

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES

Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday May 31, 2012
Bldg. # 1, Route 12 County Complex, Raritan Twp., NJ

Present: Stephanie B. Stevens, Frank Curcio, James Davidson, Beverly Drake, Janet Hunt, Lora Jones, John Kuhl, Christopher Pickell, Elizabeth Rice

Absent: Freeholder Liaison George Melick

Staff Present: Kevin Richardson, Rick Steffey

O.P.M.A.

At **9:36 a.m.** Chairman Stevens declared the meeting open and duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

I. APPROVAL OF April 26, 2012 MINUTES

(Jim Davidson made a motion to approve the minutes)

Corrections\Additions: Chair Stevens addressed the correct spelling of her last name (Stevens not Stephens) and that of Kids Kulture; she also requested the minutes be changed (under NJ HC) to indicate "on the history long-range plan" (instead of long-range plan) to be more definitive.

A motion to approve was made by Beth Rice, 2nd Jim Davidson; Motion Carried.

II. GRANT REPORTS

NJSCA (New Jersey State Council on the Arts)

Staff (Rick) reported on the NJSCA long term plan update and indicated it is not due until the end of the year. Staff indicated they have recently spoke with NJSCA about various projects, programs, and plans that they have seen and like and will be gathering information from different organizations to see how they assemble their plans. A more comprehensive report will be discussed at the next meeting.

NJHC (New Jersey Historical Commission)

Long-term plan; final report. Staff (Kevin) reported on the Final Report, which is due to the NJHC on July 31 (sic), it is due on the 30th. Staff also noted the Re-Grantee Final Reports are due, to the Commission, by June 15 while the Mini-Grant recipients have up to but not later than June 29 to submit their reports because of the late nature of distributing those funds. Staff also apprised the Commission that NJHC **just recently** notified the County that its interim report, which was submitted on Feb. 14, 2012, was accepted.

Chair Stevens inquired how much money is still owed by the NJHC - being the Commission's Re-Grantees are also owed funds. Staff indicated the NJHC grant balance of 15% is about \$1,900 (\$1,971.90); and the Commission's Re-grantees would not be paid their final amounts until their Final Reports have been submitted.

Chair Stevens then addressed a draft Resolution for the Commission's consideration regarding its endorsement-approval for Hunterdon County's Historic Preservation Grant Program and application requests. Kevin deferred to Commissioner Curcio who was part of the special grant adjudication committee and reviewed and evaluated the applications; he reported about the committee, and explained not only did they spend considerable time on each application but acted as "advisors" regarding the individual project requests. Commissioner Curcio then asked (Kevin) whether the applicants would be advised about the committee's review and provisos whereupon Kevin indicated they would. Chair Stevens asked Commissioner Curcio to read the Resolution concerning the applicants, projects and grant award recommendations. **A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Curcio, seconded by Commissioner Kuhl; Motion \ Resolution Carried.** Subsequently, Chair Stevens asked when the funds would be provided. Kevin reported the funds will be disbursed after the Freeholder Board has acted upon and approved a (final) Resolution authorizing the use of the county Historic Trust. Lastly, Commissioner Pickell noted for the record his abstention.

III. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Grants Update

Commissioner Drake reported on the NJSCA ADA Plan and 2011 Final Report, which was accepted on 5/11/12 and that the remaining 15% final LAP payments were all processed. She also reported on the 2012 \$63,908 NJSCA Grant and the 10 LAP applicants, who will be receiving re-grants in the amount of \$50,000, and indicated 85% payments were processed and made to each. Commissioner Drake also reviewed the 2012 NJHC grant; reporting the interim report was accepted May 18, 2012 and that a draft history long-range plan would be submitted with the Final Report. Finally, Commissioner Drake reported on the FY2012 Special Project Grants (13 Arts; 4 History; 1 Preservation).

Arts

Kids Kulture: Commissioner Rice indicated she does not have a report but mentioned Commissioner Jones is presently at a Holland Township School attending a Bach-To-Rock program. The Commission then discussed Kids Kulture would be ending for the Summer (coinciding with the end of the school year) and starting again this Fall.

2012 Arts Exhibition:

Commissioners Hunt & Jones discussed the prospectus' update and raised the question whether the show was taking place on Sunday September the 9th through 30th or Monday the 10th. Since the Reception will take place on the 8th it was the general consensus and opinion the exhibition would commence on Sunday the 9th. Chair Stevens asked about the exhibitions expenses. Commissioner Rice stated she has last year's expenses and would provide it so the Commission can determine how much NJSCA grant money will likely be left to (re)consider. Chair Stevens also discussed changing the Exhibition venue from Prallsmill to the "Stengel Factory"; mentioning Flemington's earlier Plein Air, logistical considerations, food and the like.

Art Goes to School:

The Commission Chair reported on a letter from Karene Nevell (sp.) who stated she is "letting Art Goes to School go" because of family commitments; although she will remain active she is asking to be relieved of her leadership responsibilities. The Chair discussed the program's duties, the Commission's role and asked the Commissioners to reach out for potential candidate-participants. (Commissioner Davidson gave a name to the Chair while Commissioner Hunt expressed some interest.) The Commission sponsors the program but it is operated out of Philadelphia, as an independent (national) service.

History & Preservation

Site Signs: Commissioner Kuhl asked whether the 2012 signs were submitted to the printer-print shop yet. He also reported he has received several suggestions and asked the Commissioner's to report on any signs that need replacement.

Commissioner Davidson then asked for and the Chair granted his request to report on the Lindberg Book. Jim Davidson indicated the book has been finished and submitted to the publisher for release in November. (Commissioner Davidson also offered to conduct a program about the Lindberg Trail for the County's tercentenary.)

Sites of Historic Interest: Chair Stevens reported that Tewksbury is still incomplete and hopes to address/resolve that soon. She also mentioned her meeting with Patty Leidner, (GIS) who is working on the plan's format and is pleased with the sites page-layout. Chair Stevens expressed her hope the Plan will be done by the end of this year.

Roads of Home:

Commissioner Curcio indicated he is constantly finding new research material and thus has to go back to re-check his previous information. He discussed the West Jersey Council of Proprietors, the Keith (?) Line and the Lawrence Line and disparate boundaries between the East and West Jersey Proprietors, etc.

Hunterdon's Civil War Vets: Commissioner Rice reported the appendix is now finished and formatted will be now be concentrating on the book's format, chapters, headers, and inserting

illustrations, etc. Commissioners Rice and Kuhl discussed binding and page stock and will be discussing that, and the cost, with the county print-shop.

300th Anniversary of the County: Commissioner Kuhl reported the next meeting is June 13 at 7 pm. This is a major meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Deed Research Event May 5, 2012:

The event went very nicely and was hosted by County Clerk Melfi. 8 people attended.

Spirit of the Jersey's Fair:

Commissioner Kuhl reported on the organization's site location, and number of visitors. The Commission will need, and should have, a larger van next time to accommodate their spatial needs.

Distinguished Achievement Award/ Essay Contest May 15, 2012:

The event went very well. Essay content and contestants was highlighted.

Architecture in Education:

Chair Stevens and Commissioner Pickell discussed the book for the 300th anniversary. Discussed was what the book should be about and entail, e.g. barns, bridges, mills (Kuhl), churches (Curcio), railroad stations, etc. Existing studies, reports, etc. will be examined for use.

Other: Commissioner Curcio reported on his discussion with Parks and attempt to revive the Heritage Tours. Commissioner Kuhl also mentioned his project to develop 300 fun facts for the 300th.

Arts/History Expo:

June 23 from 11-3. 13 historic groups have signed up; no arts groups. A reminder will be sent. The Commission will use its trust fund to pay for lunch. More Arts groups are needed; and more work is needed on publicity, making phone calls, electronic signboard, etc. There has been one request for WiFi.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Nancy Roth and Judy Grow have submitted requests. Nancy Roth and Mave Pambianchi did not apply this past year for funding. Mave Pambianchi could not because of the construction of Franklin School. The Chair indicated the Commission still has money left from its Art Grant to fund their endeavors. Judy Grow can use History Grant funding. The Commissioners were asked to consider providing sponsorship funding for Nancy Roth's concerts. Nancy Roth will be contacted to provide more information about the concert costs and details. Mave is now back at the Franklin School and has asked if "there is any money left". The Chair then mentioned/asked if there is any money left in the NJSCA - would the Commission provide assistance. Staff will report on the any balance; however upon further conversation and discussion it was disclosed there is no Arts grant money left.

Judy Grow's request is historical. The Chair read her communication regarding the framing for 5-6 Civil War NJ Regimental Flags (previously given to the Historical Society by the GAR) at a cost of \$100 a piece. Staff was asked whether there is any grant money left. Kevin reported there may be but if it is the Commission's intent to fund the frames it must do so promptly. Commissioner Kuhl recused himself in advance and, later, Chair Stevens indicated she will also recuse herself (as a Trustee). **A motion to approve funding was made by Commissioner Drake; Commissioner Curcio requested to amend the motion by stating up to \$600, which was accepted by Commissioner Drake, and seconded by Commissioner Hunt; Motion Carried. Roll Call: Rice-Aye, Hunt-Aye, Pickell-Aye, Drake-Aye, Curcio-Aye, Kuhl-Abstain, Stevens-Abstain, Davidson-Absent.**

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Clay Mason - historic maker policy change. It was verified the Policy was changed; as previously discussed and agreed to.

Union Forge Heritage Association. Chair Stevens talked about a meeting between the UFHA and Borough and the ongoing Lease issues governing Solitude House. She indicated Glen Ceponis from the NJ Historic Trust also attended the meeting. Chair Stevens then read, in part, a letter from the Borough of High Bridge sent to UFHA. The Commission then discussed the issues and interrelations\dependency between UFHA and High Bridge Borough, and their respective grant projects. Commissioner Curcio offered and proposed to rescind his motion governing High Bridge's Historic Preservation Grant award. After a lengthy discussion the motion was rescinded and the matter tabled\deferred.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, **A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Curcio, 2nd by Commissioner Drake; Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:59 a.m.

Prepared by

Kevin Scott Richardson

June 22, 2012