

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

Present: Gayle Maher, Alan Rigoletto, Don Sherblom, Maeve Pambianchi, James Davidson, Robert Sussna. Staff: Executive Director, Carrie Fellows, Nancy Hanna. Guest: Marc Saluk, Executive Director, Hunterdon County Division of Economic Development.

Absent: Susan Oldroyd

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.

Com. Maher Introduced Marc Saluk County Economic Development.

Marc Saluk, Executive Director of the Hunterdon County Division of Economic Development, gave a presentation and overview on the Hunterdon County Economic Development Strategy, and his work building the new Division to address needs identified by the plan.

I. APPROVAL OF Feb 28th REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

Minutes were accepted as corrected. Moved: Com. Davidson; seconded: Com. Rigoletto; motion carried.

II. CHAIR'S REPORT

Minutes were corrected.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Commented on widespread concerns in the arts and humanities profession about how the proposed federal budget may adversely affect funding for small, local organizations.

Grants

- NJ State Council on the Arts: Local Arts Program (LAP) - we asked grantees to submit a revised budget reflecting their awards. Three have completed their paperwork.
- Special Projects: started sending out applications to the panelists. Funding is on hold until the county budget is accepted.
- NJ Historical Commission (NJHC) County History Partnership Program: one grantee has returned their contract. We continue to work with NJHC staff to administer the Warren county program in absence of another organization taking it on. NJHC staff have expressed verbally that they believe the Commission will be able to use the excess funds for constituent professional development programs, and will confirm.

Crossroads of the American Revolution co-sponsored program "The Art of Period Dress": Crossroads Program Coordinator Kate Brindle reported that 50 have registered so far. The interest is high for registration about 6100 people viewed it on the Commission's Facebook page, and the post was shared more than 400 times in the first week after registration went public.

Poetry Out Loud: Director Fellows and Lora Jones attended the regional finals to support Hunterdon entrants. Morristown won 1st in the region, Madison second.

Court Street Park Gazebo project: Frank Bell attended the Flemington Borough Historic Preservation Commission, which approved the plans the Commission recommended. He is waiting to hear from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

World Music Day – Com. Rigoletto reported that he sent a followup email to Red Baraat; the deadline was April 1. He is working on "Plan B" for other performers. Hunterdon Central agreed to let us use the auditorium (rain date backup) for no charge, but we will bear the Custodian cost of \$50.00/hour. Next committee meeting: Wed. April 26.

Publications Committee: Cmr. Maher met with Lora Jones, Christopher Curcio, John Kuhl, John Allen, Cmr. Sherblom, and Director Fellows to further discuss and edit Frank Curcio's draft manuscript. Subject experts have also been asked to review the draft and the effort is ongoing.

Young Artists Showcase: Cmr. Rigoletto attended the reception last Saturday and Cmr. Maher at the beginning of the month. They both reported that the receptions were well attended. They had an opportunity to speak with many of the young artists and their families and heard many positive comments.

Community Day: Chamber event planners asked us to recommend additional performing artists; Director Fellows reached out to Morris Arts and provided several recommendations. The event attracts young families. We anticipate that 5 or 6 of our constituent organizations will attend.

Junior Historian Essay Contest: Eight schools submitted essays. Judging will take place May 3 and 4, the awards program is May 2. Discussion about updating the contest format or theme for next year; Cmr. Sherblom agreed to take the lead on this project.

V. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS

No report at this time.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Cmr. Sussna presented a list of art exhibitions taking place in the county. Cmr. Maher and others added to the list. Cmr. Sussna, Davidson, Rigoletto agreed be on a committee to discuss possibilities for bringing attention to the visual arts in Hunterdon.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Cmr. Davidson gave an update on East Amwell's activities for the Clausen house. He will present another Lindbergh program on 4/22. Cmr. Rigoletto is playing in New Hope, PA, and Prallsville Mills, Stockton with Pyrenesia (formerly River City Healers). The Museum of American Revolution in Philadelphia opens to the public on 4/19.

Director Fellows received authorization for training time to attend (at her own expense) a symposium at the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum (Washington, DC) on fashion after the American Revolution, and also the Printed Textiles conference in Williamsburg. The programs take place consecutively and feature numerous high-level speakers, including several from the UK.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hanna