

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES - Approved
Regular Monthly Meeting - 4:30 pm, Wednesday April 29, 2020
Hunterdon County Historic Courthouse, 71 Main St. Bldg 3, Flemington, NJ
MEETING HELD BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
Dial in number: 720-399-1558 or 877-658-5107
Passcode: 444103

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

Absent/ Excused:

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 Feb. 26, 2020 MINUTES:

Chair Maher requested approval of the Feb. 26, 2020 minutes. Minutes were approved. Moved: Vice Chair Cronheim. Second: Cmr. Sherblom, all in favor.

II. Public Comment:

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. COVID-19 Remote Operations -

Director Fellows reported the county sent all employees in the Department of Planning & Land Use home at noon on March 20, to work remotely under COVID-19 restrictions. She often goes in the office over the weekend, and Clerk Nancy on Monday for any financial and correspondences she also gave some information on how everyone in the planning department dealing with this challenging time

2. NJ State Council on the Arts – LAP Grant – the Council has released the Interim grant payments early so we are providing the interim and first payment together. All regrantees are urged to be creative yet stay within the original mission and intent of the regrant activity described in their applications. Regrantees were asked to provide with their re-grant agreement a short description of how their funded programs would be impacted under COVID-19.

3. NJ Historical Commission – CHPP Grant: Some regrantee agreements already processed. Director Fellows asked to serve on the NJ250 Advisory Council.

4. Special Project Grants - County Administrator Davis confirmed that these will be funded this year; applicants will be asked to provide a description, like for LAP regrantees, how their program will be affected under COVID-19.

5. NJ Historic Trust Grant – contract submitted to NJHT. Construction not anticipated to begin until October 2020 (scheduled)

6. Hunterdon County Historic Preservation Grants – applications received in Planning.

7. 2020 Budget update – all Departments asked to make cuts. Budget introduced; is anticipated to be accepted May 18. Our staff position was approved prior to COVID; training will be a challenge.

IV. COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Marker Committee: Cmr. Sherblom updated the Commissioners on the project. He and Mr. Montgomery discussed in March and recently re: using a costly Google API application API. There have been some communications issues. Cmr. Sherblom spoke with Google rep Orland Garcia regarding options for the project using this app, and the level of funding needed to support the number of hits the Commission would likely see. Mr. Montgomery looking for another API and has added another student to the project.

History Essay Contest: has been postponed maybe till fall or next year.

Guest Speakers

The Ann Gordon lecture was canceled.

Cmr. Shepardson suggested Tim Higgins as a possible speaker on the Spanish Flu epidemic.

Cmr. Pambianchi asked about the impact of construction on programs in the historic courthouse. With COVID-19 restrictions in play as well, this remains undetermined.

V. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS N/A

VI. OLD BUSINESS –

Storage of Documents/ Manuscripts/ Plans

Dave Harding is the new Director of the Hunterdon Historical Society, Director Fellows met with him in late February. He is very interested on working with the Commission on this project. Chair Maher asked for a subcommittee meeting to move forward.

Creative Assets Inventory – Director Fellows indicated it is up on our website.

VII NEW BUSINESS – N/A

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- Cmr. Cronheim was in touch with Sara Cureton, Director of the NJHC, regarding for NJ250/ Semi-quincentennial. Director Fellows will be on the Advisory Council.
- NJ ArtPride was approved for Payroll Protection Program; there are several federally-funded COVID-relief projects going on. Director Fellows will forward the links to everyone.
- Cmr. Cronheim also spoke about the new & innovative ways arts and history organizations are planning to serve constituents in the upcoming months.
- Director Fellows announced that Raritan River Music Festival is being held virtually

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Hanna

Next meeting: May 20, 2020, 4:30pm