

**Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES**

**Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday January 30, 2014
Bldg. # 1, Route 12 County Complex, Raritan Twp., NJ**

Present: Stephanie B. Stevens, Lora W. Jones, John Kuhl, Elizabeth Rice, Frank Curcio, James Davidson, Anne M. Hewitt PhD, Freeholder Suzanne Lagay, Freeholder John King

Observer: Maeve Pambianchi

Absent: Chris Pickell

Staff Present: Rick Steffey, Susan Holcombe-Pena

O.P.M.A.

At 9:38 a.m. Chair Stevens declared the meeting open and properly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS Staff member Susan Holcombe-Pena reported that the Nominating Committee, recommendations are Stephanie Stevens for Chair, Moved by Davidson to approve, Seconded by Curcio,. Vice Chair, Lora Jones, Moved by Kuhl to approve, seconded by Curcio. Motion Carried.

WELCOME Chair Stevens welcomed our Freeholders, Suzanne Lagay and John King to our meeting. Also, welcoming Maeve Pambianchi as an observer. Mrs. Pambianchi is one of our nominees for the Commission that will hopefully be elected at the next Freeholder meeting.

I. APPROVAL OF November 21st, 2013 MINUTES

Moved by Kuhl to approve, Seconded by Jones, Motion Carried.

DESIGNATION OF NEWSPAPERS: The Hunterdon County Democrat has been designated as the only official newspaper to carry all notices of the Commission. Freeholder King stated that the paper is not being consistent with the philosophy of the county. Although he does not agree with the choice of paper, Freeholder King said that it was the Commission's choice. Freeholder Lagay also stated that it has become cost prohibited. Commissioner Kuhl proposed to bring back the Democrat for the C&H Commission since it is the only local paper, Commissioner Curcio seconded it. There were two abstains, Commissioner Jones and Hewitt. One opposed, Freeholder King. Five Commissioners were for the reinstatement of the Hunterdon County Democrat.

II. GRANT REPORTS

NJSCA (New Jersey State Council on the Arts)

Staff Rick Steffey gave report about the NJSCA. In 2013 we received roughly \$63,908.00 in funding which monies went to \$10,000.00 went to the Tri-Centennial; \$42,000.00 went to the 11 re-grantees. The remaining award went to fund 800 performances and art related events. Thirty Three thousand people attended these events. In 2014 we received again roughly \$63,908.00 in funding. \$5,000.00 went to the Tri-Centennial mural, \$45,000.00 went to our re-grantee's and \$13,000.00 went for commission use. In the past the state would give 85% upfront than the remaining 15% after the final. Now for the 2015 round it appears the state will be

giving 50% than an interim report than the remaining 50%. It is unclear if the 2015 round will be in a 3 year cycle or not. The package in SAGE will be available the end of February than about 30 to 45 days to complete.

2014 Awards Program

Staff member Rick Steffey also reported that the press release, fact sheets, and nomination forms are now going out to the public. They are due at the end of March, but most likely will be stretched out to May for applications trickling in for nominations. The dinner will be on September 29th. Razberries banquet center.

Special Projects - 300th Grants and Mini-Grants

Chair Stevens reported that the grants have been approved by the 300th Committee and the Commission.

Arts- Roxey Ballet \$1500.00, Inzane Productions \$1000.00, Hunterdon Water Color Society \$1000.00, Raritan River Music \$2000.00, Hunterdon Music Arts \$3000.00, Flemington Raritan Parks & Rec \$2500.00, **History-** HC 4-H Agricultural Fair \$500.00, Milford Historical Society \$500.00, 1759 Vought House \$1400.00, Samuel Fleming House \$1300.00. **Mini-Grant-** recipients for \$200.00, East Amwell Historical Society, Raritan River Music, Courthouse Quilters, Kissimmee River Pottery, and Inzane Productions. The remaining balance of \$6800.00 will go to the 300th Committee for the ongoing activities related to the County Tercentennial celebration. With a total award of \$22,500.00 from the freeholders. Chair Stevens moved to accept these, Curcio moved and Kuhl seconded. Commission, all in favor.

III. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts

Kids Kulture:

Commissioner Jones reported Pushcart Players did an abridged version of NJ History in 50 minutes with song dance and poetry at Delaware Township school with 140 kids the other day, and the teachers and children loved it!. Mayhem poets at Franklin Township were amazing in December also. The kids did poems for the group that the Commission will forward. Chair Stevens said that we should try and book the Mayhem poets more. Commissioner Rice and Jones stated that the contacts change and it's harder to get schools to committee for "Free" enrichment programs, but effort will be made to continue to get more schools involved.

Art Goes to School:

Chair Stevens reported that AGTS is now in full swing as per Joanne Wolsifier. From now until May they have a full schedule. This year they reached out to enrichment teachers and have found that more schools are willing to participate, along with the standard groups that always participate.

Art Show 2014 "A Click in Time":

Commissioner Jones reported that foam core arrived in December and the panels will be delivered sometime in the following two weeks. Staff member Susan Holcombe-Pena reported that she has been in contact with Darlene from the Superintendent's office and has linked with schools for their "Virtual Backpack" also to push out the information. In February reminder notices will go out again. Freeholder King suggested that maybe to do some leg work and go to actual school board meetings and talk about the Commission and there activities that they offer. Staff Susan Holcombe-Pena also suggested the PTA and PTO also.

History & Preservation

Mini-Historian Essay Contest:

Reminders have gone out starting the first of the month. A few schools have responded that they will participate. Staff member Susan Holcombe-Pena reported that she has been in contact with Darlene from the Superintendent's office and has linked with schools for there "Virtual Backpack". The 300th Committee also using this as a way to get information out to the schools for their upcoming activities. Around the first of February reminder notices will go again promoting the essay contest.

Site Signs:

Commissioner Kuhl reported that Rich Miller from the road department went out and picked out the places to put the signs. As of now the Quakertown sign is up, the rest have to wait until the ground becomes softer to put the signs in. Commissioner Kuhl said that site sign ideas need to be emailed to be considered.

Roads of Home:

Commission Curcio reported that he was denied the states 350 Grant for his book. He continues to put forth effort to have it done by the end of this year.

Hunterdon's Civil War Vets:

Commissioner Kuhl had said that the books are selling well through the 300th Committee and its activities. Currently it appears that about 375 in total have been sold or given to Library collections in the past 4 months the book has been out. On hand there appears to be about 125 left in the office and about 1000 covers that can be printed up at the print shop. Freeholder King asked Chair Stevens about the "Trust" account. Stevens stated that the trust account was solely C&H. It is funded by the sale of artwork, the Commission profits 40% sale of art that is sold when there are art shows. Since there was no money in the C&H budget to pay for the printing of these books, it was voted that the money from the "Trust" account pay for the books, the book sales in turn would pay back the trust account. Freeholder King asked if there was a Treasurer in the Commission that takes care of this, Chair Stevens replied, Charlie Balough set this up years ago and there was no need at this time. Freeholder King asked what the balance was at this time; the commission was not aware of the balance at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Lambertville Juried Art Exhibit Award:

Chair Stevens reported that the exhibit will be at Robert Becks Gallery which is opening this weekend. The Commission has donated \$100.00 in support for one of the awards presented at the gallery.

Newsletter:

Staff Susan Holcombe-Pena reported that she would like current group and individual photos to go with newsletter that will be printed quarterly starting in April. The first issue will be a "Meet the Commissioners" and some articles about the commission.

NJ History Fair Application:

Chair Stevens had said that she had "committed" to Beverly that the Commission would be at the History Fair. Stevens also asked about renting a site for the book fair. Chair Kuhl asked that the Historical Committee, Cultural & Heritage, and the 300th could all be grouped together for that event. Chair Stevens asked that we contact Beverly Weaver and put our request in.

Online Calendar of Events:

Staff Susan Holcombe-Pena reported that after the refresher email that the county had this free site to post their activities, people responded and the calendar appears to be being utilized more.

Looking ahead 2015 Ideas:

Staff Susan Holcombe-Pena brought up 2 ideas looking ahead for the coming year of 2015. 1) Either a calendar of pictures from the "A click in Time" photography show or to be more cost effective a flip book of art on line either on our webpage or Facebook featuring all the kids work. 2) A new contest to engage children pre-k through 3rd, "Draw Me a Memory" of an historic place in Hunterdon County. Draw the picture, one simple sentence as why you drew it. Simple and easy, the State 350 also has a similar idea that they are doing this year.

V. OLD BUSINESS

300th Book:

Chair Stevens reported that The 300th Committee is selling them for \$10.00 a book. 50 have already been sold and another few hundred more are being printed

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

Various flyers/brochures, newsletters, press releases were available for review by the members.

• **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Curcio moved to adjourn. **Motion carried** Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM

Respectfully submitted
Susan Holcombe-Pena