

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

April 27, 2017

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 3:30 PM., at the Arts & Innovation Center Millville, New Jersey.

Present:

Penny Watson	Suzanne Merighi
Marianne Lods	Roy Kaneshiki
John Garrison	Ella Boykin
Yogesh Thakur	Maria Cerda-Moreno

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest:

Kim Gauntt, Cumberland County Recreation & Tourism
Meghan Wren, Bayshore Center
Jamie Warner, Bayshore Center
Brian Keenan, Bayshore Center
Jackie Sandro, Clay College
Chris Volker, Boys & Girls Club
Russ Swanson, Vineland Main Street

Approval of Minutes – February 22, 2017

A motion was made to approve the minutes from February 22, 2017 by Mr. Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

Welcome

Mr. Pisarski welcomed everyone to the Arts & Innovation Center. Ms. Sandro explained what the Arts & Innovation has to offer and helped everyone make their clay piece.

Senior's Month – Winchester Center Event Proposal – County Office on Aging

The Blind Center is asking for financial help with the musical entertainment for their Spring Fling. The Commission has not partnered with the Blind Center in the past. The event will be open to the public. Mr. Kaneshiki asked about the budget for the event, the Blind Center has not heard back from the entertainment group regarding pricing. Mr. Pisarski suggested adding “not to exceed” in the motion for approval. Ms. Lods asked if Office on Aging will be doing the Senior Art show since the Commission helps fund it. Mr. Pisarski commented that Ms. Nedohon would still like \$500 for the art show. The Commission has a miscellaneous line that could cover the cost for both requests. A motion was made to approve the Blind Center’s request for the Spring Fling not to exceed \$500 by Ms. Watson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

C.C. Historical Society – Keiser Collection Digitization

Everyone had in their packet an email regarding cost for digitizing the Keiser Collection. Mr. Pisarski said the benefits to digitize the 95 piece collection would be the increase the access to them and to protect the collection. A quote was received from the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts for \$3,170 to digitize the collection. Mr. Pisarski reached out to Mr. DeLuca from the Cumberland County Historical Society regarding splitting the cost. Ms. Moreno suggested waiting for Mr. DeLuca's response.

Highway 77 Motel Sign Appeal

Commission members received in their packet an email from Lisa Garrison regarding saving the Motel 77 sign. The motel will be torn down with a grocery store being built at the location. Ms. Garrison would like the sign saved since it is the only doo wop sign in Cumberland County. Ms. Watson asked if Lidl (grocery store) has been contacted regarding the sign. Mr. Pisarski has not spoken to anyone from Lidl but has spoken to Roy Spoltore from Upper Deerfield where the sign is located and Upper Deerfield does not have an issue with the sign being preserved. Ms. Moreno asked where the sign would go, it has not been discussed. Mr. Pisarski said if we were to get the sign he would look into grant funding to turn it into a public sculpture piece. Ms. Merighi questioned the condition of the sign. The sign is in good condition with nothing broken, although there are some rusty spots. Ms. Watson commented that the text on the sign is historically important. A motion was made to attempt to save the Motel 77 sign by Ms. Watson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously.

Cumberland County as Safe Haven Exhibit – Discussion

A summary was given to everyone regarding a project that the Commission is assisting the New Jersey Council of the Humanities (NJCH) with. It is a traveling exhibit for the fall of 2017. The exhibit is about Cumberland County being a safe haven for marginalized communities. Cumberland County is the only southern county that is minority majority. The exhibit will express why Cumberland County is minority majority, the history, the conditions of Cumberland County and benefits the diversity brings. Mr. Pisarski said a budget and program breakdown will be presented to NJCH. Names are being collected for the project committee. Dr. Vitiello from the University of Pennsylvania has been asked to be the overseeing scholar for the project. Ms. Boykin asked about the different panels for the exhibit. Mr. Pisarski said there will be 8-10 panels. The committee will be split into teams and each team will be responsible for a panel. Mr. Pisarski said we are on a short time schedule, by mid- summer the data needs to be collected and create the panels. The launch date is September 16th. Ms. Merighi commented about funding, Mr. Pisarski said he may come back to the Commission to help with funding. Ms. Moreno suggested adding oral history to the project. Ms. Boykin suggested adding the oyster industry to the African American part of the project. A motion was made to approve the Safe Haven Exhibit by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Commission members received in their packet proposal from Dr. Robyn Rodriguez. Dr. Rodriguez wrote the book, *In Lady Liberty's Shadow: The Politics of Race and Immigration in New Jersey*. A big section of her book is devoted to Bridgeton regarding Latino immigrants. She is requesting \$1,500 to cover travel and related expenses in order to launch the release of the book here in Cumberland County. She will travel to Bridgeton to do a reading and book signing. Mr. Pisarski is suggesting the Commission buy the books and sell them at the signing. Ms. Lods asked about a discount on the book, Mr. Pisarski said we will be able to purchase the books at a discounted rate. Ms. Moreno questioned if Bridgeton was portrayed in a positive light in the

book, Mr. Pisarski commented that from his understanding it is positive. Ms. Boykin asked what Dr. Rodriguez's connection to Cumberland County. She studied at Rutgers and did extensive research about the immigrant communities. Mr. Garrison commented that it is an important event and we need more communication and activities with the Hispanic community. A motion was made to approve \$1,500 to cover the cost of Dr. Rodriguez's expenses by Mr. Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ms. Boykin and passed unanimously.

275 N. Delsea Mural – Update

The Social Services Building will have a grand re-opening to highlight the mural when it is complete. When a date is picked Mr. Pisarski will inform the Commission.

Commission Budget – 1st Quarter Review

Commission members received the 1st quarter review in their packets. Mr. Pisarski commented that very little money has been spent. Mr. Pisarski pointed out some expenses that were not planned. Ms. Lods asked if the grants have been disbursed, yes a \$100,000 in art and \$21,000 in history.

2017 Encore Awards – Monday, May 15, 2017 – Ritz Theatre, Haddon Township

Ms. Ficaglia will be the awardee from Cumberland County. If you will be attending please let Mr. Pisarski know.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Garrison toured the Vineland Public Library. On October 22nd they will be having Fan Con, Ariell Johnson will be in attendance.

Mr. Kaneshiki attended a Seabrook Educational & Cultural Center board meeting and they are working on their five year plan.

Ms. Boykin received an email from Greg Gallo regarding their senior arts program in April. Lisa Garrison is doing a cultural tour in Cumberland County and it is sold out.

Ms. Merighi commented that the Commission is helping fund the completion of planning documents for the restoration of the nail house museum in Bridgeton.

Mr. Pisarski has tickets for the airshow if anyone would like any.

Ms. Boykin said the Cumberland County Black Hall of Fame show case was over the top.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Ms. Gauntt commented that small grants will not be given out and instead billboards will be done. The 36th annual fishing derby will be taking place May 7th at Sunset Lake. A tourism ad has been placed in AAA World Magazine.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Swanson said they are looking for a 3-D chalk artist for one of their events. In Commission packets is an email from Mr. Swanson asking for financial assistance with a Beatles Sgt. Pepper 15th Anniversary Release concert put on by the Bay Atlantic Symphony. Mr. Pisarski commented that the Commission typically purchases tickets from Bay Atlantic Symphony. Ms.

Lods asked what the ticket price would be, the tickets would cost between \$25-\$35. Mr. Pisarski will send an email out to the Commission to see what the Commission can afford.

Mr. Volker said the Boys & Girls club will be doing a project called Art with Kids. The Boys & Girls Club is looking to do art classes for the underserved youth on Saturdays. Mr. Pisarski asked Mr. Volker to come to the Commission with other partners for the art class in place and the Commission may be able to assist.

Ms. Wren thanked the Commission for all the support over the years. She said Bay Day is in its 25th year and 30 years for the Bayshore Center. Ms. Wren introduced Mr. Keenan the new Interim Executive Director. Ms. Wren asked the Commission to be a co-host for the 2017 OysterFest. Mr. Pisarski said there is not a specific monetary contribution to be a co-host but the Commission should commit to a table and assist with promoting the event. A motion was made to co-host OysterFest by Ms. Boykin. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

Mr. Keenan said he is grateful for the opportunity at Bayshore Center and gave a small background history on himself.

Ms. Lods welcomed everyone to the Glasstown Arts District. The latest mural in Millville was completed last year on the North West side at the light on Broad Street.

Correspondence

Commission members have in their packet a map from the Historic Preservation office of the bayshore area. It is a collection data of unique architecture in the bayshore area. The Historic Preservation office is assisting with the funding of the historic district in Mauricetown. Ms. Moreno asked if they were going back to the area. Mr. Pisarski said they are done with the survey now the issue is going back and doing deeper analyses of some of the most significant sites. Ms. Moreno commented there are no street views of Money Island on Google. Mr. Pisarski thinks there was a camera on the car when the survey was done. Mr. Pisarski will contact the historic preservation office and let them know that data is missing.

Adjourn

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