

Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2011

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Margaret Young; Jane Fowler; Mary Lou Urquhart; Theo Loppatto; Jean Wode; and Gloria Farrar.

Excused members: Pat Rogers; Pam Szypulski; Mary Lou McNerney

Also present: Jan Kinsella (will be appointed to the Committee at the next Town Council meeting); Lindsey Good, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes from the May 10, 2011 Meeting

After an amendment, Ms. Young made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Fowler seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes from the June 7, 2011 Meeting

Ms. Loppatto made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Ms. Young, the motion was unanimously approved.

Councilman Joe Healy to Discuss His Visit to Periers, France and Make a Recommendation for Future Recognition of Periers

Ms. Olmstead reported that Mr. Healy was unable to attend the meeting today due to a family emergency.

Ms. Olmstead provided the following information on Mr. Healy's recommendation for the future recognition of Periers, France, the sister city of Bethany Beach:

Mr. Healy and his wife visited Periers, France in July, and he described it as a lovely town. He suggested that the Town of Bethany Beach should hold an annual recognition event on July 27th, which is the date of the liberation of Periers.

The Committee discussed ideas of events that could take place for this occasion.

Ms. Olmstead said that it the Committee could bring any ideas to the next meeting. She added that Mr. Healy could attend the next meeting to provide input on any suggestions from the members for recognizing Periers, France on their date of liberation.

Ms. Olmstead is going to include this topic as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Review of Summer Docent Program

The committee members who participated as docents compared the number of Museum visitors they each had while working as a docent this past summer. Overall, there was not a substantial number of visitors that came to see the Museum.

Ms. Young noted that having docents work only on weekends during the summer is not a good idea because all of the vacationers are on the beach during this time.

The Committee members came up with the following ideas to increase visitors at the Museum:

- Ms. Young suggested having the docents work in the museum during a couple of week days in the summer.
- Ms. Farrar recommended having the museum open one evening a week at the same time each week. She noted this way people can visit after they spend their day on the beach.
- Ms. Young commented that it could be open an hour before a Cultural Event, so people will already be there.
- Installing a brown sign to advertise the Museum.
- Scheduling the Museum to be open on the same day and time of each month. For example, it could be open on the third Saturday of every month, since the doors will already be open for the Planning Commission meetings.
- Ms. Loppatto suggested to have a trial period of the schedule before making it permanently effective.
- Ms. Wode made a suggestion to put a guest book in the museum that people can sign. Ms. Olmstead replied that the Committee has discussed this idea before.
- Ms. Wode recommended that invitations be sent to local schools. Ms. Olmstead stated that she will add creating a program list for school students onto the project list.
- Ms. Olmstead explained that she likes the idea of sending invitations to schools, but noted that programs will need to be created for the students. The Committee ensued a discussion on creating a program for the students.
- Ms. Wode suggested to begin this schedule on December 5th, after the Christmas party.
- Ms. Olmstead suggested to try having the museum open on holiday weekends.

Ms. Olmstead stated that she will type up a list of all of the ideas and bring it to the next meeting.

Ms. Olmstead said there that there is no agenda item to discuss CHAC events for this meeting, but she will put it on the agenda for the meeting next month. She asked the Committee members to bring their ideas to the next meeting, and noted that there will only be a couple of Cultural Events each year instead of every month.

Report Regarding June 2011 Seaside Craft Show

Ms. Olmstead reported that there is now a total of \$32,853.21, so there are enough funds for upcoming projects.

There was \$13,406.00 produced from the Seaside Craft Show.

Discussion Regarding Arcadia Books Proposal

Ms. Olmstead explained that Arcadia sent an e-mail to Mayor McClenny regarding publishing a book on Bethany Beach.

Arcadia Publishing had approached the Town before inquiring if they would want to put together all of the pictures, post cards and text for the book, and it would be published at no cost. The Town would also receive royalties from each book sold. The books would be sold for \$21.99 each.

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that the Committee has considered doing this project before but no members had the time to work on it at that time.

After discussion, it was decided that no Committee members currently have time to complete this project. Ms. Olmstead is going to report this information to Mayor McClenny, and let him know that if he knows of anyone else in the Town that can complete this project, he can provide the information to them.

Oral History Update

Ms. Olmstead reported that the deadline to complete the Oral History Project by September was not met because both Mr. Ray Disney and the Committee members became very busy. She noted that Mr. Disney is not available to do the rest of the interviews, but will be available at the end of the month.

The following people have not been interviewed:

- Bill Addy
- Mary Jane Towson and her mother.
- Laura Hickman and her mother
- Gerald and Don Wilgus
- Mark Bennett
- Kathy Lawson
- Laura Lynch

Ms. Olmstead noted that she told Mr. Disney that they will try to complete the remaining interviews, but if the interviewees are not available, then it is time to move forward.

Ms. Olmstead mentioned that Mr. Disney inquired if the CD's that he records the audio on for every bandstand performance could be sold at the Town Hall.

Projects for Upcoming Year

Ongoing Projects

Ms. Olmstead distributed a list of ongoing projects to the Committee members. The ongoing projects are as follows:

- **Note Cards of Sketches of Houses** – Ms. Wode suggested that CHAC could inquire town businesses to see if they are interested in selling the notecards.

- **Storm videos** – continue selling the historical storm videos in the museum.
- **News Articles** – There is already an album, and Ms. Olmstead, Ms. Urquhart and Ms. Kinsella are going to work on putting the scrapbook together.
- **Historical photos on the walls of the Town Hall:** Individuals have mentioned that it would be nice to put small explanations on the pictures on the wall in the Town Hall. The explanations would include its historical significance in the Town and the date.
- **Publishing of “Walk Through History of Bethany Beach”:** Ms. Fowler said that she contacted Mr. John Himmelburg from the BBLA. Mr. Himmelburg then contacted Ms. Olmstead and explained that it has to be approved by the Board. The Committee members feel that having this book published would be a great idea.

The Committee discussed which items should be completed this year. It was decided that the Oral History Project, the Newspaper Album and the Recognition for Periers, France should be accomplished this year.

Ms. Olmstead mentioned to the Committee members to keep note of any historical houses in the Town and to obtain the address so the Committee can contact the owner.

Recommendations

1.) Ms. Olmstead explained that Mayor McClenny received an e-mail from Ms. Sally Phillips suggesting to create a sign of the design of the different locations of the sun that is carved on the railing on the boardwalk.

The Committee members discussed whether this idea should be pursued. They are going to bring back ideas to the next meeting.

2.) Ms. Farrar presented the idea of having the Rehoboth Beach Film Society show movies at the Town Hall.

3.) Ray Disney has Hickmans and Edgars photographs and Ms. Edgars said that a CHAC member could come to her house to take the pictures that they would like. Ms. Young is going to contact Ms. Edgars.

Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Loppatto made a motion to the adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Fowler, the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lindsey Good, Admin. Secretary

