

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
4:30 pm, Wednesday May 30, 2018
Hunterdon County Historic Courthouse, 71 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822

Present: Gayle Maher, Alan Rigoletto, Don Sherblom, Carol Cronheim, Maeve Pambianchi, Susan Oldroyd-Miller, Todd Lambrix, Haeree Park. Guests: Freeholder Lagay, Planning Department Director Barbara Vogel. Staff: Executive Director Carrie Fellows; Clerk Nancy Hanna.

O.P.M.A. At 4:30 pm Chair Maher declared the meeting open and properly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

APPROVAL OF April 25, 2018 MINUTES: Minutes were accepted as presented. Moved: Sherblom; Second: Lambrix; motion carried.

2018 CHAIR'S REPORT – Chair Maher introduced Barbara Vogel, Director of the Department of Planning, Economic Development and Land Use.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grants: Local Arts Program (LAP) - Regrantee Interim reports are due June 29. The Interim report to New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA) is typically due in July (no date yet).

NJ Historical Commission (NJHC) County History Partnership Program (CHPP) – Regrantee Interim reports are due June 22. Interim report to NJHC is due on June 30 (but not yet available in the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE).

County Special Projects Grants - Received one (1) Mini-grant and five (5) regular applications for funding, totaling \$40,500; \$22,500 is likely to be available. Three outside reviewers met in April to review the applications; their recommendations were presented to the Commission for discussion and to determine funding recommendations to the Board of Chosen Freeholders (BOCF).

Recommended recipients and funding levels for Hunterdon Art Museum, Raritan River Music, Roxey Ballet, Delaware Township Historical Society, and a mini-grant for Flemington DIY, were discussed. The Commission determined not to fund the Delaware Township Historical Society's request based on the 2016 precedent created to fund only those applications scoring greater than "3" on a scale of 1-5. Staff were directed to recommend the following to the Society: that they work with the NJ State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on their project; and if they apply for funding again, that they consider partnering with another organization to help them prepare the application and engage the public in their project through an exhibit, public program, or similar to broaden the audience for their project. A motion to fund Hunterdon Art Museum (\$7750), Raritan River Music (\$7500), Roxey Ballet (\$5250), and a mini-grant for Flemington DIY (\$500) was moved by Cmr. Lambrix, seconded by Cmr. Oldroyd, all in favor. Motion not to fund Delaware Township Historical Society was moved by Cmr. Rigoletto; Seconded by Cmr. Sherblom; motion passed.

Cmr. Sherblom recused himself from the meeting, and the application from Carla Cielo, Preservation Architect, was discussed. Funding was recommended (\$1500) provided the applicant provide an uploadable electronic file of the research with the final report, and a 1-hour public presentation or exhibit TBD. Moved by Cmr. Cronheim; seconded by Pambianchi; motion passed. Cmr. Sherblom rejoined the meeting.

The resolution (attached) for 2018 Special Project Grants was moved by Lambrix; seconded by Oldroyd; motion passed.

County Historic Preservation Trust Grant Applications

Program manager Bill Millette has application briefs ready for review. The Commission review panel (Cmrs. Cronheim, Maher, and Sherblom; Lambrix as alternate) will meet at 10am on June 12, 2018 and make recommendations to be voted on by the full Commission at the June 27 meeting. Recommendations will be provided to the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) prior to their July 16 meeting.

Programs & Initiatives

Essay Contest: Awards were held at the BOCF meeting on May 15. Fellows gave a brief overview of the program's history and purpose, and announced that the Commission intends to reformat the program to meet NJ Curriculum standards with the assistance of current classroom teachers and our retired teacher review panel. The contest will be on hiatus for at least a year while this work takes place.

Community Day, June 2 – Cmr. Lambrix volunteered to assist in the booth, provide a textile activity, and help raise awareness about World Music Day.

Salsa Night, July 21- volunteers are needed to set up, work the booth, and help market World Music Day.

Other Administration: Flooring installation in the gallery/multi use rooms will continue through June 8.

V. COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Publications Committee: Lora Jones reported to Director Fellows that Dennis Bertland, whom she had asked to read the manuscript, has declined; the Commissioners will be provided an updated version for review.

World Music Day: Cmr. Rigoletto received verbal confirmation from performers Tony Trishka, Aurelio Martinez, and Anthony Carrera. Fred Moore has agreed to provide sound again. The Brooklyn-based Indian-fusion group Women's Raga Massive is also interested in performing. Regarding the sponsorship list sent to the BOCF for approval, Freeholder Lagay said she didn't hear any comments from the BOCF so may move forward. Cmr. Cronheim suggested we distribute flyers in several languages. Alan will call for a meeting later on.

Hunterdon Art Museum (HAM) Young Artist Showcase - Cmr. Rigoletto and Cmr. Park attended the final reception.

Marker Committee: Cmr. Sherblom would like to consider the markers with and around the Annandale area of Clinton Twp. as a pilot area; doing something different, making connections/relating them to one another, create a walkable trail around the area and highlighting interesting historic sites.

Director Fellows suggested we remove the application information from the Commission's website with a statement under the historic marker program that we are not accepting new applications at this time.

Electronic Manuscript Publication: Chair Maher and Cmr. Sherblom met with Hunterdon County Historical Society Executive Director Pat Millen and Archivist Don Cornelius. They discussed ideas on how to reach professionals (historic preservation architects, archaeologists, etc.), private organizations and public entities with professionally prepared reports of interest to historians, to let them know the Historical Society would be willing to house them and make them available to the public. They made it clear that they only want original documents/diaries/historic photos/artifacts, etc. Private individuals may donate items to the Historical Society and if accepted, they would be properly stored and made available to the public for research. It was suggested that both agencies include links on their websites with additional information (when ready) and to send hard copy letters to historic organizations to inform constituents of these opportunities.

Strategic Planning: next meeting to be scheduled.

The Hunterdon Art Tour (THAT): Cmr. Cronheim spoke at the opening reception on behalf of the Commission, also attended by Cmr. Park. Cmr. Lambrix offered to be a resource/liaison with THAT organizers. Cmr. Cronheim asked for the final grant report from THAT to evaluate the program and share with the Commissioners.

VI. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS – The 2018 Budget was adopted. It includes funding for a part-time position to be added to the Division of Culture & Heritage.

VII. OLD BUSINESS – N/A

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – NA

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- Cmr. Sherblom informed the Commission that historian James Gigantino's book on William Livingston, first Governor of New Jersey (1776-1790) will be published in October.
- Whittemore in Tewksbury: Cmr. Rigoletto will perform on June 7 with a classical flute and clarinet duo, on June 21 Fabrizio Sotti has a solo jazz guitar performance.
- June, 22 Cmr. Rigoletto will perform during Cmr. Oldroyd's Goat Yoga class at Mad Lavendar Farm
- Pyrenesia will perform this year at the Black Potato Music Festival in Clinton.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Maher asked for a motion to adjourn. Moved: Cronheim; Second: Rigoletto; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hanna