

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

February 24, 2015

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 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	Marianne Lods

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Kimberly Gauntt, Cumberland County Recreation & Tourism
Kirk Wisemyer, Grants Review Panel
Doris Botts, Grants Review Panel
Courtenay Reece, Bridgeton Public Library
Bob Evans, Cumberland Regional High School
Deborah Boykin-Greenberg, Bridgeton Public Library

Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2015

A motion was made to approve the minutes from January 27, 2015. Ms. Watson made a correction on page five under Other Old/New Business, replacing “are” with “our.” A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected by Mr. Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

Re-grant Appeal Hearing for Bridgeton Free Public Library

Commission members received in their packet information regarding the regrant appeal for the Bridgeton Library Poetry Festival, including the original application, ADA Advisory Subcommittee and Grant Review Panel Scoring Sheets, Panel comments provided with the award letter, and correspondence from several of the Panelists who were unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Reece introduced the people she brought with her, including Mr. Roberts Evans of Cumberland Regional High School, who is the project planner and coordinator, and Ms. Deborah Boykin-Greenberg, who is the Bridgeton Library Board President. Ms. Watson asked Ms. Reece to explain the reason for the appeal. Ms. Reece said the library was disappointed with the amount that was awarded and she felt there was a misunderstanding as to where the event was being held. The event is being held at the Ashley McCormick Center and not at the library, which is why there is a rental fee in the proposed budget. The Ashley McCormick Center is fully ADA compliant with a stage and theater. Ms. Reece is hoping that once the event is definite the Ashley McCormick Center will lower their rental fee. Ms. Reece said the Bridgeton Library’s main floor is ADA compliant but there is not enough space in the library to hold the

event. David Grennon from the Office on Aging and Disabled will be doing a workshop at the Bridgeton Library so the employees have a better understanding on how to appropriately handle disabled members of the public. Ms. Watson asked if the \$600 rental fee is to pay for each day, and Ms. Reece responded that she was correct - the rental fee is \$1,200 total. Ms. Watson commented that the event is new for the library but was previously held at Cumberland Regional High School (CRHS) and Brenner's Brew. Mr. Evans said the event has been held at CRHS in the past. CRHS has received regrant funds in the past from the Commission. Ms. Watson asked what attendance has been at past Poetry Festivals, Mr. Evans responded that 400-500 students would attend throughout the school day and 100 + at the public event.

Ms. Botts commented that the event was a good idea and she understood that moving the event to a public place would give an opportunity for more people to attend. Ms. Botts felt the application did not define the event well. Mr. Wisemyer felt the application was rather vague and that the rental fee costs were not clearly defined. He also felt since it was the first year for the event it would be better to have it at the library rather than spending money on rental fees for a site when attendance figures were hard to calculate.

Mr. Garrison understood that the event was moved in order to be ADA compliant. Ms. Lods asked if there were any other funds that the library will be receiving to support the event. Ms. Reece said she applied for a grant from the New Jersey Council on the Humanities and Community Development Block Grant, but Ms. Reece has not heard if either grant has been approved. Mr. Pisarski thanked Ms. Reece for attending and said he would let her know what the Commission's decision turned out to be.

Bridgeton Library requested \$3,000 and they received \$720. In 2014 they received \$1,000. Ms. Botts asked where the funds were coming from to pay for the rental fee, and Mr. Pisarski said they could come from the funds they received from the Cultural & Heritage Commission. Mr. Garrison felt their request was very clear – that the library stated they are requesting \$2,100 for artist fees and \$800 for the rental space. Mr. Garrison felt the panel's summary was confusing and feels they are being penalized for moving the event to a more ADA compliant facility. Mr. Pisarski said if you read the comments from the ADA subcommittee they are very negative due to the fact that they did not make any improvements from last year. Ms. Watson said she did not understand the scoring sheets filled out from the ADA subcommittee. Mr. Pisarski acknowledged that the ADA Subcommittee members did not fill out the scoring sheets as best as they could, but commented that some of the ongoing accessibility issues are parking and getting assistance when you ring the bell at the ramp for entrance into the library. Ms. Watson said some of the issues the library cannot fix because it is a city-owned building. Mr. Wisemyer informed the Commission that the Grants Review Panel did not feel the library explained the event in their application and the budget in the narrative did not match the figures on the budget form. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission if they wanted to give additional funding and if so, to make a motion and then discuss the amount. Mr. Pisarski said if they were awarded an additional \$280 that would provide the library stable funding. Mr. Garrison felt the application was creative and the Commission should take that into account. Ms. Lods asked if it was possible that different people did the narrative and financial forms. Mr. Pisarski responded that Ms. Reece most likely completed both forms. Ms. Merighi asked how much discretionary funds were available; Mr. Pisarski said at least \$2,500 was unassigned in the budget. Ms. Botts asked if additional funding was awarded could a condition be added, and Mr. Pisarski said the Commission could set a condition on additional funding but not on the \$720 that was already

awarded. Mr. Kaneshiki asked if anyone from Bridgeton Library attended the grant writing workshop, and Mr. Pisarski responded that Ms. Reece attended for the library. Mr. Garrison would like to see the library receive an increase. Ms. Merighi suggested giving them \$280 for a total of \$1,000. A motion was made to approve additional funding of \$280 by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously. Ms. Boykin abstained.

2014 Annual Report

Commission members received in their packet the 2014 Annual Report. The Long Range Plan section has been updated. Page three “mission and goals” is an added page to the report. Mr. Pisarski asked if there were any components of the strategies that the Commission would like to concentrate on. Mr. Pisarski would like to start working on the “regular get-togethers”. Ms. Watson said when the website gets revamped the templates for certification of incorporation and bylaws will be added, which is a goal of the plan. There was a 31% decrease in request amounts from regrantees, but Mr. Pisarski felt that this was due to more realistic budget estimates by the re-grantees, which is a positive development. Hits for the Cultural & Heritage website are up 22% and hits for the Cumberland Historical website are up 23%. The Annual Report has been sent to the Freeholders and will be posted to the website.

2015 South Jersey Artists’ Summit – Saturday, April, 25, 2015 – Update

The summit was discussed, with special emphasis on building diversity into the panel. Sharon Loudon will reach out to Wendel White and Cesar Viveros to see if they are available. Ms. Lods asked if the event is open to all South Jersey artists, and Mr. Pisarski responded affirmatively that the summit is open to anyone who wants to attend. Mr. Kaneshiki pointed out that Community Day and a 5K run will also be held at the college on the same day as this event, but Mr. Pisarski responded that both events start in the morning and the Luciano Center has assured him that the schedule will not create a conflict.

2015 Winter Eagle Festival – Saturday, February 7, 2015 – Recap

Mr. Pisarski thanked the Commission members who helped out at the Eagle Festival. It was the best attended festival to date. Diane Roberts and Ann Vosberg also did art work in addition to Clay College’s participation.

Farmland Movie Presentation – Saturday, February, 21, 2015 – Recap

Mr. Pisarski said despite the snowy weather attendance was good at around 150 people. The movie will be shown again to accommodate those who could not make it through the weather.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Watson said the venue for the Jewish Federation’s culinary exhibit may be moved to a bigger space. The Jewish Federation will be collaborating with a Mr. DeCosta on the International Film Festival. Ms. Lods mentioned that the film *Ida* from last year’s film festival was nominated for an Oscar and won.

Ms. Merighi reached out to her groups - at Gallery 50 Steve Kuzma has his exhibit “Winter Light” in March and the Society of New Jersey Artists will be exhibited. Seabrook Buddhist Temple will be having a Kimono fashion show on March 28th.

Ms. Silver spoke to several of her organizations - Juan Rodriguez told Ms. Silver about his website and Spanish newspaper. Mr. Rodriguez informed Ms. Silver that in September in the

City of Vineland there will be photo exhibit at the library for Spanish heritage month. Mr. Rodriguez indicated he is planning to have his exhibit at Landis Market because the library was putting restrictions on the size of the photos.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Ms. Gauntt informed the Commission that Southern Shore has a booth at the Philadelphia Flower Show and that the booth will promote Cumberland County. She indicated that the Marketing Re-grant award announcements for 2015 are on hold until clarification is provided regarding the Pascal-Sykes grant.

Other Old/New Business

Commission members received a draft copy of the agenda for the The Underground Railroad Symposium. Mr. Pisarski went over the agenda for the day. The College was not aware that the African American Museum of Southern New Jersey was charging \$1,200 for the traveling exhibit. Consequently, the College is asking the Commission for help with the cost of food for the event. A motion was made to approve \$250 for the purchase of food by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garrison and passed unanimously. Ms. Boykin asked if the event was free, Mr. Pisarski will find out.

Ms. Watson spoke to Undersheriff Frankle about getting his help with doing an inventory of the records that are down in the basement of the Sheriff's Department, which date back to 1805. Ms. Watson would also like to see the records moved to a more suitable environment. Mr. Pisarski said the Sheriff's Department could apply for a history re-grant from the Commission. Mr. Pisarski said when the county building relocates there is a walk in safe and that potentially some records could be stored there. Ms. Silver commented that no records were found containing information on the Battle of Dallas' Landing.

Ms. Watson asked when the county offices will be moving, Mr. Pisarski commented that the last Commission meeting at 790 E. Commerce Street will probably be in April. The new address will be 164 W. Broad St., Bridgeton.

Correspondence

A packet was received from the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the John and Elizabeth Remington House in Hopewell (Commissioner Garrison's residence). The packet included the structures nomination to the State Historic Register, completed by Penny Watson.

Gallery 50 sent a letter thanking the Commission for the regrant funds.

Closed Session (if necessary) for Hearing Deliberation

No closed session was held.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Garrison. 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, March 24, 2015 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.