

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

April 25, 2019

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 4:00 PM., at the Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Penny Watson Yogesh Thakur
Sharon Yoshida Robert Dragotta
Suzanne Merighi Freeholder Surrency

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Kimberly Gauntt, Cumberland County Recreation & Tourism
De'Ann James-Burger, Cumberland County 4-H

Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2019

A motion was made to approve the minutes from March 28, 2019 by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dragotta and passed unanimously. Mr. Thakur and Ms. Watson abstained.

Encore Awards – May 20th, Tuckerton Seaport Museum

If anyone plans on attending please let Mr. Pisarski know and also if you plan on bringing a guest.

Story Origami Library Programming – Ellen Nappen

Mr. Pisarski gave Ms. Watson the back-story to the origami programming. EllenBeth Nappen has been selected to do the artwork for the Cumberland County story for which she will be paid \$500. Atlantic County will be paying for the other artist. The artwork will be reproduced for the different libraries. Ms. Watson asked what will happen to the original art. Mr. Pisarski said the county would own it. Ms. Nappen will email Mr. Pisarski the artwork as she completes it.

1st Quarter Budget Review

Mr. Pisarski went through the expenses for the first quarter. Of note, Mr. Pisarski indicated Juan Rodriguez did not receive a re-grant this year and instead the Commission is supporting him with \$2,000 in discretionary funds and the Commission will be playing a larger administrative role in his programming to ensure it is up to par.

County Fair 4-H Butterfly Tent Support Request

Commission members received in their packet a request letter and photos from the previous butterfly tent that the Commission supported. Ms. James-Burger is representing 4-H and they are requesting \$350 for a butterfly tent during the Cumberland County Fair. Ms. Watson asked how many visitors they had at the tent last year, Ms. James-Burger said several hundred people visit the tent with the biggest day being kid's day at the fair. Ms. Watson asked if 4-H could apply under the regrant program. Mr. Pisarski said usually county entities are not required to

become a regrantee. Mr. Pisarski commented to Ms. James-Burger that if 4-H will continue to do the butterfly tent every year the budget subcommittee could add a line item in the budget so 4-H would not have to ask for funds every year. The Commission feels it is a great idea. A motion was made to approve \$350 for the butterfly tent by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson and passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan RFP Discussion

Commission members received in their packet several examples of strategic plans. Mr. Pisarski would like to have in the RFP s restriction on the number of pages for the plan. The plan would also include a logic model with three to five goals. Mr. Pisarski would also like to include historic perseveration in the plan. Ms. Merighi asked if it will be met favorably with the state. Mr. Pisarski will check with the state but he does know they no longer want long wordy documents. Ms. Watson questioned who will get the RFP, Mr. Pisarski commented that it will be published and anyone can bid. Ms. Merighi feels the Commission is going in the right direction. Mr. Dragotta asked how the Commission could lobby for more funding if the hotel/motel tax is going up. Mr. Pisarski said the state gives out the minimum and the remaining funds goes to the general fund. He suggested Mr. Dragotta communicate with ArtPride New Jersey. Mr. Thakur asked if other Commissions advocate, Mr. Pisarski said they typically do not due to their governmental role. Ms. Gauntt commented that the tourism industry is not seeing an increase in funds. Mr. Dragotta is willing to go to the state and contact Art Pride.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Merighi said the Bayshore Center is reopened for the season. They will be doing their 2nd Fridays and lectures on Thursdays.

Mr. Dragotta will be meeting with Cumberland Players and there has been no contact with Vineland African American.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Ms. Gauntt said marketing funding is available through small mini grants. The funds can be used for print, radio, website and brochures. The 38th annual fishing derby will be held May 5.

Other Old/New Business

Everyone received a copy of the mural brochure. A page will be added to the Commission website as more murals are completed in the county.

Correspondence

Two letters of support were written to the Bayshore Center and Millville Army Air Field Museum for applications to New Jersey Historic Trust.

Adjourn

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