

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
DRAFT - MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday September 25th, 2014
Bldg. # 1, Route 12 County Complex, Raritan Twp., NJ

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

Not Present: Maeve Pambianchi, Chris Pickell, Annie Hewitt

Staff Present: Susan Holcombe-Pena, Rick Steffey

O.P.M.A.

At 9:34 a.m. Chair Stevens declared the meeting open and properly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

I. INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE FELLOWS

Director Sue Dzlamara introduces our new Cultural & Heritage Director Carrie Fellows, who will be starting with us on October 6th. Carrie introduces herself to the Commission she comes with director and administrator capabilities from several different Commissions. Freeholder King asked what her priorities will be, Executive Director Fellows said would be to follow up and review grants that are coming up in November in particular, and get up to speed on the planning projects.

II. RESIGNATION OF ANNIE HEWITT

Chair Stevens gave the news that yesterday she received a letter from Annie that she could no longer be on the Commission. Annie had written that her tenure at school has gone from 9 months to 12 months with no flexibility within her schedule and it makes it impossible for her to attend meetings. Chair Stevens understood her situations and feels that it is very unfortunate. Although, she is not available for meetings; Annie said that special panels for projects she could voice her ideas and opinions too.

III. APPROVAL OF JULY 31ST, 2014 REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

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

IV. GRANT REPORTS

NJSCA (New Jersey State Council on the Arts) Historic Courthouse Meeting on October 28th

Staff Rick Steffey reported that the state has done a walkthrough of the Historic Court house and has agreed that it will be used for the upcoming meeting to be held on October 28th. Preparations are being made to accommodate the guests. Lunch will be served for the VIP that will be paid for by the NJSCA. The meeting will start at 11:00 am and run for about an hour for the re-grantees of the programs that have been supported by the state public to make comment. An idea was brought up to have a coffee social gathering at 10:30 so that the guests can also hopefully mingle with the council, although that has been approved through the state, the question has been asked and we are awaiting an answer from them. An agenda and invitation will be made when it's closer to the date. The director of planning wanted an art and history exhibit to be present in the courthouse. Jim Davidson will put in a Lindberg exhibit for the history side, and Lora will be involved with panel placement for the "A Click in Time" photos for the "Arts" exhibit.

The NJSCA grant agreement is due on November 15th. The 25% of the 2014 grant monies are soon to go out to the re-grantees.

NJHC Project Grant

The History DOI was due on August 15th, 2014. The state accepted the proposal of asking for funding for re- printing of the mural brochures and bi-lingual transcribing of some of the material. The application was submitted on September 10th for \$6,000.00 it is hopeful that this money could help with the reprinting of many of the brochures. Brochures that had been printed didn't have the tercentennial logo and the NJSCA logo.

V. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts

Kids Kulture:

Commissioner Jones stated that she has \$2,500.00 in grant monies Commissioner Jones said that Commissioner Pambianchi has ideas for new performers that she would like to introduce.

Art Goes to School:

Chair Stevens stated that they have a new chair for AGTS: Evelyn Voget will be taking over from Joanne Wolsifier. AGTS starts up again in January. Chair Stevens said that they have 2 more new volunteers for the group. Chair Stevens addressed the freeholders present that the Commission would like to have the slat system out of the choir school for the storage of their portfolio's when they move to the Historic Court House. Freeholder Lagay and King will have that looked into, although there is a concern on if that "slat" system can actually be removed or if they need to rebuild it in the Historic Courthouse.

History & Preservation

Site Signs:

Commissioner Kuhl brought a new list of historic site signs. There are 10 historic cemeteries that will receive signs. The cemeteries include Mt. Airy Parsonage Cemetery, Mt. Airy Presbyterian Cemetery, Hoagland Cemetery, Swackhammer Church Cemetery, Presbyterian Cemetery, Rosemont Cemetery, Barber Cemetery, Newell Cemetery, Lower Amwell Brethern Church Cemetery/Dunkard Church & Lower Amwell brethren Church Cemetery. Commissioner Kuhl asked that everyone look at the list and make any corrections as soon as possible so that he can take the list to the sign maker.

A comment was made on if the "Uplands" sign was going to be redone to say "Uplands" and not "The Uplands". Chair Stevens dismissed it since she hadn't heard anything more about it from the "Large" foundation wanting it changed. Freeholders Lagay and King both interjected and said that they want it redone since the "Large" foundation has made a lot of contributions to the county. Freeholder Lagay made a point to say to staff Susan Pena, please have it re-done.

Roads of Home:

Commissioner Curcio had nothing to report at this time.

Sites of Historic Interest:

Chair Stevens had nothing to report at this time.

VI. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/COMMENTS/BOARD DEVELOPEMENT

None at this time

VII. NEW BUSINESS

School participation update for mural:

It had come to the Commission that the school DVD and brochures, posters of the mural didn't have the tercentenary logo and the NJSCA logo. The 300th has also stated CP&M has all the works under lock and key until the C&H Commission and the 300th can come to an agreement as to who owns it, and logo placement. The educational end of this project is put on hold until an agreement has been made between the organizations. Chair Stevens said that next week she will call the teachers in and continue on with the 1900's, and go on as planned in creating that DVD and brochure. Chair Stevens is hopeful that an agreement can be made with the 300th so that this project can be delivered to the schools in 2014.

Open Commission spots:

Chair Stevens has let the Commission know that this will be her last year on the board. Commissioner Davidson asked how many spots are open at this point. Chair Stevens replied 3 – Annie has resigned, Chris has not been reappointed and the Chair position when I retire at the end of the year.

Chair Stevens had stated that Chris Pickell had not been reappointed by the freeholders due to that fact that there have been comments on "High" that he would be in conflict of interest to continue on the Commission. There had been questions about how much work he has been getting from the Commission – Chair Stevens said that his work is pro-bono and Commissioner Rice agreed. Chair Stevens also said that each Cultural & Heritage Commission needs an architect for the Historic structures, but Chair Stevens stated that they (freeholders) will not re-appoint him and they want him removed even though there is no replacement in the works. Chair Stevens said that Chris has put in insurmountable time for the kids teaching them architecture and all the work he has done for the Commission.

Chair Stevens begged the group to go back to being a "Commission". Commissions are autonomous bodies, and they make their own budgets and they make their own rules and govern themselves.

Commissioner Davidson stated that we need to focus on getting new members before the end of the year. Chair Stevens said that we need to find people that the Freeholders will appoint. We need 2 art people and 1 history person to have a balance on the board.

VIII. OLD NEWS

Cultural Directory Update:

Staff reported that the IT will work on this and have it up soon on the web. It will be in a drop down format that is similar to the Hunterdon Chambers.

Planning & Cultural & Heritage Awards:

The awards will be on September 29th at Razberries starting at 5pm. Currently we have over 120 guests that have signed up.

Tillers of the Soil:

Staff has stated that the books are selling well in the first month of release. 200 had been printed to start. Staff has asked the Chair if more was wanted, Commission Jones stated "let's do it 100 increments". Chair Stevens agreed. Staff had asked if the libraries were getting copies yet. Chair Stevens wanted to wait a bit and let them sell first.

Letter from Dr. Shaddow:

Chair Stevens, Commissioner Davidson and Pickell will attend a confirmed meeting with Dr. Shaddow on September 29th at 10:00 am at the North Hunterdon Campus to discuss the condition of the Seals house.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

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

- **X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted
Susan Holcombe-Pena