

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting - 4:30 pm, Wednesday July 29, 2020
Hunterdon County Historic Courthouse, 71 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822
THIS MEETING HELD TELEPHONICALLY

Dial in number: 720-399-1558 or 877-658-5107
Passcode: 438836

Present: Gayle Maher, Don Sherblom, Carol Cronheim, Haeree Park, Nikki Shepardson, Staff: Executive Director Carrie Fellows, Analyst Trainee Lauren Lembo, Clerk Nancy Hanna.
Absent: Maeve Pambianchi

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 17 meeting Moved: Cmr. Sherblom, Second: Vice Chair Cronheim. All in favor.

II. Public Comment: N/A

III. Chair Report: N/A

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COVID-19 Remote Operations: The County continues to work remotely, and in the office on a rotating schedule. Staff are coordinating with the County, with limited contact with the public.

NJ State Council on the Arts LAP Grant, Addendum: Lauren is working on the final report for the re-grantees. Also, we are preparing a virtual grant workshop, and CARES Act funding is almost ready to go.

NJ Historical Commission (NJHC) - CHPP Grant, and NJ 250: Lauren is working on the County History Partnership Project (CHPP) grant final report forms for the re-grantees and preparing a virtual grant workshop. Lauren: updated the language in forms to relate to the impacts of COVID-19 (i.e. more of an emphasis on tracking virtual audiences) and also more of an emphasis on diversity/inclusive programming. Additionally, we are streamlining the way we receive documents digitally, and providing more resources to guide constituents.

Lauren virtually attended the NJAM workshop, which provided great resources for addressing diverse audiences and supporting their stories, which will be incorporated into grant training sessions to help re-grantees.

Executive Director Fellows is now on the NJ Advisory Council for NJ250, she attended the first Council meeting which included a diverse group; the main topic of conversation was about how information should be delivered to constituents.

County Special Projects Grants:

The County extended the deadline for the re-grantees to submit their applications electronically due to COVID-19, the Commissioners reviewed the grant panel's comments and voted on it. Cmr. Park asked how was HAM doing their exhibits; Lauren responded that they are modifying their programs into virtual platforms and adapting to the impacts of COVID-19. Chair Maher asked to change the resolution language to be related to COVID-19 changes. Motion to accept the recommendations moved by Vice Chair Cronheim after adding the language for COVID-19 to the resolution, and to forward it to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for consideration. Second: Cmr. Park. All in favor; motion carried.

NJ Historic Trust Grant (NJHT): Last week the Clark Caton Hintz architecture team spent the day at the courthouse with County architect Frank Bell, Executive Director Fellows and Analyst Trainee Lembo for the final site assessment; work should commence in the fall. Vice Chair Cronheim asked if we have the funds in for the restoration. Director Fellows responded she was not sure.

Open Space/Historic Preservation Grants – Review panel met with Bill Millette to review 2020 applications for funding. The Commissioners reviewed the panel recommendations and voted funding amounts to be recommended to the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee. Moved: Cmr. Shepardson, Second: Vice Chair Cronheim. All in favor; motion carried.

IV. COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Marker Committee: Cmr. Sherblom reported that the committee is adding web content to six markers, and rewriting some. It will be recommended that one marker be moved. The Solitude House marker content is complete. The Union Iron Works has new web content draft, which requires review and feedback from outside readers. It will be recommended that the Flemington Raid marker be relocated; the draft content will be reviewed at our next committee meeting. The subcommittee will meet again as needed. The plan is to engage students and offer internship opportunities in the fall. Cmr. Sherblom will send the draft internship form to Cmr. Shepardson for edits and possible submission.

History Essay Contest: Updating: On hold for now.

Guest Speakers: N/A

Website: Cmr. Shepardson suggested updating the C&H website with new historical information and news. Executive Director Fellows commented that the IT department is overloaded due to the pandemic.

Document Storage: No news

V. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS – no report

VI. OLD BUSINESS –no report

VII. NEW BUSINESS – no report

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

-) Chair Maher thanked the staff for sending resources from arts/history webinars, deemed very interesting and helpful
-) Vice Chair Cronheim attended the Art Council meeting, which focused on the new marketing campaign “Keep Jersey Arts Alive” and discussed urgent issues for the arts at this time. Executive Director Fellows will forward the campaign tool kit.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Maher requested a motion to adjourn; Moved: Cmr. Sherblom, Second: Vice Chair Cronheim. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Hanna

Next meeting: September 30, 2020, 4:30pm