

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

February 24, 2016

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 3:30 PM., at the Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present:

Penny Watson	Suzanne Merighi
Marianne Lods	Roy Kaneshiki
John Garrison	Maria Cerda-Moreno
Merle Silver	Freeholder Sheppard

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Renee Brecht, Cumberland County Improvement Authority

Approval of Minutes – December 21, 2015

A motion was made to approve the minutes from December 21, 2015 by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

Welcome Back to Freeholder Liaisons Thomas Sheppard and Carman Daddario

Mr. Kaneshiki welcomed Freeholder Sheppard back as the liaison to the Commission.

2016 Winter Eagle Festival – Saturday, February 6, 2016 - Recap

Mr. Kaneshiki was at the festival all day. The weather was beautiful for the day. The 2016 festival was the highest in attendance, admissions fees were up 25% from 2015. RRCA table had a better crowd. Freeholder Sheppard said the parking lot was full. The sign in sheets showed a lot of out-of-state guests. The Atlantic City Press wants to do a follow up piece.

2016 South Jersey Artists' Summit - Discussion

Last year an Artists Forum was held, while this year Mr. Pisarski has spoken to Don Ehman from the state and this year's theme is "Creative Placemaking". The Commission was given the grant because South Jersey Cultural Alliance (SJCA) was not getting a crowd at the forum. Mr. Pisarski said in the past year SJCA has grown and revitalized itself. Mr. Pisarski would like to partner with SJCA this year and maybe next year suggest to the State Council to have SJCA take the forum back over, since it's mission better fits with the purpose of the grant. The Commission receives a \$5,000 grant to host the event but the event costs more than that to run. Mr. Garrison and Ms. Merighi said it sounds like a good plan to partner with them the first year. Ms. Watson suggested keeping the event physically in Cumberland County. Ms. Lods suggested having a glass component at the forum. Mr. Garrison suggested Bill Ternay as one of the speakers for the forum. The forum will be taking place on a Saturday in April.

Freeholder Sheppard asked about the new murals that are taking place. Mr. Pisarski said the first

step is to have all the current murals photographed professionally. Ms. Lods said Millville Development Corp. has partnered with Holly City Development Corp. in Millville and they were awarded a \$100,000 grant for a mural painting. Ms. Lods said on July 30th, artists will be having a competition regarding floating sculptures for the Art Everywhere project. Mr. Pisarski asked if the sculptures will be on display after the event. Ms. Lods said she will look into it. Ms. Lods will be asking the Improvement Authority to help with funding the event. Mr. Pisarski explained the Art Everywhere project to Ms. Brecht.

Encore Awards Nomination – Discussion

Mr. Pisarski is asking for suggestions for a nominee, Mr. Pisarski will email a list of everyone who has received an award in the past 10 years. A date or venue has not been chosen yet for the Encore Awards ceremony.

Cumberland Mall Display

When the display was put up the mall informed Mr. Pisarski it may have to be moved because of construction; however Ms. Longo said it does not have to be moved. Ms. Longo would like the design refined along the back to make it complete and she would like more items added to the display. Mr. Pisarski commented that tourism council said they could purchase nice tourism display racks for brochures. Mr. Pisarski asked if Jeremy Tenenbaum with VSBA needs to be brought in to finish the project or can the Commission complete it themselves. Ms. Merighi asked if it requires special graphics and Mr. Pisarski said it does not. Given this fact, it was decided that VSBA does not need to be called back in.

Liaison Reports

Everyone received a copy of their liaison assignments.

Ms. Merighi said the Levoy Theatre has a packed schedule coming up. CHABA is refurbishing the Nail House in Bridgeton.

Ms. Lods met with Jackie Sandro from Clay College, they spoke about the new building that Ms. Sandro will be moving into. Ms. Lods said they will be partnering with Millville Schools for Multi-Cultural week.

Ms. Moreno said Gallery 50 will be having an exhibit in March called Passages. Bridgeton Main Street has a new Director whose name is Steven Paul. Bridgeton will no longer host Cinco de Mayo but will have a new event that will be held in the fall. Ms. Lods also met with Mr. Paul and Bridgeton Main Street is trying to decide on a name for the Crab/River Fest.

Mr. Pisarski attended Rock of Ages which was put on by Off Broad Street Players, and Mr. Pisarski said it was a great show. Their summer series will include the Little Mermaid.

Freeholder Sheppard said parking is a problem at the Levoy. Freeholder Sheppard commented that Mr. Pisarski gave a presentation regarding diversity at the February freeholder meeting which was well received.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Postponed until next month.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Kaneshiki said the Bay Atlantic Symphony will be having a performance called the Dream Catcher.

Mr. Pisarski said the new website is a work in progress. Mr. Pisarski had some issues getting the old website released from Loaded Media, which has delayed the progress of the new design.

Correspondence

True Renaissance wrote a letter explaining their disappointment in not getting regrant funding.

In January, the Atlantic City Press published an article regarding turning historic preservation into economic preservation.

Two charts were in Commission packets showing how grant funding is distributed per capita per county.

Mr. Pisarski asked if the Commission wants to join The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, membership dues are \$40. The Historical Commission is changing how it gives funding. Any organization that has a budget of less than \$100,000 cannot receive direct funding from the Historical Commission but instead must get funding from Cultural & Heritage Commissions. Mr. Pisarski said it will not affect any Cumberland County historic organizations.

Commission members received a new list of officers and members, if any changes are needed please let Mr. Pisarski know. Ms. Lods changed her home phone number to her cell number.

Adjourn

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