

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES****December 16, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 3:30 PM., in the upstairs conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

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

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – November 24, 2014

A motion was made to approve the minutes from November 24, 2014. Ms. Watson made a correction under Tourism Advisory Council Comments; the sentence should read The Commission will receive \$1,000. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected by Ms. Boykin. The motion was seconded by Ms. Silver and passed unanimously.

2015 Officers' Slate and Nominations

The Nominations Committee, comprised of Suzanne Merighi, Marianne Lods and Merle Silver presented their recommended slate of officers for 2015 as follows:

Penny Watson – Chair
Roy Kaneshiki – Vice Chair
Merle Silver – Treasurer
Maria Cerda- Moreno – Secretary

A motion was made to approve the 2015 slate of officers by Ms. Boykin. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Silver commented that Myron Estell is the new director for the Cumberland County Library. Jean Edwards the former director of the Library sent Ms. Silver an email thanking the Commission for their support over the years. Jim Steen the new director for the Levoy will be sending Ms. Silver updates regarding the Levoy. Art Garfunkel will be at the Levoy in June, Ms. Silver listed several other events that will be taking place at the Levoy. Ms. Lods said if you are a member of Levoy Theater you can buy your tickets a few days in advance. Ms. Merighi stated she saw "The Nun's Catechism" at the Levoy and it was a great show.

Ms. Moreno said Lenni Lenape will be having a kids' Christmas party on December 21st. The museum should be open in May and the Pow Wow will be held in June. Cumberland Players are holding auditions for "A Streetcar Named Desire".

Ms. Lods said the Mauricetown Historical Society will not have the holiday house tour this year.

Ms. Merighi asked if any regrantees have expressed any issues or ideas that the Commission can assist with. Ms. Lods commented that regrantees find it difficult to sustain fundraising programs that were successful in the past. Ms. Merighi questioned if regrantees are having success with recruiting new/younger audiences and members. Ms. Lods said diversity is also an issue. Ms. Merighi asked if the Commission can address diversity with different organizations. Mr. Pisarski commented that reaching out through social media will help reach the younger crowd. The Eagle Festival has its own hashtag on Twitter, #cceaglefest. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission could act as a liaison to the regrantees to ask if they have people in their communities that are willing to serve on different nonprofit boards. The Commission has an open seat, Mr. Pisarski would like to get someone from the Turkish Muslim community or Asian/Indian Community. Ms. Merighi suggested the Commission start thinking about who needs to be brought into the arts and culture community and see if they would like to serve on the Commission or other boards that are available. Ms. Lods commented that anyone who is brought up would have to be matched with their interest. Ms. Merighi asked if SNJ Today would have anyone that would be interested or have any suggestions.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Ms. Morgan said Ms. Gauntt received half of the \$20,000 from the Southern Shore Destination Marketing Organization. Ms. Lods said she spoke to Ms. Gauntt and she will be getting information out so organizations can apply for funds.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Pisarski said the listening devices have come in, there are six devices and one transmitter. Mr. Pisarski will let the regrantees know that they are available to use. Ms. Watson asked if all nonprofits can borrow them. Mr. Pisarski said that is something that the Commission will have to discuss, Mr. Pisarski would prefer if only regrantees used them. Ms. Silver suggested whoever is borrowing the system they should have to sign a liability contract. Mr. Kaneshiki commented that “property of” stickers should be put on every piece. Ms. Merighi asked about the combination lock that is on the case, Mr. Pisarski said the combination will stay the same. It was agreed that for the time being, any non-profit within the county should be able to borrow the assistive listening devices.

Ms. Silver asked about the email from Greg Geraci regarding ghost sightings at the Dallas Landing location. Mr. Geraci is a photographer that captures paranormal activity. Ms. Boykin spoke highly of Mr. Geraci. Mr. Kaneshiki suggested referring Mr. Geraci to Hunter Research. Mr. Pisarski commented that Freeholder Sheppard said it could be an interesting marketing component. Mr. Pisarski will direct Mr. Geraci to Hunter Research and Mr. Pisarski will update Mr. Hunter on Mr. Geraci and his findings. Ms. Silver spoke to Sheriff Frankle about old ledgers in the basement of the sheriff’s department which date back to the 1800’s. Ms. Silver and Ms. Merighi will go to the sheriff’s department to see what information the ledgers have recorded. Mr. Pisarski commented that if Ms. Silver and Ms. Merighi find anything he will inform Mr. Hunter and Mr. Hunter can send a team down to investigate.

Ms. Merighi asked if other Cultural & Heritage Commissions are helping organizations digitize special documents that can be available on the internet. Seabrook Cultural Center received a grant from the Commission in the past for this type of work. Mr. Pisarski said there are special

grants and educational workshops to help organizations. Grants have been received in the past to preserve freeholder minutes books.

Ms. Watson mentioned that Greenwich that the Cumberland County Historical Society is updating their hazard mitigation plan and encouraged collaboration with the county since some county records are archived at the Lummis Library.

Ms. Silver thanked Ms. Merighi for serving as chairperson for the Commission. Ms. Merighi thanked everyone for serving on the Commission.

Ms. Watson asked when commission members will receive their new liaison assignments and Mr. Pisarski responded they will be given in January.

Ms. Merighi asked if anyone ever expresses any concerns about the length of time Commission members serve. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission has both long-term and newer members, and that no one has raised any concerns.

Correspondence

A letter was received stating the Commission is a member of Crossroads of the American Revolution.

Adjourn

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.