

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday June 26th, 2014
Bldg. # 1, Route 12 County Complex, Raritan Twp., NJ

Present: Stephanie B. Stevens, Beth Rice, John Kuhl, Jim Davidson, Annie Hewitt, Frank Curcio, Freeholder Suzanne Lagay, Freeholder John King

Not Present: Lora Jones, Christopher Pickell, Maeve Pambianchi

Staff Present: Susan Holcombe-Pena

O.P.M.A.

At 9:37 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 May 29th, 2014 MINUTES

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

II. GRANT REPORTS

NJSCA (New Jersey State Council on the Arts)

2013 Grant (\$63,908): Final Grant payment (15%) was received by the County and has been disbursed to the re-grantees. 2013 grant funds have been spent down to zero.

2014 Grant (\$63,908): County Grant Agreement was approved by the NJSCA and we are waiting for the initial payment (50%) for disbursement to our re-grantees. The re-grantee cover letter has been drafted and will be sent with the first payment and re-grantee Grant Agreement. For 2014 the County will be required to submit an interim report due at the end of July in SAGE. A second payment of 25% will then be released to the County for the re-grantees.

2015-2018 Grant Round (\$TBD): NJSCA Local Arts Program (LAP) & the Local Arts Staffing Initiative (LASI) applications were submitted before the deadline in SAGE. Freeholder Suzanne Lagay, Planning Director Sue Dziamara & C&H vice Chair Lora Jones travelled to Trenton and made a presentation to the NJSCA panel at the end of May. A decision on both applications will be made on July 29th at the NJSCA meeting in Trenton. The County is hoping the NJSCA will increase our level of LAP funding for the 2015-2018 period and grant fund an 'Arts Coordinator' LASI position. The 'Arts Coordinator' will report directly to the C&H Executive Director.

Freeholder Lagay stated that 10 resumes have been so far received. Once the resumes have been looked through for thoroughness the Commission will become involved in a selection process along with the Planning Board Director and the Freeholders.

Freeholder Lagay said that she felt good about the LAP grant; she feels that the Commission could actually get more funding this year.

The LASI grant she felt didn't favor so well. There appeared to be a part that was lacking in the coordinator section that could affect us but not the section for the Executive Director. But this grant is annually, so if we don't get it this year next year she feels could, since we have no established a track record.

III. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts

Kids Kulture:

No report at this time

Art Goes to School:

Joanne Wolsifier said that their meeting in Philadelphia went well. Chair Stevens said that they are still actively looking for members. Commissioner Rice asked if there was something on the website that promotes it more. Staff had said that there is but honestly it doesn't really pop out or get ones attention. Commissioner Rice said that maybe she could think of some fresher ideas for the website.

Art Show 2014 "A Click in Time":

Staff indicated that the show has closed. All photos are available for pick up in the Planning Board office. Staff indicated that the photos suffered from the high humidity in the auditorium. Commissioner Rice indicated that next year we need to re-think how we have them mounted on the foam core. Freeholder Lagay thought that having them professionally mounted next year might serve better. These photos would then become Hunterdon County's to hang about the county. Commissioner Rice stated that we need to look into this more for next year. Chair Stevens thought that event should be held next year since this year we had a great response from teachers and parents at the opening of the event.

History & Preservation

Site Signs:

Commissioner Kuhl stated that Bob Leith the head of the cemetery committee and the Historical Society will have prepared a list for next meeting of the cemeteries that will be considered for a site sign. Commissioner Kuhl then went on to state that he is opposed to taking the site sign down that Mr. Frank White disagrees with. Freeholder Lagay stated that Mr. Frank White has been addressed by me, Sue Dziamara, and County Counsel at this time. Until Mr. White comes forth with the creditable information that he says that he has, the Colonel Charles Stewart house and property sign in Franklin Township will remain in place.

Roads of Home:

Commissioner Curcio reported that it is coming along better after having a slow beginning of the month.

Sites of Historic Interest:

Chair Stevens had nothing to report at this time.

IV. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/COMMENTS/BOARD DEVELOPEMENT

Freeholder Lagay asked about the Planning Awards Dinner to be held in September. Freeholder Lagay noted that the nominations had been light. Chair Stevens didn't realize that more nominations were needed. Staff will send out reminders to groups to get their nominations in for the awards.

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. OLD NEWS

Cultural Directory Update:

Staff brought out the listing that Commissioner Jones had gone through. It was felt that the directory needed something that was user friendly online. The Chamber of Commerce has a website directory that has many dropdown screens to help patrons navigate through there directory. The Commission thought that possibly IT could come up with drop down screens and sub-categories for the Cultural, Arts and History groups. Staff will talk with IT and see if they can create a web page of that nature.

Mural Update:

Chair Stevens had said that photos will be taken of the murals and the photos (at this point 1700's&1800's) will be laminated and about 30 ... a size the largest the county can produce will be determined. Also along with a copy of a CD that the teachers have included along with a teachers lesson plan for 27 schools hopefully to be done by September for the start of the school year. Than as the 1900's mural is done (November time frame) a poster and a laminate will follow to the schools. It is hopeful that a copy will be available for the C&H fair booth for the public to view in August. Superintendents that have replied seemed in favor of this lesson plan.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

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

• VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Kuhl moved to adjourn. **Motion carried** Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted
Susan Holcombe-Pena