor Member

Hon. Robert Simison
Meridian, Idaho

Indian Tribe Member

Reno Keoni Franklin
Chairman, Kasha Band of
Pomo Indians

President, National Conference of State Historic
Preservation Officers

Ramona Bartos
North Carolina Deputy State
Historic Preservation Officer

Erik Hein
Executive Director,
NCSHPO

General Chairman, National Association of Tribal Historic
Preservation Officers

Shasta Gaughen
Pala Band of Mission Indians
Tribal Historic Preservation
Officers

Chair, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Represented by:

Paul Edmondson
President

OBSERVERS

Preserve America Youth Summits

Ann Alexander Walker
Program Director

President, ACHP Foundation

Katherine Slick
Historic Preservation Consultant

In attendance and participating in the meeting were ACHP Acting Executive Director Reid Nelson; ACHP Office Directors Druscilla Null, Valerie Hauser; Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy at DOI Kate Kelly; Senior Director for Water at CEQ Sara Gonzalez-Rothi; award recipients in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

PROCEEDINGS

Chairman's Welcome

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Vice Chairman Jordan Tannenbaum opened the fall business meeting at 1:30 p.m. The agenda was adopted with a motion by Jay Vogt and second by Reno Franklin. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum appointed Shayla Shrieves recorder of the meeting, and she called

the roll of members for attendance. The minutes of the summer business meeting were adopted with a motion by Shasta Gaughen and second by Luke Nichter.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum congratulated Mr. Franklin on having been elected chairman of his tribe.

Chairman's Report

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum gave an overview of some of his activities since the last business meeting. He said he was pleased to chair the ACHP's first Climate Change and Historic Preservation Task Force meeting on November 19. He represented the ACHP on the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, where the topic of that discussion was focused on preparing for the implementation of the newly signed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

In these meetings, he expressed the ACHP's openness to identifying programmatic approaches to implementing critical infrastructure projects. He vowed to continue to underscore the importance of states, tribes, and federal agencies having resources and the staff capacity to review these projects.

Last Friday, he had the opportunity to represent the ACHP in an interview with C-SPAN. He thanked Ms. Shrieves, Susan Glimcher, and Dr. Nichter for helping him prepare. He said it was about an hour interview, and he spoke about the mission of the ACHP, the role of the public and tribes. He highlighted five Section 106 success stories. He said he thought the interview went very well, and that this should be an opportunity for the ACHP to share with the C-SPAN viewership insight about the ACHP. The interview will air on January 22 on C-SPAN2/American History TV.

In November, he presented the joint ACHP/National Trust Award. That was done by video at the National Trust for Historic Preservation's annual conference. The award went to the Army for its efforts to preserve the Black Officers Club at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, which is one of the last remaining World War II-era Black Officers Clubs in the nation.

Just last week, Vice Chairman Tannenbaum signed the Forest Service nationwide Programmatic Agreement regarding phasing Section 106 activities, along with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO). He said the Forest Service did a terrific job consulting on and developing this agreement. It now stands to align better with the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 planning efforts. He commended ACHP staff members Ana Perez and Chris Daniel for their diligent work on this. He also recognized the important contributions of the Office of Native American Affairs.

Last week, he participated in listening sessions that the ACHP hosted regarding America the Beautiful. Two of the listening sessions were with nontribal stakeholders, and two were for tribal and Native Hawaiian leaders.

ACHP/HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum presented the 2021 ACHP/HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation to the Milwaukee Soldiers Home Project, which repurposed historic buildings into veterans housing. The ACHP's involvement with this project goes back several years. Former Chairman Aimee Jorjani attended the groundbreaking and announced a \$500,000 Save America's Treasures grant from the National Park Service (NPS) at that time. In addition, the project was one of the ACHP's Section 106 success stories.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said Jim Cunningham, HUD Deputy Regional Administrator for the Midwest, will make the presentation to Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett for the Housing Authority of the

City of Milwaukee. Jonathan Beck, Development Project Manager for The Alexander Company, will receive the award, as well.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said the ACHP is grateful to be partnering with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and appreciates HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge's support of historic preservation and how the adaptive reuse of historic buildings into affordable housing helps build positive relationships and aids in revitalization efforts.

Representing Secretary Fudge was Arthur Jemison, HUD Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development. Mr. Jemison thanked the ACHP for the continuing partnership recognizing outstanding projects and the agencies' shared goals for historic preservation, affordable housing, and community revival. Mr. Jemison said veterans homelessness is a critically important issue. HUD is honored to work alongside these organizations all dedicated to ending veteran homelessness and preserving historically important sites. He said underutilized historic buildings are a potential resource for providing affordable housing in cities and rural areas across the country. Rehabilitation of historic buildings is a sustainable way to meet today's needs for affordable housing and community revitalization. He said the project proves that past has a value for our future.

Members then watched a video message from U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin, who has been a long-time proponent of this project. She said it is important to continue to serve those who have served us. We have a shared responsibility to meet the needs of all veterans who have sacrificed for the USA. This is especially true for homeless, at-risk veterans in need of assistance and support. She was proud to work with the many leaders joined here today to support this project and help make it a reality. This project tells an important story about our past, and she was honored to have a part in writing this new chapter, serving veterans and improving their quality of life.

Dr. Nichter continued that he had the privilege to sit on the award jury. Members watched the award video showing the project and the construction. Focus then shifted to the award recipients in Milwaukee. Mr. Cunningham handed an award to Mr. Beck and then to Mayor Barrett.

Mayor Barrett thanked the ACHP and HUD for this incredible award. He said if anyone is looking for an example of a project that brings together the community, that values our history, that pays tribute to our veterans, and shows that government at all levels can work cooperatively, this is the project. It is a tremendous architectural and historic achievement to do what has been done to these buildings.

Mr. Cunningham recognized some of program partners also receiving an award: from VA and the Enhanced-Use Lease Program, Zablocki VA Medical Center Director Dr. Daniel Zomchek. From the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Office, Fernando Escobar, Community Lending Officer. Mr. Cunningham thanked him for the partnership with the State Housing Finance Agency. He also honored HUD Milwaukee Field Office Director Dale Darrow, accepting for the HUD-VASH Voucher Program. He thanked the equity partner from the National Equity Fund, Debbie Burkart, National Vice President. Lastly, he thanked from the HUD Office of Environment and Energy, David Nuccio; from The Alexander Company, Kendra Bishop; from Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, Shreedhar Ranabhat, Manager of Commercial Lending; Renee Oshinski, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations-VHA, and Vicki Brahm, Director of Veterans Integrated Service Network 12.

Finally, from The Alexander Company, President Joe Alexander could not be there in person, but he appeared on video and said this victory is the result of a decade of hard work by multiple government agencies, private businesses, nonprofits, and thousands of individuals. Under the leadership of The Alexander Company as a developer, many partners contributed to make the final deal that saved the Soldiers Home. The result of this collaboration is truly spectacular.

Mr. Alexander said this demonstrates the benefits of historic preservation and its success of public-private partnerships to provide additional, much-needed supportive housing. This serves as proof that strategic partnerships and creative funding cannot just save buildings but tackle homelessness and serve as a national model.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum thanked the ACHP and HUD staff and jurors for their commitment: ACHP Members Dr. Nichter, Rick Gonzalez, and John Frey. For HUD, Federal Preservation Officer Nancy Boone, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary Peter Kahn, and Acting Director Office of Environment and Energy Moriel-Elorm Tchaou.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Reid Nelson shared an update on the status of Professor Sara Bronin's nomination to become the full-time ACHP chairman. On November 18, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reported favorably on her nomination by a vote of 12 to 8. Now, the matter moves to the full Senate. That Senate confirmation seems all but assured given that at least two minority senators voted in favor at the committee. Mr. Nelson indicated the ACHP is now waiting for the vote to be scheduled. After a positive confirmation vote, it will take a couple of weeks to get Professor Bronin on board.

The ACHP recently completed and submitted to the Office of Management Budget (OMB) its draft Equity Action Plan, as required by Executive Order 13985. One proposed component is providing outreach, education, and assistance on how other agencies can better include underserved communities in their Section 106 consultations and other environmental reviews. He said advancing an effective role for those communities in the Section 106 review processes is an important contribution to the President's overall efforts.

Regarding personnel, Chris Koeppel is the new assistant director for federal property management in the Office of Federal Agency Programs. Raina Regan joined the ACHP as the second liaison to NPS, in the Office of Federal Agency Programs. He thanked NPS and the Department of the Interior (DOI) for funding two positions at the ACHP.

The ACHP has made an offer to a candidate to be the government information specialist in the Office of General Counsel. Mr. Nelson said staff is in the midst of interviewing for a new Army liaison and the senior program analyst position in the Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) when Ira Matt vacates that position.

Mr. Nelson has promoted Mr. Matt to be director of ONAA starting at the first of the year. ONAA Director Valerie Hauser announced her retirement effective December 31. Ms. Hauser has been with the ACHP for 32 years. Mr. Nelson said he is both sorry to see his friend go and excited for her in what will be a very enjoyable and a well-deserved retirement. He said everybody who has worked with her throughout her career knows she is determined, thoughtful, creative, and passionate, and always has a voice for the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the federal preservation program. Her achievements and her positive mark in historic preservation will be felt across this country for decades.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum read the ACHP proclamation for Ms. Hauser commending her on her tireless efforts to support historic preservation and her legacy, which will live on through Indian Country and beyond. Chairman Franklin commented that he appreciated Ms. Hauser's honesty through their many years of working together, as well as her friendship. Dr. Gaughen said she appreciated Ms. Hauser's leadership and mentorship, and she is excited for Ms. Hauser that she gets to start this new chapter.

Ms. Hauser said she thought this might be the first time in her entire career she was speechless. She thanked everybody and said she will miss everyone.

Strategic Plan

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said as discussed during the last meeting, it is important to continue to prepare for updating the ACHP strategic plan, which is technically due in February 2022. Given the likelihood that Professor Bronin will be confirmed by the Senate soon, it is important to have it ready for her consideration, so she can make recommendations on how the plan might be updated.

Dru Null explained that after every election, agencies are required to revise their strategic plans so those plans would be in keeping with the priorities of either the new or re-elected President. Agencies are given about a year to do that, with the notion that during that year, their leadership would be put into place. The ACHP is supposed to have a revised strategic plan in to OMB by February 7. She said the ACHP could ask OMB for an extension given that Professor Bronin is not yet onboard.

The current plan was adopted in 2019. It replaced a plan from 2014. Given that the previous plan was from five years earlier, the ACHP undertook a fairly in-depth process of review for updating that plan. In this case, the plan is not so out-of-date. Staff has suggested it may not be necessary to do such an in-depth comprehensive review in order to update it. Staff flagged various points in it where there might be an opportunity for revising certain parts to better address key issues of the current Administration, notably equity, climate change, and further enhancing how the plan addresses the concerns of Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations (NHOs).

Mr. Vogt said there was a great discussion in the Federal Agencies Program Committee, and the members offered comments on the strategic plan and were supportive of the language and emphasis of greater inclusivity and additional specific references to Indian tribes and NHOs. The committee also suggested the findings of the ACHP task forces as sources for additional or refined language. For instance, the Climate Change Task Force might be charged with developing an additional objective focused on climate change. Further, there were suggestions to review the 2015 performance goals, as a source of additional information.

With respect to language about the ACHP's involvement in federal policy and program work, members noted that housing is another aspect of infrastructure highlighted within the Administration's priorities and not in the current strategic plan. Regarding resources, both State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) need additional funding and personnel. The committee also wants to emphasize that the ACHP plays an important role in the America250 Initiative.

Dr. Nichter said Communications, Education, and Outreach Committee members discussed using keywords to call attention to social justice and equity issues that are being addressed in the ACHP's strategic plan. They also agreed to the proposal to add more references to climate change and its effect on historic properties. They thought the Climate Change Task Force might be able to make a suggestion about how that language might look and where it might appear in the plan. In the suggestion about recognition programs, members debated the merits of either adding another award program or looking at other creative ways to recognize good projects around the country. He added that Vice Chairman Tannenbaum asked how the ACHP Foundation can play a role or be listed in the strategic plan.

Ramona Bartos said the Preservation Initiatives Committee had a great discussion, about this issue and also talked about funding for SHPOs and THPOs, especially given the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Erik Hein added that the committee discussed ways to infuse more discussion or points on how to improve support for SHPOs and THPOs in the strategic plan. He suggested going back to the guidance the ACHP developed several years ago when they started exploring this issue well before the infrastructure deluge. He hoped there were some lessons learned that could be incorporated in the strategic plan.

Dr. Gaughen said the Native American Affairs Committee had a useful meeting in terms of discussing the strategic plan updates. They were in agreement with the idea that the Climate Change Task Force should address the specific items on that topic, bearing in mind the impacts on tribal cultural resources. There were suggestions for changing or updating the language for more inclusivity of NHOs and indigenous groups, in general, in addition to federally recognized tribes.

Mr. Vogt noted that something discussed in a couple of different committees was whether an item should go into the strategic plan or be included as a performance goal in the annual work plan. There are different levels of importance of each of those items.

Teresa Pohlman mentioned that the Department of Homeland Security supports inclusion or enhancement of climate adaptation, equity, and environmental justice goals in the updated strategic plan. There has been so much action in these particular fields. She said the ACHP needs to incorporate and get on board with all of these actions of the Administration. Also, while the missions of the federal agencies were mentioned, she would like to see more about the priorities of the federal agencies in the areas of equity and inclusion and environmental justice.

Kevin Bush said HUD also supports a strategic objective on climate. He found it striking that one of the areas listed in a recent report was the islands around Boston Bay which were specifically cited because of the effects of sea level rise and storm surge threatening those islands. He said there is a strong nexus between historic preservation and climate change that would do well to be highlighted in the strategic plan.

Climate Change and Historic Preservation

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum chaired the first Climate Change Task Force meeting in November. The group is beginning with the goal of defining the ACHP's interests and priorities on addressing climate change and historic preservation and charting a course for the agency.

Ms. Null said the group talked about trying to deal with the large issue of climate change and historic preservation by trying to break it down into three main areas, which will help to shape how the discussion goes forward. First, that climate change is damaging historic properties, and that there are issues of the need for adaptation and resilience because of that damage.

Secondly, that renewable energy projects that are being launched in response to climate change have their own ability and potential to affect historic properties and need to be addressed, particularly through the Section 106 process. Then, the fact that historic building reuse and energy retrofitting helps to fight climate change by reusing buildings and making them more energy efficient.

It was also discussed that a cross-cutting issue that needs to factor into the discussion is addressing Native American and NHO concerns in relation to all of these topics. The Task Force discussed the need to recognize that the Native Americans Affairs Committee is developing an action plan to address climate impacts on tribal and Native Hawaiian historic properties.

She said the Task Force agreed on the basic thrust of those three big-picture topics, discussed more about the America the Beautiful initiative, and talked about some of the research that the Office of Preservation Initiatives has been doing on SHPO efforts on developing guidance and planning documents regarding climate change. The task force plans to meet again in January.

America the Beautiful

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum noted that the America the Beautiful initiative is part of the President's Climate Change Executive Order, and addresses the goal to conserve 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030. The ACHP is pleased to serve on the initiative's interagency working group, along with the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), among others.

He invited two guests to speak to the Administration's priorities and goals for America the Beautiful to help members better understand how this initiative is being framed and advanced. The first representative was Kate Kelly, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy at DOI. She said the initiative is large in scope, inspiring, and inclusive. She showed a PowerPoint presentation about the initiative starting with the E.O. on climate change. Federal agencies were called to submit a report about how they could achieve a goal conserving at least 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030.

The E.O. told agencies to work with a number of entities and stakeholders who have an interest in how lands and waters are managed. It directed the agencies to think about what guidelines they would determine for what the definition of conservation is and how to track it. The E.O. calls on the Secretary of the Interior to submit an annual report on tracking progress. They are actively putting the final touches on the first annual progress report. The E.O. calls for a 10-year campaign, and it focuses on locally-led efforts to conserve and restore America's lands and waters.

Ms. Kelly said the report goes out of its way to recognize that there is a continuum of approaches that could be applicable to the America the Beautiful initiative. Organizers recognize that it is going to take many different tools and stakeholders to create the mosaic of conservation and connected lands that they hope to see.

She said they are going to stand up an American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas, which is envisioned as a GIS interactive tool that will better reflect what conservation and restoration efforts are ongoing across American lands and waters. She said there is a committee led by the U.S. Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Department of Agriculture that are knitting together various existing data sets and thinking through how to make those talk together and tell a more complete story of conservation. They are going to kick off a formal public comment period in the new year and host several listening sessions likely in January. She said she would love to get ACHP members' thoughts on how to best reflect cultural sites and sacred sites and other important attributes in a way that is respectful and appropriate for such a tool.

She thanked the ACHP for its engagement throughout this process. In April, the ACHP had reached out to DOI regarding consideration of sacred sites and landscapes as they started to shape America the Beautiful initiative.

Sara Gonzalez-Rothi from CEQ joined the meeting.

Chairman Franklin noted the ACHP has been a supporter of this project for a while. He views it as a way for tribes to protect their lands, waters, and resources. They are so important to Native people. He asked what Ms. Kelly and Ms. Gonzalez-Rothi see as the next steps for the plan, and what the two- or four-year goal is.

Ms. Gonzalez-Rothi said there is a real desire to have locally-led conservation that is meaningful to the communities where the conservation is taking place, and also nationally scaled. She knows that those are on two ends of a spatial spectrum. They are trying to close that gap, bringing the priorities of the local

community up to a national scale and figuring out what to do as the federal family to support and encourage those local-level initiatives.

What they want to build in the next two or four years is a process that drives towards adding acres in conservation, but also sets up a process that will go beyond 30 percent and beyond 2030. She suggested if they start framing it in the lens of things that are good for conservation, and cultural preservation, and access for communities, and telling the stories of where people are and have been, that is all for the good. Any progress above the 30 percent is a good thing.

Ms. Kelly added that the first year was really about turning the page on some of the more concerning actions taken by the previous Administration and restoring protections, along with resetting on some important initiatives. Also, the second part of this year was setting the vision for what is to come and creating a big table for conservation and beyond. The White House Tribal Nations Summit in November was historic, the number of announcements and commitments made on sacred sites, on treaty rights, on co-stewardship. She saw that as an overarching goal of this exercise, to make things enduring.

Katherine Slick said it is exciting to hear them talk about the wealth of landscape resources they are looking at, and the ideas they are coming up with. She thought it was a perfect opportunity for the preservation community to take them up on their offer to fill in some of the blanks. This includes ancestral lands, gathering sites, rural historic districts, and battlefields. There are lots of Rails-to-Trails sites that have been created in local communities that are perfect for interpretation and that offer an opportunity to encourage accessing the natural environment.

Ms. Kelly said a next step would be to have the Atlas working group connect with the ACHP on that question. Ms. Gonzalez-Rothi said interpretation is important on-site. It is important to also make it accessible and virtual so folks can access it from everywhere. They know some of the lands that are conserved are those that most of us will not ever get to. Providing interpretation is essential.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum called on Chairman Franklin to discuss the listening sessions the ACHP hosted surrounding the America the Beautiful initiative. Chairman Franklin said there were two listening sessions for tribal leaders, staff, and NHOs to talk about cultural resources. He said there were a lot of different comments and that some participants expressed concern when they saw the words “science-based” without knowing whether that term was inclusive of tribal knowledge. He said it was great to be able to point out that the initial America the Beautiful report calls out tribal traditional knowledge numerous times.

He said there was a lot of discussion about making sure that conservation is done in the appropriate way, not on the backs of tribes, not on the backs of anybody, but that conservation simply is just that and does not limit tribal or Native Hawaiian people from conducting cultural practices or exercising treaty or reserved rights. Tribes were happy to see the encouragement of these collaborations, and that as the thinking would go forward, to ensure that treaty rights were a part of the process.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said there were two other listening sessions for states, federal agencies, and preservation partners. Some of the items not previously mentioned that people spoke about were the definition of what is meant by conservation and conserving resources. There was discussion about battlefields and cemeteries; what role do local communities play, and their involvement; discussion of land trusts, conservation cooperatives, easements as ways in which to achieve the conservation that is being looked for. There was a lot of talk about the natural landscapes containing cultural resources, and the importance of archaeological resources, the dangers of losing them, and the importance of considering them.

Ms. Null said it is fantastic the ACHP has a seat at the table to be a voice for cultural resources. That is going to be the conduit for the agency to urge consideration of what was heard over these four listening sessions, look for the trends, patterns, and key issues, and boil that down. Particularly, the ACHP should begin talking with the folks who are working on the Atlas. Mr. Nelson acknowledged how incredibly helpful and important these listening sessions were for the ACHP. It is clear there are a lot of partners across the country, voices in preservation who the ACHP can talk to more. He found it was useful to hear those partners. He reiterated that natural resources are culturally significant. When you conserve a natural resource, you are conserving a resource that is also culturally significant to someone.

Legislative Actions

Ms. Bartos said the Preservation Initiatives Committee considered bringing forward several motions regarding three pending bills. After a good discussion, they agreed to table consideration of one of those, the Yes In My Backyard Act. Members would like to have further review, research, and discussion.

She then moved that the ACHP support the Frederick Jobs and Historic Preservation Training Center Land Acquisition Act (S.2367/H.R.4494); and direct the chairman to advise the Congress of this support.

Mr. Vogt seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Bartos then moved that the ACHP direct the chairman to advise Congress regarding the benefits of adding provisions to the Saving Money and Accelerating Repairs Through (SMART) Leasing Act (S.2793) to address historic properties and to offer the ACHP's assistance in exploring this recommendation.

Mr. Franklin seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, the motion passed.

Federal Agency Programs Committee

Mr. Vogt discussed the work of the Program Comment panel and reminded members that the panel was composed of Chairman Franklin, Tony Costa, and himself. After they completed their recommendations, they submitted them to Vice Chairman Tannenbaum who then directed staff to proceed with implementing them. The Federal Agency Programs (FAP) Committee heard about progress a staff working group is making now in revising internal checklists, guidance documents, and training materials to reflect the recommendations of the Program Comment panel.

Staff is drafting materials that can be used in advising federal agencies. They are also working on training courses and identifying other places Section 106 users are introduced to the concept of program alternatives. As part of this effort, in the new year, staff will contact stakeholders who are often involved in Program Comment development to gather suggestions about best practices and examples. They also discussed how information about Program Comments could be complemented by updated information about nationwide Programmatic Agreements and other program alternatives.

Dr. Pohlman said there is action going on with infrastructure; everyone wanting to speed up the process. She said there are seven other federal agencies that are interested in program alternatives, for infrastructure projects. This may be an opportunity for the ACHP to get ahead of it and say there are people we need to talk to and consult with who need to be a part of the process. Maybe it is the ACHP's opportunity to grab hold of the reins and say it is good to streamline the process, but we want to streamline it in such a way that is inclusive and equitable. She suggested taking a measured approach and figuring out exactly how to do that.

Ms. Bartos said NCSHPO is also concerned that perhaps there are already alternatives to the program alternatives. It takes time to develop these program alternatives versus doing some things that are much more proactive. That includes doing the surveys, doing the context, doing all of these things way ahead of time so that we are not scrambling when there is a big infrastructure bill like this. The other thing is helping applicants navigate the system, especially when it is pass-through money. She said people flounder with this because it is difficult. There is a laundry list of things you need to go and find and supply. She said there is a way to get projects done and protect the historic resources.

Mr. Nelson said he recognizes there is benefit in bringing together agencies and others that would have a stake in developing these efficiencies early on to do some strategic planning and thinking. He said he would rather do three or four program alternatives that have broad appeal and benefit to a whole variety of federal agencies than to do one for each that have overlap and substantial repetition in them.

He sees that opportunity and plans early in the new year to bring all Federal Preservation Officers together to start getting their thoughts on where those commonalities and challenges lie, and how the ACHP might develop cross-cutting program alternatives that solve issues or problems for a whole variety of federal agencies.

Ms. Slick said it is nice to be reminded that it is not just the ACHP's responsibility to do this stuff. The agencies and all in the pipeline have a need for this and have responsibilities.

Mr. Vogt continued that the FAP Committee had a good discussion about the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and how the programs included in the law could affect Section 106 workloads. Federal agencies are trying to take stock of what the Act means for their programs in the Section 106 work now. Previous federal emphasis on infrastructure development has resulted in several sectors including transportation, energy, and telecommunications having comprehensive sets of programmatic Section 106 approaches to make reviews more efficient. Agencies are exploring whether existing program alternatives may apply to activities funded under the law, as well as whether new program alternatives may be in order.

He said agencies expressed an interest in pursuing shared solutions where program responsibilities or undertakings are common to more than one agency. The ACHP will attempt to facilitate that by convening a conversation with the Federal Preservation Officers.

Agencies share concerns about capacity and staffing with the SHPOS and THPOs. All agree that qualified professionals will be in high demand to handle the anticipated project volume, and that finding resources and tools to help state and tribal government partners is key. He said, since the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has established a team to help agencies address staffing needs, perhaps the ACHP could reach out to OPM on needs for staffing cultural resources positions.

Another theme emerging was on making sure the grant recipients and those applying for new federal programs, who may be totally unfamiliar with Section 106, have access to information about what the review process requires and how to put together the information needed for a successful review. Training is expected to be another important part of how the ACHP responds to the implementation of this Act.

Native American Affairs Committee

Chairman Franklin discussed the virtual White House Tribal Nations Summit in November. He said lots of tribes participated, and it was nice to see Interior Secretary Deb Haaland addressing the tribes. The ACHP in the past years had a forum, a really good breakout room. He hopes if the summit returns to in-person next year, that there could be a better level of engagement. He said the summit was successful,

though, and the treaty rights MOU and the sacred sites MOU were front and center on the presentation by the Administration.

He said the Native American Affairs Committee discussed the America the Beautiful initiative, as well as the traditional knowledge initiative. He encouraged members to look at the development of guidance on traditional knowledge and its use.

He added that there is a push going on in Indian Country being spearheaded by Secretary Haaland. It is the Federal Indian Boarding Schools Initiative. In 1819 the Civilization Fund Act was passed, and the legacy of that is felt today. There are thousands of Indian children buried in unmarked graves across boarding schools throughout the U.S. He said he would love the ACHP to participate with that DOI initiative and find ways to assist with data collection of any historical records that exist. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said he would support that. He will talk to staff about how the ACHP might move forward including finding resources or to help in any way.

Communications, Education, and Outreach Committee

Dr. Nichter said the committee spent time discussing the C-SPAN interview. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said he was glad to be able to mention five Section 106 Success Stories to really focus in on what the ACHP does and the benefits of Section 106 review. He said it was clear that the interviewer was surprised by what he had to say. He is hoping that he opened the door to more of these sessions, because there is so much more to dig into. He said they began to get into some of the legislation, particularly some of the Native American issues. He thought C-SPAN management was intrigued and hopefully, there will be more interviews to come. He hopes there will be an opportunity for the new chairman, once confirmed, to also talk in a future C-SPAN interview.

Dr. Nichter said typical practice from the time he was a staffer at the network, is C-SPAN is always looking for a lot of programming hours over government recess periods and holiday periods. He said the big takeaway here is this is not an end. This is a beginning, which is the goal.

In the committee he said members spent time talking about how do we take advantage of this first step in this relationship with C-SPAN? The goal is, when there is an immediate need for a preservation expert, when we approach an important commemoration anniversary, when there is an important question in the news or a public policy issue, ACHP members are experts that they will want to turn to.

He said staff can make them available for a variety of C-SPAN television, streaming, radio, podcast platforms, all the various ways that they engage the public. Members also had a conversation about what kinds of experts do we want to make available to C-SPAN. Dr. Nichter said we do not need to wait for them to come to us, we can make a pitch to them when we have good experts, good members that we can pitch to them, especially, when it comes to anniversaries and holidays where C-SPAN is always looking for talent on their platforms.

He asked if members had experience with media promoting preservation work, or experts who are available. The Communications, Education, and Outreach office staff want to be aware of this. They may create an inventory of expertise, and make that available to C-SPAN and to other media platforms.

Dr. Nichter added the committee also spent some time talking about the ACHP's ongoing historic preservation webinar series and is looking forward to a new season. There was an excellent discussion about ideas for upcoming webinars and how to extend the outreach of them in terms of new topics, new experts, and reaching new audiences. Some of the ideas for outreach included contacting campus student organizations and Greek organizations at universities. Also, there were ideas about moving beyond a focus on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Possibly, working with Mr. Matt, and doing

something with Salish Kootenai College, and bringing in experts to speak about topics that might resonate with tribal youth.

ACHP Foundation

Ms. Slick discussed the founding of the foundation, its work and fundraising efforts. She said years ago, when she matriculated off the ACHP, then-Chairman John Nau asked her to design a system to keep past members involved, aware, and engaged in ACHP activities, and the ACHP Foundation was formed.

It is a nonprofit organization chartered in the District of Columbia with an IRS designation of 509 (a)(3). It was created exclusively to work in concert with the ACHP by providing support for the ACHP's program initiatives, professional expertise, and public awareness of its mission. The Foundation's board of directors consists of former ACHP members and staff and current ACHP members. The foundation has been engaged in ACHP activities by being a formal observer on the ACHP. Since its incorporation, the Foundation has supported and participated in activities that expand the reach and capacity of the ACHP official membership and staff. She raises money and disperses funds for the ACHP's purposes and activities, which vary annually depending on the work and the support the ACHP needs. She offered several examples.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum thanked Ms. Slick for her efforts.

Closing Remarks

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said he is floating a couple of mid-March dates for the next business meeting. He is hoping Professor Bronin will be installed by then to be able to set the calendar. Ms. Bartos asked in the chat if the ACHP would resume in-person meetings at some point.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum also thanked Mr. Nelson for all of his assistance and patience. He acknowledged the behind-the-scenes work of Javier Marqués as well. He thanked the entire staff, the best staff ever. He said he loves working with them. He also thanked the ACHP members for their participation, commitment, and dedication. He is pleased with where this agency is and very excited about the potential going forward.

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.