

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:35 a.m., Thursday June 30th, 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

Absent: Maeve Pambianchi

Executive Director: Carrie Fellows

O.P.M.A.

At 9:35 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 Sherblom asked that a sentence in the minutes (about the winning essay) be reworded to read, "the Iron Act of 1750 did not suppress production of pig iron or other raw materials but colonial production of manufactured goods like nails produced at slitting mills". In all, this was a good essay to have been chosen.

Commissioner Cronheim also said that there is a typo, Roxy Ballet, should be spelled Roxey Ballet.

Chair Jones asked the Commission if they would like to accept the minutes as corrected.

APPROVAL OF May 28th, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

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

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

New Stephanie Stevens book: Chair Jones reported that she will have a draft, "The Journey" for commission members to review. The County Printing department gave an estimate of \$75.00 to print 100 copies of the book. The Commission would charge \$5.00 a book. Director Fellows said that the Commission should be sure that the work includes appropriate language when referring to particular cultural groups, and be clear that the work is about just one Jewish community in Hunterdon County. Chair Jones asked the other reviewers to include their comments on the pages of the draft. Commissioner Cronheim recommended as outside potential reviewers Maxine Lurie, Rich Veit, and in particular, Ruth B. Mandel (Director, Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics) as having expertise in the subject area.

Frank Curcio's Book Draft: Lora will have 6 copies in September for the Commission to review. The book is currently 300- 350 pages and needs fresh eyes to review for consistency and to avoid repetition. Frank's son has helped out immensely with researching several issues.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grants

County History Partnership Program (CHPP) – Director Fellows reported that NJHC Director Sara Cureton had asked if Hunterdon would consider accepting regrant applications from Warren County, as Warren declined to apply. According to Cureton, Warren has only had one applicant in the past, and Fellows felt they might have one or two other organizations apply. Director Fellows recommended that the Commission agree to accept Warren County applicants to be administered under Hunterdon's program, as it wouldn't entail much more work - and we would receive separate administrative and grant funds to manage Warren's program. Fellows will recommend to the Board of Chosen Freeholders that we consider managing Warren's program for this grant round, and then evaluate.

Special Projects Grant Awards –

The Special Projects letters will go out with Checks hopefully by the end of July now that the County budget has been adopted. Chair Jones is also working with Director Fellows in updating the grant application forms. Commissioner Cronheim and Commissioner Maher offered to assist with reviewing the new application forms.

Local Arts Project (LAP) – Director Fellows and Chair Jones made a few minor edits to the 2016 LAP final report and 2017 LAP application forms which will improve consistency.

Open Space/HP Grant Review – Director Fellows reported that the Historic Preservation grant panel review meeting will be held on July 14th @9:30am in the Historic Courthouse.

Projects - The wiring for the courthouse gallery lighting (Phase 1) is complete; B&M is waiting for the new heads to come in. The heads were specified and ordered are discontinued; Fellows, and the county electrician are working to resolve the issue with a similar product and hopefully by the end of July the Phase 1 lighting will be completed.

State Historic Preservation Office: Director Fellows had a meeting with Kat Cannelongo about the number of Certificates of Eligibility that have been issued, but have never been followed up with applications to the State/National Registers of Historic Places by the organizations responsible for the buildings. Director Fellows reported that she was asked if we could promote this to constituents as an idea for project grants under some of the Commission's programs (organizational applicants only).

BOCF Agenda Meeting: Director Fellows also reported that on the July 5th Board of Freeholders consent agenda, the request for Nancy Hanna, Senior Account Clerk to be transferred over from Human Services to Cultural & Heritage, will be considered.

Correspondence: Director Fellows requested the Commissioners to please review the correspondence that has been received.

III. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Hunterdon County Community Day (Chamber Program): Director Fellows reported that attendance was higher this year. All the History and Arts groups were kept together, except for East Amwell Historical Committee which shared a tent with the municipality in that area. The Chamber is consider changing the date for 2017. A follow-up meeting to discuss the date and focus of the event is scheduled on September 14.

Student Art Exhibit: Commissioner Oldroyd had nothing to report at this time. Commissioner Sussna reported that they will have to jury 10 art exhibits starting in January running through August. It would entail 3 pieces from each show, 30 in all, to be showcased at the end of the year here at the courthouse for a final showcase. Commissioner Sussna asked that the Commissioners each jury a few shows. No formal awards will be given; works distinguished by being chosen by Commission members from the larger group will be exhibited at the Historic County Courthouse for a few weeks.

HC World Music Day: Commissioner Rigoletto reported that contracts had gone out to the performers. Food trucks have been contacted for their availability for the event. Commissioner Rigoletto asked Commissioners if they had suggestions for food truck vendors to submit them to him. Director Fellows is having flyers and large posters made for the event. Commissioner Rigoletto asked about a Facebook page just for World Music Day, it was advised that he go through the IT Department for approval and setup. Director Fellows mentioned she had met with Mark Roxey who expressed interest in incorporating dance in the program for next year.

History & Preservation/ Historic Markers:

Commissioner Davidson had nothing to report at this time.

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

V. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Davidson reported that the East Amwell Historical Commission received a \$10,000.00 grant from Northfield Bank for the Clawson House. He also reported that \$50,000 that was held for the Historical Commission will have to go before East Amwell Township for a referendum in the fall before those funds can be released for the Clawson House project. Commissioner Davidson expressed concerns about the condition of the gazebo in Court Street Park which is closed to the public. Director Fellows reported that the County Architect is overseeing the project and has prepared plans for Project Authorization as required by SHPO for repairs; the building is listed as a contributing element in the Flemington Boro Historic District.

Commissioner Cronheim reported that the state budget was passed; she also provided updates on legislative initiatives that affect cultural and historic interests.

Commissioner Oldroyd brought up commemorating "Votes for Women" in 2020, the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, inquiring if there was an opportunity to incorporate this into a parade.

Commissioner Oldroyd reported on the ArtPride conference. The link between people with learning differences and the arts is wonderful. She recommended we include World Music Day or special speakers for this population.

Commissioner Sherblom commented that there is a need for a central online site for learning about history, historic organizations and events in Hunterdon County. Thinking of the future and drawing the connections together. Director Fellows said that the new Economic Development Executive Director, Marc Saluk, and she have been discussing that need, but it's going to take some time.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Peach Exchange - Chair Jones reported that there was nothing new at this time.

Historic Site Inventory: Chair Jones reported that there was nothing new at this time.

Flemington Agricultural Fair: Chair Jones announced that this year the booth at the fair will be unstaffed. The booth will have the display board and free brochures and pamphlets that the public can take if they wish.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Jones moved to adjourn. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 11:24 am.

Respectfully submitted, *Susan Holcombe-Pena*