

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

August 26, 2015

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 3:30 PM., at the Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

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

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – July 22, 2015

A motion was made to approve the minutes from July 22, 2015 by Ms. Silver. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Cohansey RiverFest Plein Air Competition Recap – Reception Friday, September 4th

Mr. Pisarski reported that 26 artists participated in the Plein Air Competition. The reception will be held September 4th at Gallery 50, and refreshments will be provided by the Commission. Mr. Pisarski is working with Sharon Keifer regarding judges. Mr. Pisarski said Glenn Rudderow will be a judge and he will ask Ellen Gavin since she did not participate in the competition. The judges will be given a \$150 honorarium. Mr. Pisarski will email the Commission the winner's names. Sam Feinstein took photos and they were added to the Commission's Facebook page.

Heritage Day Recap – Interpretive Sign Mock-Up

Mr. Pisarski commented that Heritage Day was a great day with 75-100 people in attendance. Michael Adelberg gave a presentation in the "mud" room with standing room only. Dr. Hunter's presentation was moved out onto the wharf for more space. The design of the oculus was revealed. The reenactors spoke to Mr. Pisarski and Megan Wren and they would like to expand the event next year. The reenactors would like to recreate the skirmish of Dallas Landing. Ms. Merighi said the oculus looked wonderful and people commented about the QR code regarding the podcast. Ms. Watson asked if a step will be needed for children, but Mr. Pisarski responded that there shouldn't be a problem with children looking through the oculus. Commission members received in their packet a copy of a news article regarding Heritage Day.

Grant Writing Workshop – Thursday, August 27, 2015

Mr. Pisarski said 26 people have preregistered for the workshop. Commission members received in their packet a newspaper article concerning the workshop. Mr. Pisarski was hired to do the grant writing workshops in Gloucester and Burlington Counties. In 2014 four people attended the Gloucester County workshop in 2015 23 people attended.

Artists' Day in Mauricetown – Saturday, September 12, 2015

Mr. Pisarski commented that the Mauricetown Historical Society has been busy working on the event. The society distributed 30 yards signs and 300 flyers. Artist's slots are still available for the day, Mr. Pisarski will reach out to Plein Air Artists. Mr. Pisarski commented he has not found a chalk artist. Mr. Thakur suggested Rangoli, "painting with powder". Mr. Thakur will check to see if a Rangoli artist is available.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Merighi said Gallery 50 will be having their Landscape show in September.

Ms. Watson said the Jewish Federation had their food event but could not attend. Mr. Pisarski said it was well attended.

Ms. Boykin attended a jazz concert at Bridgeton Library. Ms. Boykin said around 25 people were in attendance.

Mr. Garrison attended Heritage Day and spoke to Mauricetown Historical Society about Artists Day.

Ms. Silver said Deerfield Harvest Festival will be in October.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Postponed until next month.

Other Old/New Business

Commission members received in their packet a report from FEMA. FEMA will be demolishing 26 properties in Downe Township (Money Island). There are no historic resources so the land will go back to nature. Mr. Pisarski wrote a draft letter for the Commission's review stating that the vernacular architecture needs to be documented. Ms. Watson asked what Mayor Campbell's thoughts were, Mr. Pisarski commented that Mayor Campbell and Megan Wren are both upset with the decision. Ms. Watson made a correction in the second paragraph, replacing "is" with "be." A motion was made to approve the letter as corrected by Ms. Moreno. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garrison and passed unanimously. Ms. Lods asked if the home owners at Money Island will be compensated, Mr. Pisarski said they will be given pre-Sandy prices for their property.

Commission members had a rough example of the new design of the Commission's website in their packet. Mr. Pisarski had previously emailed examples to members. The Commission wants more color and wants the design company to listen to suggestions. The Commission was split on having moving images. It was suggested to have slow moving images and have static images on the website also. Ms. Lods asked if there will be tabs to get to other pages, Mr. Pisarski said there will be more details for the website at next month's meeting. Ms. Merighi asked if the logo was going to be redesigned, Mr. Pisarski said it was not. The Commission expressed a desire to change the logo. Mr. Pisarski will have to check the budget and put out a RFQ. Ms. Silver suggested contacting the high schools and get students involved. Mr. Pisarski said changing the logo could be done two different ways, #1 send out and RFQ or #2 hold a contest for art majors in high school with an award going to the winner. The Commission would

judge the designs and hold a voting contest on the website. The Commission would become the owner of the logo. The Commission was interested in going with the latter method. Mr. Pisarski will draft a call for artists. Prize money will be awarded even if a student's design is not selected. The logo would have to have the Cumberland County seal and would have to say Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission. The contest will run through the fall semester with a due date after Thanksgiving. Ms. Moreno asked how the contest will be advertised, and Mr. Pisarski responded via social media, press release and letters to the schools. Ms. Watson asked when the website will be done, and Mr. Pisarski responded that spring of 2016 is the deadline.

Correspondence

A letter from DEP was received for certification of eligibility regarding Siloam Cemetery.

A thank you letter from Millville Library concerning the social media mini grant was received. Mr. Pisarski checked with Rebecca at SNJ Today and she said everyone has completed their four hours except for Cumberland Players. Before next year's budget is finalized Mr. Pisarski will do a survey of the participants of the 2015 program to see if the program should be continued.

A spread sheet of the New Jersey Historical Commission's regrant recipients for 2016 was distributed, the Commission received stable funding. Ms. Boykin asked why an individual was named under Salem County, and Ms. Moreno talked about the project. Ms. Silver commented that Cape May County is one of the largest recipients. The Commission is unhappy with how some of the funding is disbursed. Mr. Pisarski did a map several years ago showing where funding went and the lack of funding in South Jersey. The Commission suggested writing letters to Assemblymen. Mr. Pisarski will look into districts and see if there is a conflict between the amounts of funding certain areas are receiving. Mr. Pisarski told the Commission that Sara Cureton the Director of the Historical Commission had a meeting to discuss major changes to the grants program. At the meeting it was said that the Historical Commission will be increasing funding to Cultural & Heritage Commissions and defund certain nonprofits. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission if they want to wait until that information is released to move forward with a letter regarding lack of funding in South Jersey. Ms. Lods questioned why South Jersey Cultural Alliance received funding. Ms. Merighi asked if there are any South Jersey members on the State Council on the Arts Board. Mr. Pisarski said there is not and the board is not diverse. Mr. Pisarski will do mapping for the Historical Commission and State Council.

Adjourn

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

The October meeting will be held at the Vineland Historical Society.