

Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2013

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 22, 2013 in the Bethany Beach Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Laren Hughes; Jan Kinsella; Theo Loppatto; Mary Lou McNerney; Mary Lou Urquhart; and Margaret Young.

Also present: Councilperson, Joseph Healy; Lindsey Good, Administrative Secretary; and John Worthington, Donator of sculpture.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

** Note: Ms. Olmstead amended the order of the agenda so that Item IV is discussed before Item III.*

Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2013 Meeting

After a few changes, Ms. Loppatto made a motion to approve the minutes dated June 25, 2013. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kinsella and unanimously approved.

Announcements

- Ms. Olmstead reported that Councilman, Mr. Joe Healy sent a letter to the French Ambassador, Mr. Francois Delattre, to invite a representative to “Periers’ Day” at the Town of Bethany Beach on July 27th. Mr. Delattre responded with a letter expressing his gratitude.

- Ms. Olmstead reported that Mr. John Worthington is present at today’s meeting to explain to the Committee that he is provided a donation of a sculpture to the Town.

Consider Sculpture Donation to the Town from Local Citizen

Mr. John Worthington explained that he and his spouse have lived in Milwaukee, but they are in the process of selling their home and moving to another location. They own an original sculpture by artist David Smith titled “Taking Flight”, and they would like to donate it to the Town since there will not be a place to display the sculpture at their new residence. The sculpture design is of a young boy and it is approximately five and a half (5 ½) feet tall and five (5) feet wide. It is made of bronze and mounted on rock, and is worth about \$50,000. Mr. Worthington added that he is able to have it transported to the Town.

Mr. Worthington made a suggestion to display the structure in the park directly next to the Town Hall. The Committee members agreed that this would be the best location.

At this time, Ms. Olmstead called for a vote. Ms. Loppatto made a motion to accept the sculpture donation of the sculpture from Mr. John Worthington and to have a bronze plaque made that honors it is a donation from Mr. and Mrs. John Worthington. Ms. Young seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Worthington recommended that the artist, Dennis Smith and the title of the sculpture be included on the plaque. The Committee agreed that this would be a good idea.

The sculpture will most likely be transported to the Town in late August or early September.

Mr. Worthington expressed his appreciation to the Committee for accepting his donation, and the Committee expressed thanks to Mr. Worthington for making the donation. Mr. Worthington added that he is very excited that the sculpture will be displayed in Bethany Beach.

Finalize Plans for July 27th, Periers' Day

The Committee discussed the following plans for Periers' Day:

- Ms. Hughes posted the Periers' Day advertisement in the local newspapers.
- Ms. Hughes is going to post the advertisement on the Town's website today. Ms. Olmstead will also post it around the five (5) places in Town (the Town Hall, PNC Bank, Bandstand, Post Office, and South Coastal Library) today.
- Ms. Olmstead reported that there will not be any restaurants participating in the event this year, but that the show will provide enough entertainment.
- The Mime will then be walking around providing entertainment from 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. Mayor Tony McClenny will be giving an introduction to the event, followed by Diana Cowell providing a short speech at 5:30 p.m. Lastly, a performance similar to the "Cirque Du Soleil" will take place from 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Committee ensued a discussion on exactly where the "Cirque Du Soleil" should take place: either on the Bandstand or behind the benches for the Bandstand. Ms. Hughes is going to contact the performance group to find out the details on how much time they need to set up, in able to determine where the performance will occur. Another performance separate from the Periers' Day event will be taking place at 7:30 p.m., so the Bandstand area will need to be cleared by 7:00 p.m. at the latest.

- A sound check will take place for the show following the Periers' performance no later than 7:00 p.m.
- Ms. Hughes will be videotaping the event.
- Ms. Hughes will contact the Public Works Director, Brett Warner, to ensure that the Public Works department will arrange the benches and clean up the area immediately following the performance.

Other Discussion

- Ms. Young noted that at the last meeting, she mentioned that she was going to determine whether a home located on Kent Avenue should be included on the Bethany Beach Heritage Trail brochure that she and Ms. Hughes created. She stated that she can no

longer locate a historical marker in front of the house. Ms. Olmstead advised that she will see if she is able to locate the marker and then contact Ms. Hughes with the information.

- Ms. Hughes reported that Mr. Tom Ryan contacted her regarding scheduling to speak at a Cultural Event in the fall. The Committee decided that a Cultural Event can be scheduled for Tuesday, October 29th, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. and if that date isn't suitable for Mr. Ryan, it can be scheduled for November 5th, 2013. Mr. Ryan will be giving a presentation on Part II on the Wives of Historical Generals.
- The Committee discussed the docents for the Museum, and the number of people that have visited the Museum. It was noted that there weren't many visitors during the time that the docents were there, but Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that many people visit the Museum during business hours. It was suggested to have docents present while the Town Hall is open.
- Ms. Olmstead advised that if there is anyone interested in becoming a CHAC member, September would be a good time for them to join the Committee.
- Ms. Hughes referenced the Oral History Project and said that she will have it completed by the end of September. Ms. Olmstead stated that it is crucial to have this project completed soon. The Committee members expressed their appreciation to Ms. Hughes for all of her hard work on this project.

Adjourn

Ms. Loppatto made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. McNerney and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17th, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lindsey Good, Admin. Secretary