**Meeting October 15, 2019**

Present: Commissioners

Amy Berglund, at-large

Karin Cooper, Houghton County

Dave Geisler, Village of Calumet

Bob Langseth, Calumet Township

Larry Lankton, at-large

John Sullivan, Quincy and Franklin Townships

Absent: Scott MacInnes, State of Michigan

Present: Executive Director

Sean Gohman

Present: National Park Service

Wendy Davis, Superintendent

Present: Recording Secretary

John Arnold

Present: Guests

Judy Albee

Steve Albee, Former Commissioner

Anita Campbell, Keweenaw County Historical Society

Paul Campbell

Lindsay Hiltunen, Archivist, Michigan Tech Archives

Brian Hoduski, Chief of Museum Services, Keweenaw National Historical Park

Nancy Malloy, Keweenaw County Historical Society

Scott See, Former Executive Director, KNHP Advisory Commission

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was called

to order at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at the Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in

Calumet, Michigan.

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Larry Lankton and seconded by Amy Berglund to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (6/0).

**Approval of Minutes of August 19, 2019**

Moved by John Sullivan and seconded by Karin Cooper to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (6/0).

**Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director Sean Gohman reported on how the goals of the Advisory Commission were

supported during the quarter.

**Advise the National Park Service at Keweenaw National Historical Park on park planning,**

**preservation, interpretation, and operational matters.**

Gohman reported that the Commission sent a letter to the Michigan Department of

Transportation (MDOT) requesting improvements to the Quincy Hill turnout on US-41,

specifically tree removal and/or trimming to enhance the visibility of Portage Lake and the sites

of interest shown on its interpretive signage.

**Develop the Keweenaw Heritage Sites Program into a consortium of fully sustainable sites.**

Gohman reported that much of his time during his two months’ tenure as Executive Director of

the Advisory Commission has been dedicated to meeting those involved in historic preservation

and interpretation in the area, not only by way of introduction, but to learn of the differing ways

the Heritage Sites organize and operate.

The Advisory Commission will be holding the fall Heritage Site Meeting on Wednesday,

October 23rd, with strong attendance anticipated. Heritage Sites will present their reports in the

morning, and the afternoon will feature a workshop on “non-personal interpretive services” (self-guided tours) and the Park’s education programs presented by KNHP Chief of Interpretation and

Education Kathleen Harter and Katie Keller, Education Technician. Additionally, Heritage Sites

will be notified of the availability of upcoming Travel Grants, slated for award early 2020.

**Develop partnerships that provide visitors with a cohesive, accessible, and engaging**

**national park experience along the entire length of the Keweenaw.**

Gohman reported that the Advisory Commission is still awaiting results from the Phase I

Environmental Site Assessment conducted spring of this year at Quincy Smelter. The NPS

Midwest Regional Office initiated the report, and the document will help inform discussions

about the possible transfer of the smelter property to the NPS.

Earlier this month, representatives from Senator Peters’ office, along with other local

stakeholders, visited the Quincy Smelter as part of ongoing discussions to move Isle Royale

National Park’s headquarters to the eastern half of the smelter property. The Commission is

committed to, and excited about, exploring any and all options that will increase the visibility

and visitation at the smelter.

In response to people operating motorized vehicles on the piles, signs have recently been

installed at three locations around the Quincy Smelter’s northern slag pile, notifying visitors to

stay off of the piles.

Finally, in the coming weeks, two projects will be undertaken in to address maintenance and

safety issues at the smelter: leaks in the roof of the Machine Shop will be addressed, and a failing

second floor support beam in the Mineral House will be repaired.

**Promote a historic preservation ethic and emphasize heritage awareness.**

The 13th annual Heritage Grant Program will be announced in December; this year, the

Commission expects to offer $125,000 in grants.

**Develop the Commission into a sustainable operating organization.**

Gohman announced that the Commission is currently working with Senator Gary Peters’ office

to draft language for an upcoming bill that will include a request for an increase in the Advisory

Commission’s yearly authorization. If passed, this would dramatically enhance the

Commission’s ability to meet its mission, and potentially provide funds that could be directed to

projects involving historic preservation, interpretation, education and research, and

organizational stability.

As was reported last quarter, six of the seven Commissioners are serving on expired

appointments, as the Secretary of the Interior has yet to reply regarding reappointments or

replacements.

Finally, Gohamn thanked the commissioners, heritage partners, staff of Keweenaw NHP, and his

predecessor Scott See, for their kind assistance in learning the role of Executive Director of the

Advisory Commission.

**Commission Committees and Projects**

**Announcements / Executive**

None.

**Budget / Finance**

John Sullivan reported that the Commission has reviewed the proposed budget for FY20 with an

income of $387,350.00 and expenses of $398,700.00, and the difference of $11,350.00 covered

by the fund balance. The projected fund balance at the end of FY20 is $70,339.00.

Moved by Sullivan and seconded by Amy Berglund to approve the proposed budget. Motion

carried unanimously. (6/0).

Sullivan further reported that the Commission has reviewed the financial statements and

quarterly bills, from August 20, 2019 to October 15, 2019.

Moved by Sullivan and seconded by Cooper to approve bills in the amount of $5,494.86, plus

wages and tax payments of $12,864.68 for $18,359.54 total. Motion carried unanimously.

(6/0).

**Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Wendy Davis provided an overview of recent news and summaries of key

accomplishments of the various park divisions.

Davis began by reporting that the primary project underway for park staff is planning for the

rehabilitation of the C&H Warehouse #1 into the multipark curatorial facility (the consolidated

Lake Superior Collection Management Center, or LSCMC). Heritage sites and the general public

will be invited to participate in the planning process in the spring.

KNHP is in conversation with the NPS Abandoned Mineral Lands (AML) program regarding

potential work on stabilizing historic structures in the area. The park has applied for a data entry

intern to log park and partner resources into the AML database to enable eligibility for projects,

and it is anticipated that this will take place this fall. In the spring, AML is planning to send an

assessment crew to review and evaluate initial projects to receive stabilization work, bearing in

mind the program’s goals of public safety and historic preservation.

Davis reported that visitation is significantly increased this year over last at this time, and credits

in particular the popular and successful Jacob Riis exhibit for this positive change. Student

visitorship, historically around 1000 annually, approached 3000 this year; the park is exploring

options for future autumn exhibits that will provide similar opportunities for area teachers.

Sales at the Visitor Center have increased 38%, due in part to the expanded KNHP-themed and

local offerings provided by the concessionaire, the Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association

(IRKPA).

**Other reports from Commissioners**

Commissioner Berglund, absent at the last quarterly meeting, took the opportunity to thank prior

Executive Director Scott See for his years of service and commitment to the cause, and

welcomed Gohman to his new role.

Commissioner Langseth emphasized the importance of signage to the recognition of the KNHP

by visitors, and stressing the national significance of the site, urged the park and the commission

to work together to develop means to enhance visibility of the park to those that may not be

sufficiently aware of it.

Commissioner Lankton echoed Langseth’s concerns, and underscored the importance of

attracting in particular those visitors already in the area, alerting them to the presence of the park.

Commissioner Geisler reported theat there are three proposals for funding through the

Redevelopment Ready Community program to rewrite the Village of Calumet’s Downtown

Development Authority plan, the Tax Increment Financing district plan, and the zoning

ordinance, all of which are due or past due for updates. Geisler also noted that the park

headquarters hosted a public participation forum to invite opinion on the development of a

holistic Calumet-area trails program, emphasizing increased connectivity and access to

businesses and services within the community.

**Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff**

Nothing to report.

**Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives**

Nancy Malloy, Keweenaw County Heritage Socienty, also reported an increase in visitiation this

year. Malloy thanked the Commission for this year’s Heritage Grant, which funded the

successful repainting of the Phoenix church, and thanked Commissioner John Sullivan for his

assistance in preparing a grant application to the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program.

Lindsay Hiltunen, Michigan Tech Archivist, reported that the Hertiage Grant-funded Copper

Range Railroad traveling exhibit is touring a wide range of area heritage sites, and will be at the

Portage Lake District Library later this month, followed by the Carnegie Museum of the

Keweenaw. Hiltunen also reported that the MTU Archives, in collaboration with Northern

Michigan Universtiy Archives, has been awarded a National Historical Publications and Records

Commission (NHPRC) grant to conduct initial planning for an upper peninsula digital

preservation hub. For this project, area universities collaborate with local heritage sites to help

digitize the collections of the smaller institutions that don’t possess the capacity to do so

themselves. The next phase of this effort is to apply for an implementation grant from the

NHPRC. Finally, the MTU Archives travel grant recipient, a fine arts graduate student at NMU,

will be presenting on her work, which is related to copper country history, on November 1st at 4

p.m. in the MTU Library’s east reading room.

Anita and Paul Campell and Judy Albee also opined that the presence of the park should be

emphasized, as they have met many visitors who are surprisingly unaware of its existence.

**Comments from the Public**

Brian Hoduski reported that the Michigan Museum Association and the Association of Midwest

Museums hosted a joint conference in Grand Rapids at the beginning of the month. Park

Archivist Jeremiah Mason and others presented a panel to discuss the Houghton County

Historical Society’s response and recovery to last year’s devastating floods; Mason reported that

the presentation was well-attended and well-received.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn by Sullivan, and seconded by Berglund at 1:39 p.m. Motion carried

unanimously. (6/0).

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, January 21, 2020.