

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:35 a.m., Thursday July 28th, 2016
Historic County Court House, 71 Main Street Flemington., NJ

Present: Lora Jones, Jim Davidson, Alan Rigoletto, Gayle Maher, Don Sherblom, Susan Oldroyd, Robb Sussna, Carol Cronheim, Maeve Pambianchi; **Executive Director:** Carrie Fellows

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.

Chair Jones asked if the commissioners had read over the minutes. Commissioner Sussna wanted the minutes to reflect what title Nancy Hanna has within the commission which is Senior Account Clerk 2. Chair Jones asked the Commission if they would like to accept the minutes as corrected.

APPROVAL OF June 30th, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

Moved by Davidson to approve, Seconded by Sussna, Motion Carried.

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

Publication – The Journey: Chair Jones, who has been editing the manuscript, reported that Commissioner Sherblom and Maher provided excellent suggestions. Commissioners Davidson and Sussna also asked for the opportunity to read it and make comments. The Publications Committee agreed that due to the topics addressed in this book, the Commission must ensure that the material is presented in a culturally sensitive and historically accurate way. The Commission agreed that they would like to see the book published, but some of the paragraphs need revision.

Publication – Roads to Home: Chair Jones said that the book has been reformatted and now has 362 pages; down from 524. Several paragraphs or pages, and one whole 64-page chapter, has been removed – but more needs to be taken out. Copies of the text will be given to Gayle Maher, Don Sherblom, Jim Davidson and Carrie Fellows for further editing..

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Fellows reported that Nancy Hanna began working for the Commission July 5 and began training. She will attend the September meeting.

Grants

Local Arts Project (LAP) – Director Fellows, Commissioners Cronheim and Oldroyd went to the NJSCA Annual Meeting/50th Anniversary at the State House and to get the news about the LAP and LASI grant awards. The LAP grant was fully funded again (\$66,464) for the second year of the three-year round. \$45,000.00 will be re-granted and \$21,464.00 will be applied towards salary support and programs such as Art Goes to School, Salsa Night, World Music Day and the Central Jersey Jazz Festival. The LASI grant was not funded; we expect to learn the reasons why in the next few days.

County History Partnership Program (CHPP) – Responding to the NJHC's request that we do so, Fellows recommended to the Board of Chosen Freeholders that we consider managing Warren County's program for this grant round, and then evaluate whether to continue. The Freeholders agreed to allow the Commission to administer CHPP regrants to Warren County applicants. The grant awards have not yet been announced.

Special Projects Grant Awards –

The County budget has been approved by the BOCF and adopted, and the resolution approving the Special Projects grants was made at the July 19 meeting.

Grant Workshops – Workshops will be rescheduled due to conflicts. PR will go out tomorrow with new dates and times.

Open Space/HP Grant Review – Director Fellows reported that the Historic Preservation grant review panel had met and made recommendations. **Commissioner Davidson recused himself.** Chair Jones asked for a motion to approve the panel's recommendations. **Commissioner Maher motioned and Commissioner Oldroyd seconded. All in favor.** Director Fellows will send a memo with the Commission's recommendations to Bill Millette, the Open Space Grant administrator.

III. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Student Art Exhibit: Commissioner Oldroyd reported that HAM staff are enthusiastic about the collaboration. HAM staff are in the process of getting exhibition dates and they will include an announcement about our exhibits in the letters they send to the schools. They will do a series of ten shows January through May. Commissioner Oldroyd suggested a month at the courthouse to showcase the selected pieces of artwork. We would feature 30 pieces, 3 pieces selected from each HAM show. Commissioner Sussna said that the pieces selected by Commissioners would be totally subjective.

HC World Music Day, Oct. 1: Commissioner Rigoletto prepared a draft press release and a shorter version that can be used. The Facebook page for HCWMD is up and has 100 followers. Starting in August links and videos will go up to showcase the performers He is also working with radio stations to help with promoting the event. NJPA Radio has said they will run segments for 7 days a week.

History & Preservation/ Historic Markers: Commissioner Davidson reported that the Kingtown sign is still not up. The sign at the 1837 Schoolhouse (Quakertown) will remain in the proposed location. There was a lengthy discussion about the impact of placing a marker at the Union Hotel. Director Fellows advised against it for several reasons. **Chair Jones asked for a motion, Commissioner Davidson moved, Commissioner Pambianchi seconded, Commissioner Sussna in favor; Commissioners Sherblom, Maher, Oldroyd and Rigoletto abstained, and Commissioner Cronheim was against. Motion Failed.** Commissioner Sussna asked about the marker process and why the Marker Committee hasn't developed a list of Flemington Borough markers. Commissioner Davidson said that marker sites must be nominated before they can be evaluated by the Committee.

Historic Site Survey Update: Chair Jones reported that the East Amwell Historical Commission submitted their updated information.

Hunterdon County Agricultural Fair: The fair booth will be unstaffed this year, but Director Fellows asked for volunteers to go in and refresh the brochures and handouts as needed. Chair Jones has said that the Historical Society can cover and uncover the display morning and night that week.

IV. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/COMMENTS /BOARD DEVELOPMENT Nothing to report at this time.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Davidson requested a status update on the Court St. Park gazebo. Director Fellows reported that the County Architect is managing that project. The gazebo was declared unsafe and was closed due to compromised decking and railings. The County Architect is working with SHPO to determine the new railing design, which must meet code and appear historically appropriate.

Commissioner Sussna reported that he attended the Hunterdon Watercolor Society exhibition and that the Society was thrilled that a commissioner had attended. He also attended an acoustic guitar recital by Commissioner Rigoletto.

Commissioner Cronheim reported that Roxey Ballet was cited for an award of excellence received a GOS grant from NJSCA. Commissioner Oldroyd said that her group was also cited for excellence but was not granted any funds.

Commissioner Pambianchi reported that Franklin Theatre Company's Eco grant project has been funded for 3 years. They have started to create the water retention basin for the seasonal pond and planting has started.

Director Fellows reported that she looks forward to future collaborations with the County's Economic Director, Marc Saluk about marketing tourism opportunities and possibly an online events calendar. A spirited discussion ensued about the positive effect this could have on arts and culture in the county, especially if funding one day becomes available for a Tourism Bureau.

Director Fellows also reported that "Heritage Days" are coming up September 18th & 25th. The Director asked if the some of the Commissioners could help with tours of the Historic Courthouse.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Peach Exchange - Chair Jones reported that Michael Margulies has taken on the project as part of a new nonprofit he is creating. The focus is on saving the Freight depot and the Station.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted, *Susan Holcombe-Pena*