



MEETING
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
March 30, 2022

Meeting via Zoom

Zoom meeting instructions will be sent in a separate email.

In order to join in, please make sure you are registered by following the instructions in the email message.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Call to Order 1:30 p.m. EDT

- I. Vice Chairman's Welcome and Report
- II. Executive Director's Report
- III. ACHP Strategic Plan
- IV. Climate Change and Historic Preservation
 - A. Climate Change Task Force Update
 - B. America the Beautiful
- V. Historic Preservation Policy and Programs
 - A. Legislation
 - B. Other Reports
- VI. Section 106
 - A. Infrastructure and Section 106
 - B. Section 106 Exempted Categories and Exploration of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station Exemption
 - C. Other Reports
- VII. Native American Affairs
 - A. White House Council on Native American Affairs
 - B. Salish Kootenai College Memorandum of Understanding
 - C. Working Effectively with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Governments Training
 - D. Other Reports
- VIII. Communications, Education, and Outreach
 - A. 2022 Webinar Series
 - B. C-SPAN National Outreach
 - C. Other Reports
- IX. New Business
- X. Adjourn



MEETING
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ANNOTATED AGENDA

- I. Vice Chairman's Welcome and Report. *Vice Chairman Jordan Tannenbaum will provide highlights of his recent activities on the ACHP's priorities.*
- II. Executive Director's Report. *Acting Executive Director Reid Nelson will report on the status of President Joe Biden's nomination of Professor Sara Bronin to the position of chairman, personnel and recruitment updates, and the FY2022 and FY2023 budgets.*
- III. ACHP Strategic Plan. *Vice Chairman Tannenbaum will ask Preservation Initiatives Committee Chairman Rick Gonzalez and Office of Preservation Initiatives Director Dru Null to report on changes to the Strategic Plan in response to member input. The vice chairman will then seek member input on finalizing and adopting the plan. Possible action.*
- IV. Climate Change and Historic Preservation
 - A. Climate Change Task Force Update. *Vice Chairman Tannenbaum will provide a summary of the recent Task Force meeting and future plans for addressing key issues relating to climate change and historic preservation. No action.*
 - B. America the Beautiful. *Vice Chairman Tannenbaum and Ms. Null will provide a summary of the ACHP's recent comments to the America the Beautiful Interagency Working Group. No action.*
- V. Historic Preservation Policy and Programs
 - A. Legislation. *Committee Chairman Gonzalez will report on the committee's review and consideration of several bills with historic preservation implications. Possible action.*
 - B. Other Reports. *This will provide an opportunity for additional reports related to historic preservation policy and programs.*
- VI. Section 106
 - A. Infrastructure and Section 106. *Federal Agency Programs Committee Chairman Jay Vogt and Assistant Director Blythe Semmer will provide an update on the ACHP's efforts to address Section 106-related issues arising from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. No action.*
 - B. Section 106 Exempted Categories and Exploration of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station Exemption. *Committee Chairman Vogt and Assistant Director Jaime Loichinger will update the members on the status of efforts to develop an exemption for electric vehicle charging stations. No action.*

- C. Other Reports. *This will provide an opportunity for additional reports related to Section 106.*
- VII. Native American Affairs
- A. White House Council on Native American Affairs. *Native American Affairs Committee Chairman Reno Franklin and Office of Native American Affairs Director Ira Matt will provide a summary of the ACHP's participation in the White House Council on Native American Affairs. No action.*
 - B. Salish Kootenai College Memorandum of Understanding. *Committee Chairman Franklin and Mr. Matt will update the members on efforts to update the existing Memorandum of Understanding with Salish Kootenai College. No action.*
 - C. Working Effectively with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Governments Training. *Committee Chairman Franklin will update the members on efforts to update and expand this training. No action.*
 - D. Other Reports. *This will provide an opportunity for additional reports related to Native American Affairs. No action.*
- VIII. Communications, Education, and Outreach
- A. 2022 Webinar Series. *Communications, Education, and Outreach Committee Chairman Luke Nichter and Office of Communications, Education, and Outreach Director Susan Glimcher will update the members on plans for its FY2022 webinar series and seek member input on its expansion. No action.*
 - B. C-SPAN National Outreach. *Committee Chairman Nichter will summarize and solicit member input on the ACHP's efforts to pursue further media opportunities with C-SPAN. No action.*
 - C. Other Reports. *This will provide an opportunity for additional reports on communications, education, and outreach issues.*
- IX. New Business. *There is none at this time.*
- X. Adjourn. *The meeting will adjourn by 4 p.m. EDT.*



MINUTES

SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

MARCH 30, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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- X. Adjourn

IN ATTENDANCE

Jordan Tannenbaum, Vice Chairman
John Finley
John Frey
Rick Gonzalez
Luke Nichter
Jay Vogt

Architect of the Capitol

Secretary of Agriculture

Administrator, General Services Administration

Secretary of Homeland Security

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Secretary of the Interior

Secretary of Transportation

Secretary of Veterans Affairs

J. Brett Blanton

Represented by:

Sandra Watts
Acting Associate
Deputy Chief for the
National Forest System
USDA Forest Service

Represented by:

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

Represented by:

Tom Chaleki
Chief Readiness
Support Officer

Teresa Pohlman
Director, Sustainability
and Environmental
Programs

Represented by:

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

Represented by:

Michael Brennan
Executive Director,
Office of Construction
and Facilities
Management

Mayor Member

Hon. Robert Simison
Meridian, Idaho

Indian Tribe Member

Hon. Reno Keoni Franklin
Chairman, Kashia Band of
Pomo Indians

President, National Conference of State Historic
Preservation Officers

Ramona Bartos
North Carolina Deputy State
Historic Preservation Officer

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

Elizabeth Merritt
Deputy General
Counsel

OBSERVERS

Chair, National Alliance of Preservation Commissions

Paula Mohr
Principal, Bentonsport
Preservation, LLC (Iowa)

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, Ira Matt, Javier Marques; and Office of Federal Agency Programs Assistant Directors Jaime Loichinger and Blythe Semmer.

PROCEEDINGS

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Vice Chairman Jordan Tannenbaum called the spring business meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. March 30, 2022. He appointed Shayla Shrieves recorder for the meeting, and she called the roll of members present. The agenda was adopted with a motion by John Finley and second by Reno Franklin. The minutes from the December business meeting were adopted with a motion by Beth Savage and second by Jay Vogt.

Vice Chairman's Welcome

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum gave an overview of what he has been doing since the last business meeting while performing the duties of chairman. He continues to chair the Climate Change Task Force. The most recent meeting was March 23, and he noted the engagement of members is terrific. He also participated in a number of tribal listening sessions with leaders from Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations

(NHOs) to get input on the ACHP's action plan addressing the impacts of climate change on sites that are important to them.

He represented the ACHP in the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC). He is using his participation in this group to advocate for more support for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) on infrastructure reviews. He also attended the America the Beautiful Interagency Working Group meeting and was able to share feedback from listening sessions on America the Beautiful that the ACHP hosted in December.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Reid Nelson said Vice Chairman Tannenbaum is doing nearly a full-time chairman's level of work as a part-time, acting chairman. He appreciates the vice chairman's leadership. He noted that Professor Sara Bronin was reported out favorably for a second time by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, regarding the President's nomination of her to be the ACHP chairman. It was then referred again to the full Senate. It is unknown when the full Senate will vote on her nomination.

Mr. Nelson then introduced four new employees at the ACHP hired since the last business meeting. Megan Borthwick joined the ACHP two days previously as the new liaison to the Army. Raine Blanks joined the Office of General Counsel at the end of January as the new government information specialist. Jamie Lee Marks recently joined the Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) as a senior program analyst, and Ahwahnee Williams, a former ACHP intern, has been hired in ONAA as the Native American Program assistant.

Mr. Nelson mentioned the ACHP received 114 applications for the FY 2022 summer internship program, by far the highest number ever. The agency will be hosting six paid summer interns, three full time and three half time. An analysis of the applications suggests that there was a significant increase in the diversity of applicants due in part to broadened outreach efforts. As in previous years, one of the interns will be from Salish Kootenai College (SKC). He thanked the ACHP Foundation for its support of this program. He added the agency hopes to continue to host one-week "externs" from Rutgers University in the Office of Communications, Education, and Outreach.

Regarding the FY 2022 appropriations, the ACHP just received its full appropriation for FY 2022. Receiving those full appropriations allows the agency to do a number of things that Mr. Nelson has been waiting to do for some time, including being able to begin implementing desperately needed IT upgrades and cyber security upgrades, as well as adding one more position to the Office of Federal Agency Programs (OFAP)—a digital operations coordinator. That will be a full-time, permanent position in OFAP that will work to improve electronic Section 106 procedures, both within the ACHP and working with external partners, states, tribes, and others. He noted that the FY 2023 budget justification is posted on the ACHP website. It calls for a four percent increase over this year's funding. Should Congress fund it at the level requested, it will allow the ACHP to add another position—an equity officer. He said it is an important position that he thinks will be instrumental in helping the agency address equity and diversity issues, both internal to the ACHP but also working externally with outreach, education, and assistance to help others, particularly those carrying out Section 106 reviews. The person will make sure information is reaching underserved communities and environmental justice communities, and that Section 106 consultation and general outreach is as broad and as inclusive as possible.

Strategic Plan

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said the strategic plan technically was due in February, but the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) gave some leeway because the ACHP is still waiting for the full-time chairman and because the strategic plan was updated just a couple of years ago. He said the committees looked at the plan and made some suggested edits that they felt might be necessary.

Rick Gonzalez said the Preservation Initiatives (PI) Committee reviewed the proposed edits to the revised strategic plan. They address several preservation-related issues and three key areas of focus of the Biden Administration: equity, the interests of Indian tribes and Native Hawaiians, and climate change. Dru Null gave an overview of the changes. There is a new proposed strategic objective in Section III of the plan. It addresses the fact that the ACHP's awards and recognition programs were not mentioned in the plan and offered an additional suggestion on how to add that. It also emphasizes that engaging more diverse audiences and underserved communities through the recognition programs is a strategic objective.

Other proposed edits include adding a reference to Traditional Knowledge (TK) and acknowledging tribal and Native Hawaiian interest in traditional cultural places and sacred sites. A statement also has been added that the ACHP participates in the White House Council on Native American Affairs.

Regarding climate change, there is a new proposed strategic objective in Section IV in the context of preservation policy. This will enhance the climate change aspects of the plan and also recognize that the Climate Change and Historic Preservation Task Force is going to be looking broadly at climate issues. Ms. Null said other proposed edits include a reference to affordable housing as a key issue, that the ACHP would be advising Congress on federal funding for SHPOs and THPOs, and a reference to America 250.

Mr. Gonzalez reported there was a general consensus in the PI Committee in support of the recommended changes. However, there was a discussion regarding further editing the plan to acknowledge that work with federal agencies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Section 106 must include input from SHPOs and THPOs. Ms. Null shared an image showing a newly proposed edit that would address this issue.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said that since it is unknown when Professor Bronin is going to be confirmed, he is inclined to finalize and adopt the plan under his authority as the acting chairman. If Professor Bronin has ideas for further revision once she starts working, the plan can always be amended and updated.

Chairman Franklin made a motion to approve the strategic plan, and Shasta Gaughen seconded it. It passed via a unanimous voice vote.

Climate Change and Historic Preservation

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum said there have been several important and productive meetings since December. He thanked Chairman Franklin for his leadership on this topic. Chairman Franklin recounted that on the White House Council on Native American Affairs call there were numerous tribes in attendance. The feedback received included the fact that the tribes and NHOs felt there was a lack of agency-level planning and resource allocation. There were questions around data acquisition and confidentiality, discussion of Freedom of Information Act requests, and data breaches. There are management issues and general concerns. He noted there are times where for some projects, tribes are consulted later in the process than they want to be. There was a lack of consistency among federal agencies when they are consulting.

Native Hawaiians seem to be concerned as climate changes are raising the sea levels, and their seawalls have to go up. Chairman Franklin is concerned about what that process looks like for them. Climate change is a big issue in Indian Country. As wildfires and erosion happen, plant and animal communities are affected. He said the funding for emergency response question keeps coming up in the field of historic preservation. There are concerns around what the funding looks like for GIS and mapping. The discussions continue to go on regarding TK and how to incorporate those into climate change responses. How we can incorporate the words of our traditional practitioners when we need to do projects that are related to climate resiliency, he pondered.

Ms. Null said the Climate Change Task Force has met three times already and will convene again in May. She noted a couple of highlights from recent meetings including a discussion of the potential implications for historic properties in Executive Order 14057, “Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs through Federal Sustainability.” The Task Force wanted to take a look at that because one of the goals of the EO is net zero emissions from federal buildings, campuses, and installations. The Task Force also considered the issue of staffing capacity in light of the upcoming influx of projects that are going to result from the infrastructure bill. It is going to be difficult for states and tribes to handle the influx. Members are concerned about the impact on climate-related projects that are dealing with climate change, but also, the tsunami of infrastructure projects that might be involved with clean energy production and the impacts that those could have on historic properties.

There was a lot of discussion about the need for training and guidance. The ACHP needs to decide in what ways it can help contribute to making the federal workforce more climate-literate in terms of historic properties and help other stakeholders.

America the Beautiful

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum noted that the America the Beautiful Interagency Working Group is chaired by the secretaries of the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce, and the chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. He gave an overview of what he shared with the group regarding the results of the ACHP listening sessions in December. He stressed that natural landscapes are cultural landscapes. He talked about wilderness areas and some of the issues that challenge access to cultural resources, particularly sacred sites.

He said the group might have been surprised also by some of the historic property types that he mentioned that could be grouped into the whole area of conservation. These include urban-suburban parks, battlefields, working farms, and linear features such as canals and trails. Then he talked about the impact on archaeological resources from permafrost melt, erosion, wildfire. He said they grappled with the whole definition of conservation, and where cultural resources properly fit in that definition. He discussed the importance of addressing protection of these resources in the context of developing the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas, which will be used in measuring success toward America the Beautiful’s goal of conserving 30 percent of America’s lands and waters by 2030.

Ms. Null said the ACHP is a member of the Interagency Working Group’s Collaborative Conservation and Engagement Committee. She said the Atlas will be a GIS-based digital tool. Earlier this month, in response to a request for information from the Department of the Interior on the creation of the Atlas, the ACHP developed comments based principally on what was heard in the December listening sessions and submitted them to the group.

One of the key suggestions was that they should be looking at the Historic American Landscape Survey; National Register; and the inventories of federal agencies, tribes, states, and local communities because of the amount of digital information about historic properties that are associated with natural resources. Properties that have natural resources associated with them should be considered for inclusion in the Atlas as conserved natural areas because of the level of protection that listing in inventories gives them.

John Frey raised the idea of the Preserve America Communities program being restored. He said recognizing individual communities gives the ACHP an opportunity to raise the awareness and importance of preservation. He gave examples from his town of Ridgefield, Connecticut, that is historic but citizens did not know about Preserve America. Ms. Null responded that the Preserve America program has not disappeared from the website but is more or less on hiatus. It was structured to be dependent upon participation by the White House, which was both its strength and its weakness. There may be ways to reinvent it once the new chairman is confirmed; perhaps it could be reinvigorated to meet the current challenges and focus on some of the issues that the Administration is interested in.

Mr. Frey said it would be great if it could be decoupled from the White House. There are so many positives to this including using it as an economic driver, bringing people to the communities. He said it could probably be a standalone outside of whether an Administration actively supports it.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum agreed that it is a good thing to not lose sight of, and perhaps Preserve America can be resuscitated in the future. Ann Walker posted in the chat that she fully supports reinstating the Preserve America Communities program. Ramona Bartos posted in the chat that perhaps the America 250 group would be interested in taking up this mantle and asked if anyone had reached out to them. She added if it is decoupled from an Administration, perhaps a municipal organization would want to become involved.

Legislation

At this time Brett Blanton left the meeting. Mr. Gonzalez said the PI Committee considered two pending bills in Congress. He made the following motion: that the ACHP supports the Historic Preservation Enhancement Act, H.R. 6589, and directs the chairman to advise the Congress of this support. Chairman Franklin seconded it. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed with 11 ayes.

Mr. Gonzalez then read the second motion: that the ACHP supports the Semiquincentennial Commemorative Coin Act (S. 2384, H.R. 4429); recommends that the term “related areas” be defined in the bill; and directs the chairman to so advise the Congress.

Mr. Finley moved the motion, and Mr. Frey seconded it. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed with 11 ayes.

Mr. Gonzalez added that there was discussion in the committee about the situation in Ukraine and not only the death of so many innocent people, but the destruction of so much historical heritage in the country. He said there are many good people doing good things for the people of Ukraine, but the ACHP needs to do its part. He suggested the agency send a message, write a letter, or do something to say that American historic preservation groups stand firmly, and ask for an immediate stop of the destruction of all the historic places. If enough people get involved, eventually, hopefully, enough pressure will get something to happen. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum expressed his support for Mr. Gonzalez’s idea. He mentioned at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum they have a fund set up that includes providing stipends for Ukrainian scholars who are studying all over the world and to keep them funded. He said the Smithsonian Institution has issued a statement in this regard. He asked for member discussion.

Ms. Bartos supported Mr. Gonzalez’s comments and said it would be good to reach out to state professionals who have counterparts in Ukraine and Syria who are willing to offer support. Chairman Franklin said this issue was complicated for his tribe, since they have a treaty with Russia. He said the relationship between his tribe and Russia must be celebrated in a respectful way. But at the same time, it needs to be clear that his tribe does not condone the behavior that Russia is displaying right now. He said he is in full support of making some kind of a statement that addresses the history of an entire country, of an entire portion of a continent that is being destroyed, intentionally, in some places.

Mr. Finley suggested having a statement that the ACHP deplores what is going on, in terms of the cultural destruction. He cautioned that the agency be careful with the language, in terms of what we know, as opposed to what we fear. He suggested talking to people at the Smithsonian or UNESCO or the Holocaust Museum and get some information as to what has actually been damaged and then be able to communicate that to opinion leaders.

Mr. Nelson responded that he will work with staff to gather as much information about clear and direct damages as he can. They have already reached out to colleagues in other organizations and are getting

some information about World Heritage Sites that have been damaged. Mr. Gonzalez suggested checking on Google Maps to help in research.

Mr. Finley cautioned to be careful using the term “cultural genocide,” since that is a specific intent crime. He suggested something like cultural destruction. Luke Nichter said a number of history and history-related organizations have recently teamed up on a statement. Perhaps that might help as a guide or a model to use. Robert Simison said he is the mayor of a newer city, and history is created every day. What was once there today is the history that is going to be important in 100, 200, or 300 years. It all has value and matters.

Dr. Gaughen said in the anthropology field they teach that the physical literal destruction of the people is genocide. The destruction of a people’s culture is ethnocide. She said it is worth being strong in the language when the ACHP talks about what is happening in Ukraine. Katherine Slick suggested reaching out to the International Council on Monuments and Sites and UNESCO who will have a strong presence and position on that, as well as US/ICOMOS and the Blue Shield. She said what you see after disasters like this is the need for professionals, and sometimes just workers to come in and help restore buildings. Vice Chairman Tannenbaum directed staff to draft a statement of concern and then share it with him and members before issuing it.

Section 106

At this time Paul Edmondson left the meeting and Elizabeth Merritt took his place. Mr. Vogt said the Federal Agency Programs (FAP) Committee discussed the ACHP’s ongoing efforts to respond to Section 106 capacity concerns raised by a potential wave of new infrastructure projects. The Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act is going to require a lot of federal expenditures to do some of that work. Members noted that some federal agencies, particularly the Federal Highway Administration, have used their specific authorities to supplement staff capacity at SHPOs. These partnerships have been successful in the past. The ACHP issued *Guidance on Assistance to Consulting Parties in the Section 106 Review Process* in 2018, and the staff will consider how to raise awareness about this guidance so it can be put to better use with federal agency partners. A related concern is how to find qualified professionals for preservation positions, even if agencies or others can fund them. Members recommended that the ACHP give attention to recruitment and identifying qualified professionals. Temporary or intern positions could help attract new professionals to preservation careers; apprenticeship programs could transfer skills in a way that academic course work does not. Remote work options could also broaden the pool of applicants for some positions.

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum then addressed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that includes a significant investment in electric vehicle charging stations to serve the federal fleet. He said it is important to work with agencies on finding effective ways for them to meet their Section 106 responsibilities regarding the construction of those charging stations.

Mr. Vogt said the FAP Committee heard about an emerging effort to develop an exempted category, a program alternative that was last issued by the ACHP in 2005, for electric vehicle supply equipment. The committee heard about how exemptions are used in the Section 106 process and what criteria apply to their development. Jaime Loichinger said the ACHP is leading the effort with assistance from a working group of several agencies, including the Departments of Homeland Security, Defense, Veterans Affairs (VA), and Transportation; General Services Administration; and the Army Corps of Engineers. They are working to draft the exemption, making sure to cover undertakings relating to charging stations that would result in no effect or no adverse effect to historic properties. The focus is on charging stations that are for passenger vehicles, not for buses or larger fleets, and would rely on existing facilities, adding them into places that already have the infrastructure for it. Ms. Loichinger said because the ACHP is going to use its authority to propose this exemption on its own, the ACHP is responsible for conducting the

required consultation. This will also demonstrate what level of consultation is appropriate for an exempted category, should other agencies want to develop their own exempted category in the future.

Mr. Vogt added that agencies highlighted the reversibility and temporary nature of electric vehicle charging facilities as something that makes them suited for an exemption given the rapid evolution of the technology. Members highlighted the need to involve and inform the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and local governments, who may also have a particular interest in these facilities if they are also subject to local reviews. Staff will keep the FAP Committee and membership informed about the development of this exemption and accompanying guidance.

Mr. Vogt also noted the committee heard a brief presentation from the Department of Defense regarding the Army's efforts to develop a program comment for Vietnam War-era housing. A series of consultation meetings with stakeholders is underway, and the Army hopes to submit a formal request for program comment by August. ACHP member input and engagement on such issues is important.

Also, the Department of Veterans Affairs brought to the committee's attention the release of a recent report evaluating the VA's healthcare infrastructure. The Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) report was made available to the public on March 14.

Michael Brennan said it is important to let the membership know what is really just getting started. He gave an overview of the report noting over the past couple years, there have been market area studies that have been looking at the services and benefits provided in VA legacy healthcare facilities across the entirety of the VA in relationship to what the demand is from the veteran populations and what the trends are for the next 20 years. Many ideas are on the table including growing in place, resizing, pulling out some of the services and relocating them locally to be more community-centered care, replacing an entire medical center at a new site or a new location. There is a whole gamut of potential options that are being considered that will ultimately be made in formal recommendations.

Dr. Brennan said AIR is about aligning the benefits and services to where the veterans are. There will be some efficiencies that will be brought along the way in this process, but they have to look at all options of how they have physical infrastructure solutions to meet the services not just now, but where the trends are going in the future. Generally, the trends are moving south and southwest. A lot of the legacy facilities are in the northeast. There will certainly be impact for many historic campuses and facilities out there and finding out what the best way to approach that is. He said the VA will want the help of the ACHP in whatever way it can to navigate what will likely be contentious discussion for lots of reasons. Not necessarily historic preservation, but for other political reasons as VA moves forward into implementation in the coming years and decades.

Native American Affairs

At this time, Mr. Blanton returned to the meeting. Chairman Franklin said ONAA has been active with the White House Council on Native American Affairs. Ira Matt added that one of the reasons the ACHP likes to be involved with the White House Council is that it provides the opportunity to elevate the voice of cultural resources and make sure they are being considered in all levels of government.

Mr. Matt said the ACHP has an action plan specific to tribes and Native Hawaiians. It began in 2020 regarding the intersection of emergency response in disasters with places important to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiians. Subsequent to that effort, President Biden issued an EO on the climate crisis. The ACHP initiated its task force and developed its broader climate adaptation plan. The White House Council developed its climate adaptation subcommittee. As a result of that, the tribal and Native Hawaiian action plan grew to address climate change. It also started to make space to coordinate with the task force and with the climate adaptation subcommittee.

He said the ACHP is working to incorporate consideration of tribal treaty and reserved rights into these plans and the consideration of TK. Chairman Franklin said one of the highlighted areas where the ACHP has engaged with tribes and agencies on sacred site protection is through the sacred sites memorandum of understanding (MOU). He said it is a good step that the White House Council has taken leadership of the workgroup as well and is making sure that the right people were there at the table and finding better ways to implement that MOU.

He said the ACHP had the opportunity to participate in the White House Council sacred sites listening session. It was a good listening session and was packed with tribes and Native Hawaiian leaders. He reported on the different feedback from that meeting regarding early consultation, confidentiality, TK, and better training for federal staff on how to implement the MOU.

Chairman Franklin then gave an overview of the MOU with SKC. The ACHP signed a three-year MOU with the college and the ACHP Foundation. It is time to look at that MOU and see what to do next. He said it has been so successful and there is something to build off of. Mr. Matt noted that the ACHP went to field schools with the college and had a lot of in-person discussions in the classes, and had discussions including the ACHP leadership. He said new ideas include mentoring students incorporating the ACHP members, both past and present, in ways that their expertise can benefit the students.

Chairman Franklin concluded with an update on the “Working Effectively with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Communities” training. It was launched in 2008, updated in 2017, and now is renewed and live online. He commended Bill Dancing Feather for managing the training and its production. The course is designed to help federal employees develop an understanding and awareness of tribal issues, the unique status of American Indian tribes, and their historic relationship with the federal government, and the federal responsibilities to Indian tribes. It is available to the general public and is free of charge.

Mr. Nelson noted that all ACHP staff members are required to take the revised course. He also urged agencies and other organizations to think about committing their staff to taking it as well.

Communications, Education, and Outreach

Dr. Nichter said the committee’s discussion came up with a lot of excellent ideas for the webinars for next year. One of these was adding a different focus to reach out beyond college age students to high school and middle school students. Members suggested the National History Day contacts, organizations of homeschoolers, statewide preservation commissions and landmarks commissions, honors and gifted classes, among others to get the word out. Caroline Henry spoke about the history department at the NHL-listed school, Cranbrook, where her husband teaches in Michigan. The school has incorporated a course on historic preservation, and the ACHP will be working with her to create some kind of a pilot program to reach high schoolers. She added that the ACHP’s broad perspective that preservation is more than beautiful historic buildings would be great exposure for the students.

Dr. Nichter said members also like the idea of the ACHP providing curriculum or giving input on curriculum for classes on preservation at other kinds of schools. The idea came up about getting partners together for a forum on historic preservation education.

He said that he reminded members during the committee meeting about his suggestion to build upon the experience of Vice Chairman Tannenbaum’s C-SPAN interview in December by pitching another show idea to C-SPAN. This time he suggested looking at the potential of a viewer call-in program, which C-SPAN has really become known for over its 40 years.

Members expressed support for the idea of having the new chairman be the focus of the program whenever she is confirmed. Also they discussed the idea of potentially not just a single expert on camera,

but perhaps a panel of experts as part of the call-in show. Ms. Walker suggested getting students involved in the panel. Dr. Nichter said C-SPAN likes to feature students because producers love the energy and enthusiasm of young people who do this out of passion and interest.

New Business

Vice Chairman Tannenbaum thanked the staff and ACHP members for all of their hard work and participation.

He noted the next business meetings are June 29 and October 26. The committee meetings take place the two days before each business meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.