CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

December 17, 2013

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Penny Watson Suzanne Merighi

Roy Kaneshiki John Garrison Ella Boykin Merle Silver

Maria Cerda-Moreno

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner

Jennifer Morgan/De'Ann James-Burger, Recording Secretary

Guest: Jennifer Webb-McRae, Cumberland County Prosecutor

Welcome to Maria Cerda-Moreno

Mr. Pisarski welcomed Maria Cerda-Moreno. Mr. Pisarski said Ms. Cerda-Moreno visited the office and they went over the various projects currently being pursued by the Commission. Ms. Cerda-Moreno discussed her background and provided some insight on the Hispanic community in Bridgeton.

Approval of Minutes - October 22, 2013 & November 26, 2013

A motion was made to approve the minutes from October 22, 2013 and November 26, 2013 by Suzanne Merighi. The motion was seconded by Roy Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

<u>Cumberland County Prevention Policy Board Discussion – Jennifer Webb-McRae County Prosecutor</u>

Mr. Pisarski said several weeks ago there was an article in the Daily Journal regarding a poetry program that Warden Balicki is doing at the County Jail. Mr. Pisarski and Ms. Webb-McRae have been sharing ideas on how to assist in the program. Ms. Webb-McRae said community justice outreach is very important. Most of the crimes in Cumberland County are related to poverty and predominantly young men/women making wrong life choices. Ms. Webb-McRae said the community justice initiative is to educate the community on positive choices. Ms. Webb-McRae suggested that Mr. Pisarski participate on the Cumberland County Prevention Board. The Prevention Board works on juvenile crime, education and domestic violence. Ms. Webb-McRae stated that a lot of the juvenile population has not been outside of Cumberland County or down to the bayshore and generally have not had opportunities to expand their horizons. Mr. Pisarski and Ms. Webb-McRae attended Leadership Cumberland County together and it was discussed how the youth in the community have many talents but often are not provided positive avenues in which to practice them. The Commission supported Mr. Pisarski's involvement in the Prevention Board and thanked Ms. Webb-McRae for her assistance in building the Commission's outreach to underserved communities.

2014 Budget Approval

Mr. Pisarski indicated that due to not reaching quorum during the November meeting, several items need approval on record for the December meeting. Mr. Pisarski went into detail regarding several items so Ms. Cerda-Moreno had a better understanding of the budget. A motion was made to approve the 2014 budget by John Garrison. The motion was seconded by Merle Silver and passed unanimously. Ella Boykin asked about the Long Range Plan expenses, and Mr. Pisarski responded that it has been paid in full.

2014 Officers Slate and Nominations

In the past years the officers were rotated so everyone had an opportunity to experience being the chairperson. The nominations committee made the following recommendations:

Chair – Suzanne Merighi Vice Chair – Penny Watson Treasurer – Roy Kaneshiki Secretary – Merle Silver

A motion was made to approve the 2014 Slate of Officers by Mr. Garrison. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cerda-Moreno and passed unanimously.

2014 Re-grant Applications – Grants Review Panel Recommendations

The 2014 re-grant applications were reviewed and approved via email. One amendment was recommended to the Grants Review Panel award suggestions to allocate \$900 from the Bridgeton Library award to Cumberland County Library, reducing the Bridgeton Library award to \$1,000. The Grants Review Panel had recommended zero funding to the Cumberland County Library, but with the library willing to change their concept to an in-county event, the Commission felt an award was warranted. Mr. Garrison stated he does wholeheartedly support the concept of transporting youth out of the county for cultural experiences, but understands the concerns expressed by the Panel, particularly given the restrictions of re-grant block funding. It is suggested to regrantees to not use State Council on the Arts funds for a non-county event. A motion was made to approve the 2014 Regrant Applications as amended by Ms. Silver. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Merighi said Gallery 50 is having a holiday sale and recommended Commissioners visit the gallery to see the numerous crafts and art for sale.

Mr. Pisarski indicated that the 2014 liaisons will be selected at the January meeting. If anyone has trouble getting a response from their organization that they are a liaison to please send Mr. Pisarski an email.

<u>Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt</u>

Postponed until next meeting.

Other Old/New Business

Ms. Silver asked why Ms. Cerda-Moreno has only a three year term, Mr. Pisarski said she is finishing out Richard Bermudez's term.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Richard Grubb & Associates regarding a culvert replacement, if anyone can think of a negative impact that it would have please let Mr. Pisarski know.

An email was sent from Kristen McMasters, National Park Service regarding the RFP proposals for the Dallas Landing Project. Ms. McMasters said the RFP process must be redone. Mr. Pisarski will update the Commission as this project moves forward.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Penny Watson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.