

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:35 a.m., Thursday Dec 8, 2016
Historic County Court House, 71 Main Street Flemington., NJ

Present: Lora Jones, Alan Rigoletto, Gayle Maher, Don Sherblom, Susan Oldroyd, Robb Sussna, Susan Oldroyd (via call in); Executive Director: Carrie Fellows; Staff: Nancy Hanna

Absent: Jim Davidson, Maeve Pambianchi

O.P.M.A.

At 9:30 a.m. Chair Jones declared the meeting open and properly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

APPROVAL OF Sept. 15, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

Moved Sherblom, seconded Sussna, motion carried.

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

Publication – Ribbons of History: Chair Jones, and Cmr. Maher, reported that they need to rework the manuscript; the committee will meet to review it at the CH on January 12 at 9:30; snow date January 19.

Nominating Committee: meeting in October nominating Gayle Maher (if reappointed) as 2017 Chair and Alan Rigoletto as Vice Chair. Slate moved by Cmr. Sussna, seconded Cmr. Oldroyd; all in favor. Director Fellows said the next step is to report the slate to the Clerk of the Board as Cmr. Maher is up for reappointment. If she is reappointed in January, the Commission may vote the slate at the reorg meeting on Jan. 26.

Meeting Schedule 2017

Sussna approved, Rigoletto seconded; motion carried (see attached meeting notice).

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Fellows read a letter from Cmr. Cronheim requesting a leave of absence from the Commission from Nov. 7, 2016 until Feb. 16, 2017. Cmr. Cronheim was placed on "inactive" status and removed from the email distribution list. Members were asked not to contact her regarding Commission business until after she indicates she is able to return.

Grants

LAP Grant - The BOCF approved the 2017 contract. Eight applications were received for 2017 regrants: 5 for General Operating Support and 3 for Projects with a total of \$66,500 requested. \$45,000 is available to regrant. Reviews will occur in January.

County Special Project Grants – Seven applications were received for 2017: 6 for art projects and 1 for history with total of \$46,297 requested. \$22,500 was available in 2016; funding availability will not be determined until the county budget is adopted in late spring 2017. On recommendation of the Chief of Staff, we requested the funding (if available) be included in the Commission's Operating Expenses budget to simplify administration.

CHPP - Only 2 (Hunterdon County, GOS) applications were received; NJHC staff approved panel evaluation via email. A second round with a Jan. 20 deadline is open to those organizations that attended the required workshops. The panel will meet to review those applications after they are received.

Programs & Initiatives

History Museum Round Table - stemming from a conversation between Cmrs Maher, Sherblom, and Director Fellows, the Commission will initiate this group in the new year. The group would meet in sites throughout the county to share ideas and participate in free workshops.

Collaborative Program with Crossroads of the American Revolution – Tentatively planned for April, dates pending speaker confirmation.

When the Circus Came To Town - Director Fellows thanked Cmr. Davidson, who spoke at the historic courthouse on Nov. 4 to a crowd of about 150, about the impact on the local area of the thousands of people attending and following the Lindbergh trial.

HC Counsel Comments - Shana Taylor

Chair Jones asked if Counsel saw any potential issues with moving funding for Special Projects to the C&H budget; Counsel answered to the effect that she doesn't see any problem for the money to transfer to our budget.

III. COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

World Music Day – scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017. Cmr. Rigoletto requested that separate committees handle 1) Sponsors/Exhibitors 2) Food Vendors, 3) Marketing. First meeting on Jan. 12 at 1pm, with a snow date of Jan. 19. Cmr. Rigoletto suggested we look into federal arts grants for 2018/2019 (a \$10,000 NEA Challenge America grant would require a 100% match).

Hunterdon Heritage Days – (HC 300th program) - Cmr. Maher reported that the 300th Committee hasn't met yet about the 2017 program.

Hunterdon Art Museum Young Artist Showcase/Commission Art Exhibition - Cmr. Oldroyd reported that she'd corresponded with H.A.M. Director Nathanson on details. She and Director Fellows will work on that next week and get it back to H.A.M. staff for distribution.

Poetry Out Loud - We sent a hard copy of registration information via USPS and 2 email blasts to high school English teachers; 3 schools have registered.

Teen Arts- The program is back on the state level; the organizer requested distribute materials about registration and participation to teachers, which we did (hard copy via USPS and email blasts).

Junior Historian Essay Contest – deadline for entries is 4pm March 31; awards May 2 at the BOCF meeting.

IV. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS

No report at this time.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Cmr. Sussna announced that he expects to come up with a new Idea for an art program by next year
At the Jan. 26 meeting, we will honor Cmr. Jones and celebrate her years of service with the Commission (term ends 12/31/2016).

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Cmr. Sherblom announced that he has stepped down as President of the 1759 Vought House. Kerry Cahill will be taking over and he is confident that the organization will benefit from her leadership and contacts.

Cmr. Rigoletto is providing programs for SPLASH (Student Participation in Learning Aquatic Science & History) Floating Classroom in Lambertville.

Cmr. Sherblom attended NJHC's History Forum, November 18-19, 2016 at the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Jones moved to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:18 am.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hanna