

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 27th, 2017
Historic County Court House, 71 Main Street Flemington, NJ

Present: Gayle Maher, Alan Rigoletto, Don Sherblom, Maeve Pambianchi, James Davidson, Robert Sussna, Susan Oldroyd; Carol Cronheim (pending return to active status). Staff: Executive Director, Carrie Fellows, Nancy Hanna. Guests: for "Bring Your Child to Work Day", Cmr. Oldroyd's children, Zoë & Emerson.

O.P.M.A.

At 9:35 a.m. Chair Gayle Maher declared the meeting open and properly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

I. APPROVAL OF March 30, 2017 REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

Minutes were accepted as corrected. Moved: Cmr. Davidson; seconded: Cmr. Sherblom; motion carried.

II. CHAIR'S REPORT

Nothing at this time

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grants

NJ State Council on the Arts: Local Arts Program (LAP) – re-grantees were asked to submit a revised budget reflecting their awards. Three have completed their paperwork. We will send another reminder. ReGrant purchase orders are submitted for approval as a group.

Special Projects: The County budget was introduced on April 26; recommendations for funding may be made after the budget is adopted.

NJ Historical Commission (NJHC) County History Partnership Program: one re-grantee has returned their contract.

Open Space/Historic Preservation Trust Fund: Following a request from program administrator Bill Millette, Cmr. Sussna, Sherblom, and Cronheim agreed to review applications to the program, meeting date TBD.

Crossroads of the American Revolution co-sponsored program "The Art of Period Dress"

Created to begin preparing constituents from both organizations for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolutionary War, the program sold out about 2 weeks in advance. Crossroads Program Coordinator Kate Brindle was super - we couldn't have presented the program without her support. Participant feedback has been positive. Freeholder Lanza attended the first session. Chair Maher commented on the high quality of the presenters.

Other – Director Fellows noted that she had received a letter from Carol Cronheim requesting a return to active status as Commissioner, and that Clerk of the Board Denise Doolan had been notified of her request.

COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

World Music Day – Cmr. Rigoletto reported he spoke with Red Baraat's new booking agent about performing for World Music Day. If they are not able to perform he has a "Plan B" ready. The next committee meeting was rescheduled for May 4th at 2 pm. Director Fellows will reach out to the graphic designer for updates to the marketing materials.

Publications Committee: Chair Maher and Cmr. Sherblom reported on the status of the Curcio manuscript. It may be necessary to bring in an outside editor. Cmr. Sherblom and Director Fellows will meet with Lora Jones, who continues to serve as in-house editor, on 4/28 for further discussion.

Young Artists Showcase: Cmr. Sherblom attended the most recent reception and remarked that it was well attended. Cmr. Sussna is scheduled to attend on May 6.

Community Day: This is the Chamber of Commerce's June 3 event. The Commission is handling the non-profit arts/history registrations. Five organizations have signed up so far. Cmrs. Oldroyd and Rigoletto staff the booth for the Commission; a May 4 meeting at 3pm (after the World Music Day meeting) was scheduled to plan details.

Junior Historian Essay Contest: 107 students participated; the awards program is May 2, 6pm at the Court House as part of the Board of Chosen Freeholders' regular meeting. Chair Maher will take photos.

V. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS

n/a

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Comr. Sussna asked Comr. Davidson to report on an art show proposal which was determined at a committee meeting consisting of himself and Comrs. Davidson & Rigoletto. At that meeting, they determined to hold a photography show for high school students. Comr Davidson suggested a venue such as at the Stangl Factory. Chair Maher stated that she also volunteered for this committee but was not made aware of the meeting. The Commissioners were reminded that the Chair and Director are included in all Commission committees. There was discussion about the lack of staff to support the proposed show; Comrs. Sussna and Davidson stated they would handle the exhibition themselves. Comr. Davidson stated he will research the logistics and bring his findings to the Commission.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion about new approaches to market the Arts/Cultural Activities within the county. Chair Maher suggested a standing Arts/Cultural Activities Marketing Committee to explore innovative outreach, such as enhancing our website, use of Apps, Facebook etc. The goal is to maximize our outreach while being cognizant of limited available staff. Comrs. Sussna, Oldroyd, Cronheim, Chair Maher and Director Fellows expressed an interest. This will be further discussed at a future meeting.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- J Comr. Oldroyd shared some arts/cultural activities, including resident artists and themed walks proposed at Tewksbury's Wittemore Wildlife Sanctuary.
- J Comr. Oldroyd spoke about her interest in the former "TISCO" property in High Bridge. Boro Council is exploring uses for their Boro-owned buildings, particularly "Shop E" which is a large industrial structure. Comr. Oldroyd stated that the site could be repurposed for studios, performance space etc. She is exploring the feasibility of forming a non-profit to pursue this possibility.
- J Califon Bookshop had a book signing for "The Heritage of Our Hunterdon County Parks," by Doug Kiovosky.
- J Director Fellows and Economic Development Executive Director Marc Saluk will tour ArtYard in Frenchtown.
- J The Red Mill Museum has an exhibit up about World War I; Ms. Cronheim reminded Commissioners that the NJ Historical Commission has developed programmatic themes for each year (2017 is WWI) and has curriculum materials on their website.
- J Comr. Sherblom is working on a publication highlighting the journal of Christiana Vought.
- J Ms. Cronheim announced that former Commissioner Larry Carlbom passed away; she attended the funeral.
- J Comr. Davidson reported that an historically African-American church on Hollow Road, East Amwell may become a museum; a consultant is working with a local group to restore the building and determine how to use the property.
- J Comr. Davidson will present his lecture "When the Circus Came to Town" again on Fri. April 28.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Maher asked for a motion to adjourn. Moved: Sussna; seconded: Rigoletto; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hanna