

**TRUST FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES OF
THE COUNTY OF ONONDAGA
Regular Meeting
September 11, 2014**

The Regular meeting of the Trust for Cultural Resources of the County of Onondaga was held on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 333 West Washington Street, Syracuse, New York, 13202, in the large conference room on the first floor.

Trustee Cydney Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:00 am with the following:

PRESENT:

Cydney Johnson
Greg Lancette
Stefano Cambereri

DELAYED:

Matt McAnaney
Bebette Yunis

ALSO PRESENT:

Julie Cerio, Executive Director
Honora Spillane, Secretary
Kristi Smiley, Treasurer
Karen Doster, Office of Economic Development
Linda McShane, Office of Economic Development
Christopher Andreucci, Harris Beach
Gary Grossman, Everson Museum of Art
Sarah Massett, Everson Museum of Art
Bill Fisher, Office of the County Executive
James Mahaney, County Legislature
Thomas Bezigian, OCDC

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 10, 2013

(Bebette Yunis arrived at meeting.)

Upon a motion by Greg Lancette, seconded by Stefano Cambereri, the Board approved the Regular meeting minutes of October 10, 2013. Motion was carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kristi Smiley gave a brief review of the Treasurer's Report for the month of March through August 2014.

Steve Cambereri asked if the balance is \$519,000. Kristi Smiley agreed. She stated that she is anticipating at the end of the year with additional expenses it will be a little over \$500,000.

Greg Lancette asked if there are any pending projects in the pipeline or anything that we anticipate being applied for. Honora Spillane stated that historically SU has come back every other year and she doesn't see why that would cease. She stated that this is the off year and we will be in touch with them going forward.

Cydney Johnson stated to Stefano Cambereri that it is harder for CRT to do projects because of State guidelines and that is why we work at a much smaller level.

Upon a motion by Greg Lancette, seconded by Bebette Yunis, the CRT Board approved the Treasurer's Report for the months of March 1 through August 31, 2014. Motion was carried unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Kristi Smiley gave a brief review of the Payment of Bills, Schedule #022.

Upon a motion by Bebette Yunis, seconded by Stefano Cambereri, the CRT Board approved the Payment of Bills Schedule #022 for \$17,747.60. Motion was carried unanimously.

EVERSON MUSEUM OF ART

Gary Grossman stated that he is the President of the Board of Trustees at the Everson Museum and he has been in that position since January 1, 2014. He stated that since January 1st they have had a challenging year. He stated that in addition to that they lost their executive director in January. He stated that they have been focused on fiscal stability throughout this year and earlier this year they passed a balanced budget. He stated that they were able to do that through some extraordinary fundraising where everyone on the Board got very engaged as a result of what had been going on. He stated that if they were to receive money from CRT it would be used by the Museum in general operations. He stated that they are in the middle of an executive search and

don't currently have an executive director. He stated that they hope that will start the Museum on a completely new course.

Bebette Yunis stated that she sees that there was a 3 year annual commitment from SU and asked if that is something that the Museum is trying to resurrect. Gary Grossmans stated that he has been trying to schedule a meeting with the Chancellor and he has recently been able to do so. He stated that there is a long standing collaboration that goes on between the two organizations that will continue to go on.

Bebette Yunis stated that it is too bad because it seems like a significant amount of money that the Museum has counted on over the years. Gary Grossman stated that they received it in 2010 and then there was a three year commitment that was made by Nancy Cantor. He stated that the commitment ended and it was renewed.

Cydney Johnson stated that SU makes a gap of \$200,000 and this request is for \$100,000. She asked where the Museum makes up for the other \$100,000. Gary Grossman stated that there are a number of things that they are doing and one is the additional fundraising but that can only go so far because the community is only so big. He state that the other thing they are doing and one of the best ideas he has heard since he has been President is when they schedule exhibitions they are adding an overhead factor. He stated that right now they have projections for the next two shows and how that is going to impact the museum. He stated that in addition they have been cutting expenses. He stated that they are going to look at new revenue sources. He stated that all of these things give them hope and they see a road for the museum.

Stefano Cambereri stated that he is looking at the consolidated statements of financial position thorough 2013, he stated that from looking at those he can't tell the critical need. He stated that the request says it is a critical need for funding and he can't determine the critical aspect from it from the financial statements ending 2013 and we are in September 2014.

Stefano Cambereri stated that he is guessing they wouldn't be before the Board today unless it really was critical and asked if it is a critical need. Gary Grossman agreed it is a critical need and the situation at the museum has been critical all year. He stated that they came into 2014

with a loss from 2013 that they have been working down. He stated that the loss incurred in 2013 is funded in accounts payable.

Stefano Cambereri stated that he doesn't see the financial statements recent enough that would indicate to him that level of critical need. He stated that he does not doubt that it is the case but he does not see it here in front of him.

Stefano Cambereri stated that the CNY Arts organizations are requesting funding through the County budget. He asked if the Museum is in that process right now and putting a request together through CNY Arts as to what the request from the Legislature is going to be for 2015. Bill Fisher stated that when the new arrangement came through the County Executive asked the Legislature to set aside 22% of each year's revenues from the forecast on room tax for arts organization funding. He stated that everyone knows they will not be taken below 2011 but there is a competitive process and a grant process that is administered by CNY Arts to determine how much of that extra goes on. He stated that last year it was 5% and next year it is going to be a smaller number so it is not a big growth. He stated that the Everson can count on \$130,000 per year and if it goes up next year it might be \$132,000 but it is not huge.

Stefano Cambereri stated that there is still discretion in the legislature in their determination as to how it is that they are going to fund the Everson. Bill Fisher stated that there was a painful process a few years ago that bore very much on CRT's decision making.

Stefano Cambereri stated that his belief is that they are better off making their request of budget through the Legislature first then after making it through that process and determining exactly what the funding is going to be then come to CRT to make that request.

(Matt McAnaney arrived at meeting.)

Bill Fisher stated that under the old system he thinks Mr. Cambereri would be right but the new system the County Legislature has taken this away from being a political controversy by letting CNY Arts figure it out. He stated that the fact that this organization is a trust establishes that it is not the everyday in and out legislative appropriation kind of thing. He stated that from the judgment from the County Executive office is that this the appropriate time and the appropriate place for this urgent grant request to be made.

Cydney Johnson stated that understanding and she appreciates Mr. Cambereri bringing a new perspective and opening a perspective. She stated that she thinks the Board needs time to discuss this so she does not think they are ready to vote today. She suggested taking the request under consideration and respond back.

Cydney Johnson thanked the Everson Museum of Art and appreciates the sincerity and information provided. She stated that she is from the area and grew up going to the Everson so she knows how important it is.

Bill Fisher stated that in the Board's materials he believes is a request from the Mayor. He stated that the County Executive's office has seen this Trust not just the creature of the County but the Mayor has had a strong interest in seeing that the resources of this Board be spent in the City.

2015 BUDGET APPROVAL

Kristi Smiley stated that as the Board knows the final budget will be presented to the County Legislature. She stated that every year staff asks each one of the Boards that are contracted with the County to provide administrative services to go through and take a look at the amount of time spent on each Board and ask the organizations to pay their proportional share of the time staff was spent towards the Office budget. She stated that the Board can see that between 2014 and 2015 time stayed about the same because CRT has not had a lot of activity. She stated that everything else is also flat except for the steady increase with annual audit where a three year agreement was done. She stated that the Board will notice that in the 2014 program reserves the \$125,000 was not spent that was budgeted. She stated that she did put money back into 2015 for the Board. She stated that the Board has a reserve where the Board would not spend or give grants if CRT fell below \$150,000. She stated that anticipating at the end of 2014 there will be \$500,000 in the bank account.

Cydney Johnson stated that she would like to thank staff for some very fiscally sound management because CRT does not get a lot of projects and the budget is very fine lined in terms of the fluctuation up or down.

Cydney Johnson stated that the CRT Board got hit with a huge amount when they did bail out cultural organizations at the start of the Trust. She stated they are very conservative on how they

use the money now. Stefano Cambereri stated that he is not fundamentally opposed to for example the Everson and he has no doubt that they need the money but their financial statements support for need for the money is weak.

Bebette Yunis stated that it is for general operations and what is going to happen year after year. She stated that how is CRT going to make a difference.

Upon a motion by Matt McAnaney, seconded by Greg Lancette, the CRT Board approved a resolution approving the Trust's 2015 budget. Motion was carried unanimously.

Upon a motion by Greg Lancette, seconded by Matt McAnaney, the CRT Board adjourned the meeting at 8:30 am.



Honora Spillane, Secretary