

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting - 4:30 pm, Wednesday July 31, 2019
Hunterdon County Historic Courthouse, 71 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822

Present: Gayle Maher, Don Sherblom, Carol Cronheim, Maeve Pambianchi, Haeree Park; Nikki Shepardson, Economic Development Director Marc Saluk (guest speaker). Staff: Executive Director Carrie Fellows, Program Development Specialist Christopher Spangler, Clerk Nancy Hanna.

Absent/ Excused: Todd Lambrix

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.

I. APPROVAL OF June 26, 2019 MINUTES:

- Motion to approve June 26, 2019 minutes; Moved: Cmr. Shepardson, Second: Cmr. Pambianchi, motion carried.

II. CHAIR'S REPORT

- Chair Maher welcomed County Economic Development Director Marc Saluk.
- Director Saluk updated the Commission on the following items:
 - Rutgers University Study on County Demographics: The 'Burbs' Bounce Back: 'Trendlet' or 'Dead Cat Bounce indicates that the declining population trend in Hunterdon may be slowing or reversing. Abstract: <http://www.njtd.org/rrr39-the-burbs-bounce-back/>.
 - Hunterdon County Business Climate: Hunterdon is developing a reputation for being easy to do business with, but some hurdles remain to be addressed.
 - Tourism: According to the first phases of the HC Tourism Economic Impact study, receipts have gone up every year since the recovery.
 - Film Commission: A website is in development and a logo will be chosen soon.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NJ State Council on the Arts (NJSCA):

- Director Fellows, Cmr. Cronheim, and Cmr. Park attended the annual meeting on 7/23 at NJ State Museum. The Commission received \$66,464 for 2020, which is the same total as the previous year. The Commission will reallocate \$5,000 from World Music Day to the grantee program.
- Filed Interim Report for LAP grant on 7/30.
- Regrant workshops were held on Wednesday 7/17, at 10am and 6:30pm. Both were well attended.
- Regrantee Interim Reports were due on Friday, 6/28. All interim grant checks have been sent out.

NJ Historical Commission (NJHC):

- The Commission hosted a County History Partnership Program (CHPP) Grant Workshop on 7/10 at 6:00 pm.
- Filed Interim Report for CHPP on 7/30. The Commission will receive \$20,195 for the 2020-2022 round, which is \$2,295 less than the last round.

County Special Projects Grant:

- The BOCF voted the Commission's 2019 funding recommendations at their 7/2 meeting. Many of the grantees were present.
- Staff sent award letters and purchase orders for completion to grantees.

NJ Historic Trust Grant (NJHT) Application: Architect Bell and Director Fellows attended the 7/18 site visit with James Giresi of Clark Caton Hintz (CCH) and NJHT staff.

Partner Agencies & Community Arts/ History Projects:

- Director Fellows attended the HC Film Commission Meeting on 7/16.
- Director Fellows attended HC Creative Team meeting on 7/22; Leigh Marino is stepping down as Chair. Members present requested that the C&H Commission should take over administration of this program. The request will be considered further with Commissioners and County Administration.
- Crossroads/NJ Historical Commission NJ250 meeting will be held at the Historic Courthouse on 10/2.

Correspondence: The Sourlands Conservancy shared a pamphlet with the Commission.

Historic Preservation Trust Grant recommendations to Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC):

- The Commission's grant review panel met at 3pm today with Bill Millette, program administrator, to discuss applications and recommend funding levels.
- Funding recommendations were reviewed for all but one applicant. Motion to accept recommended funding: Moved: Cmr. Cronheim, Second: Cmr. Shepardson, all in favor.
- Cmr. Cronheim recused herself from discussion and voting on the final applicant. Funding recommendation was reviewed; Motion to accept funding level: Moved: Cmr. Pambianchi, Second: Cmr. Park, all in favor (Cmr. Cronheim returned to the meeting after the vote).
- Staff will forward recommendations to POSAC for review and vote; final decision is by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

IV. COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Marker Committee: Cmr. Sherblom provided an overview of the current program and the application criteria; general discussion and agreement that the program, existing markers, and criteria for placing new markers requires a higher level of academic rigor and primary source verification. This may result in some markers being recommended for revision or removal. A meeting will be scheduled in October to follow up with local stakeholders to share updates and vision for the future program. Cmr. Cronheim suggested county markers include the county or C&H logo. Program Development Specialist Spangler advised that he will schedule a meeting with the Voorhees High School Computer Science Academy in early September to discuss next steps; the goal is that they construct a website to support the historic markers. Cmr. Shepardson suggested that the Commission partner with local colleges to offer independent learning opportunities for students, to verify the marker content.

History Essay Contest: Program Development Specialist Spangler met with local teachers on 7/22 to discuss the essay contest. They were excited with the new topic and offered advice to improve the contest.

ADA Sensitivity Workshop: Cmr. Park attended the workshop on 7/24 at 10:00 am, and lauded John McEwen, facilitator, as a leader in the field. Twenty people attended and provided excellent feedback. The Commission will repeat the workshop at a later date for those unable to attend.

V. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS – N/A

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – N/A

VII. OLD BUSINESS –

Document Storage: No updates at this time.

Guest speaker: Cmr. Cronheim advised that Susan Wallner has agreed to show her documentary on Anne Morrow Lindbergh at the Courthouse in Feb. 2020. The Commission will also reach out to Ann Gordon for a presentation.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – need a volunteer for the Jazz festival, Program Development Specialist Spangler will represent C&H Commission at the State History Fair on 9/14.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE N/A

Cmr. Pambianchi announced she received approval to perform *All is Calm* at South Hunterdon High School the weekend before Christmas.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, motion to adjourn; Moved: Cmr. Sherblom, Second: Cmr. Cronheim, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Hanna

Next meeting September 25, 2019, 4:30pm