

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday March 27, 2014
Bldg. # 1, Route 12 County Complex, Raritan Twp., NJ

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

Not Present: Jim Davidson

Guest: Marcia Csepsi

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.

I. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 27, 2014 MINUTES

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

II. GRANT REPORTS

NJSCA (New Jersey State Council on the Arts)

Freeholder Lagay had stated that this grant we are treating like a living document, meaning everything that we are promising in the grant we will be doing. One of the things is a "Quarterly Board Development Update" that will be added on the agenda. This will show up on the agenda every quarter and it will be discussed, either we bring someone in or discuss the on goings and make it known to the state that we are working on things and this is where the money is going, we tend to do this internally, but we are going to start to do this formally now. John King said that Bonnie Dunkin is an excellent person to bring in and help with the program. Chair Stevens stated that they generally get paid a lot of money, and the C&H budget can't afford that. Freeholder Lagay and King said that they can possibly work out something in the budget. Freeholder Lagay stated that we are now in the process of compiling and editing the grant that is due on April 9, 2014. The significance to this year is that we will be hiring an Executive Director and the Arts council wants to make sure that there is a commitment from the county, which there will be. We are in the process of refitting the courthouse, looked at bylaws and job descriptions. We are letting them know that we are serious and have given them the information that we are going to continue to fund this position after the assistance of the grant. We are taking some of the things that have been produced in the past and elaborating on them, creating a proof of activity. Some pieces are still missing such as the Optional In-kind information, and it is asked that the commission complete the information by the end of Friday March 28th. Freeholder Lagay stated that the more information we give the Council the better. Staff Rick Steffey said that we have an updated version of the arts long range plan that is not completely finished as of yet. Freeholder Lagay said that an email version will be sent to the Commission to review. Freeholder Lagay stated that part of our economic development plan is to include a cultural center and cultural awareness as an attraction, we are letting the state know that we are pushing it in that domain. Freeholder Lagay said that this is a 3 year grant, and it is hoped that with this Executive Director, this person can collaborate with people and grow the commission. This will be on the Freeholder agenda April 1st for discussion and approval.

III. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts

Kids Kulture:

Commissioner Jones reported that the last event took place at the Ethel Hoppock School in Bethlehem Township. There were 209 children in attendance from grades 5, 6, 7, and 8th for the Mayhem Poets. The next show will be Friday, April 4, for grades 6, 7, and 8 at Kingwood Township School. Commissioner Jones stated that there is \$2,600.00 left in the budget, which will fund 2 or 3 more shows.

Art Goes to School:

No update at this time

Art Show 2014 "A Click in Time":

Staff Susan Holcombe-Pena reported that the feedback still has been slow. Commissioner Jones said that she will attempt to put in a release in the Democrat. Staff stated that currently there are 4 schools/organizations that have submitted photos. Spruce Run, Franklin Township, Clinton Township and Delaware Township.

History & Preservation

Mini-Historian Essay Contest:

Staff Susan Holcombe-Pena reported that a few schools have already submitted their essays for the contest. The final day for submittal is on April 11th, 2014.

Site Signs:

Commissioner Kuhl stated that the newly formed cemetery committee will be working on signs. Commissioner Kuhl said that he has also been in contact with Mr. Frank White via email in regards to the Freedom of Information Act in regards to historic signage that has been put up in the county. Apparently Mr. White is disputing the authenticity/genealogy and placing of a historic sign, at the Col. Charles Stewart House. He is looking for historical documentation and archaeological records that supports the county's placement of the sign in Franklin Township. Commissioner Jones stated that she and Franklin Township has had issues with this gentleman before, apparently he has implied that he would sue Franklin Township and she if things were not fixed in Franklin Township.

Staff Susan Holcombe-Pena stated that Mr. White has also been in contact with her, he wants 3 years' worth of minutes. Staff responded with an email stating that the minutes would be made available in a week or two on the web via a link on the Cultural & Heritage website and that he would be contacted when available.

Freeholder Lagay asked Freeholder King if this is something that she be addressed through County Council, since it appears that this issue with Mr. White re-appears every few years. It appears that if any of the language is threatening then it will be addressed.

Roads of Home:

No update at this time.

Sites of Historic Interest:

No update at this time.

Hunterdon's Civil War Vets Book:

No update at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Marcia Csepsi Triptic Update:

Marcia Csepsi is one of the teachers that is working on the lesson plan for the Paul Jennis Mural. Marcia brought the Commission up to date on the progress of the 1700 lesson plans. Marcia and the teachers put together a computer generated video presentation that details Hunterdon County in the 1700's. The presentation is a video that will be on youtube and a disc will be made and given to the teachers along with a packet on how to use the information in class. Marcia will begin the 1800's very soon after some "tweaking" of the 1700's video. Freeholder Lagay asked if there was accountability with the schools, Marcia had said not really. Freeholder Lagay thought that putting an online survey to see if they used the materials might be helpful in getting feedback.

The Commission thought that the 1700 video was great with just a few minor adjustments.

Cultural Directory Update:

Commissioner Jones put press release in the newspaper. The release has started to generate more activity and calls to the Commission about wanting a flyer to fill out.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No updates at this time.

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 11:40 AM

Respectfully submitted
Susan Holcombe-Pena