

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:35 a.m., Thursday Jan. 26, 2017
Historic County Court House, 71 Main Street Flemington., NJ

Present: Alan Rigoletto, Gayle Maher, Don Sherblom, Susan Oldroyd, James Davidson, Maeve Pambianchi, Lora Jones (Ex Officio).
Executive Director: Carrie Fellows; Staff: Nancy Hanna

Absent: Robert Sussna

O.P.M.A.

At 9:35 a.m. Executive Director Fellows declared the meeting open and properly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

I. REORGANIZATION/ ELECTION

Director Fellows reviewed the slate presented at the Dec. 8 meeting, nominating Gayle Maher for Chair, and Alan Rigoletto for Vice Chair. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Moved Pambianchi, Seconded Sherblom; motion carried. Fellows turned the gavel over to Chair Maher.

II. APPROVAL OF Dec. 8, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

Moved Cmr. Sherblom, seconded Cmr. Oldroyd, motion carried.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Maher reviewed the meeting schedule for 2017 (dates in meeting packet). She thanked former Chair Lora Jones for all her hard work over the years of her service to the Commission and especially her last two, as Chair.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Process- The operating budget has been submitted, and the temporary budget (based on the prior year's budget) received; we have 26.25% in each line item until the Board of Chosen Freeholders (BOCF) introduces and accepts a 2017 budget. The Local Arts Program (LAP) and County History Partnership Program (CHPP) grant funds are available for use as set forth in our contracts.

Programs & Initiatives

Economic Development – Fellows participated in a branding meeting with Marc Saluk and consultants for the Economic Development Division.

Collaborative Program with Crossroads of the American Revolution – Topic will be 'Dress during the American Revolution', tentatively planned for April, dates pending speaker confirmation.

Grants

LAP Grant – Cmr. Pambianchi recused herself from the meeting. The outside review panel met on 1/23 to score the LAP applications. A resolution for funding was moved by Cmr. Davidson, seconded by Cmr. Oldroyd; all in favor. Cmr. Pambianchi rejoined the meeting.

County Special Project Grants – No action; funding cannot be recommended until the County budget has been accepted.

CHPP – we received 2 applications in the first round, the outside review panel scored them. A resolution for funding was moved by Cmr. Davidson, seconded by Cmr. Rigoletto; all in favor. One application was received for Round 2, it is under review by the panel. No applications have been received from Warren County organizations.

V. COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

World Music Day – Cmr. Rigoletto reported on the Jan. 12 committee meeting. He is looking into "headline" acts for the end of the day and has been in contact with the agent for Red Baraat. Cmr. Maher and he will head the Marketing committee; Cmr. Oldroyd and Sherblom will head the Vendor/Exhibitor committee; Cmr. Oldroyd and Pambianchi will head the Food Vendors committee. Next meeting Feb. 14 at 10am.

Hunterdon Heritage Days – (HC 300th program) –Chair Maher reached out to last year's participants and is getting feedback.

Young Artist Showcase/Hunterdon Art Museum (HAM). – Cmr. Oldroyd reported that she picked up one piece of artwork from the first show, and delivered it to the offices. Director Fellows stated that Cmr. Sussna had reported that he selected two pieces, one from each of the two schools participating in the first show. Parental permission to exhibit was given for only one of those works. Cmr. Oldroyd suggested that commissioners choose more than one work per school, in an effort to get more pieces overall into the show. Commissioners signed up for dates to visit the exhibits and select artwork, as well as dates to attend parent/student receptions at the museum.

Poetry Out Loud – Regional competition to take place in Morristown at Mayo Performing Arts Center, Feb. 13. A student from Delaware Valley will compete. Cmr. Pambianchi acknowledged last year's competition was impressive and encouraged others to attend.

Ribbons of History – meeting was held at the Courthouse on 1/19 and the book is still a work in progress; the group will meet again within the coming months.

VI. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS

No report at this time.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Maher read a Proclamation of Thanks from the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders honoring former Chair Lora Jones for her years of dedicated public service on her retirement from the Commission.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Cmr. Davidson gave an update on East Amwell Historical Society's Clausen House rehabilitation, and upcoming programs.

Chair Maher announced that the 300th Committee will present a program on African-American history in the Sourlands on Feb. 28 at the Main Branch of the County library.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Maher moved to adjourn, Cmr. Pambianchi seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:20am so those present could attend a reception in the large meeting room for former Chair Jones.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hanna