

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**February 28, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 4:00 PM., at Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

**Present:** Sharon Yoshida Penny Watson  
Maria Cerda-Moreno Yogesh Thakur  
Marianne Lods Suzanne Merighi  
Robert Dragotta

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director  
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

**Guest:** Sarah Tarpine, Ntl. Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution  
Valerie Baron, Ntl. Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution  
Arthur Corley, Jr., “Alterations”

**Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2019**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from January 17, 2019 by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dragotta and passed unanimously.

**Winter Eagle Festival – Recap**

The eagle fest was well attended, numbers were a little low because of snow on Friday. Woodford Cedar Run did not attend due to a car accident on the way to the festival. Clay College and RRCA did kids activities throughout the day.

**Special Request from Greenwich Tea Burning Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution**

Everyone received in their packet a special request letter from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). They are requesting \$500 for their 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Ms. Baron commented that the event will take place November 9 at the First Presbyterian Church in Millville. They will be honoring the memory of their founding members. An interpreter will portray suffragist, Alice Stokes Paul women’s rights activist. In addition, they will be doing informal modeling of fashions from the era with a parade holding signs made by Salem County Vo-Tech students. Ms. Watson asked how the event will be promoted; Ms. Baron said they will use social media and newspaper. Mr. Pisarski commented if we sponsor we will help promote. Mr. Dragotta questioned if there was a public apology regarding past racial issues with the organization. Ms. Baron commented that their chapter has not but the national organization has prepared literature for any issues that may arise. Ms. Tarpine said anyone that is over 18 and can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible form membership. The event is free and open to the public, the DAR plan on about 80 attendees. Ms. Merighi asked if the \$500 will go to the performer, Ms. Baron said the money will be split up for several different expenses.

Ms. Merighi asked how much funding was available for special request, Mr. Pisarski commented that \$2,500 plus funds in miscellaneous was set aside. Ms. Lods felt the \$500 was a modest request from the DAR. A motion was made to approve \$500 to the DAR by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson and passed. Mr. Dragotta abstained.

### **Special Request for “Alterations” play at Landis Theater, Vineland**

Everyone received in their packet information regarding funding for a play at Landis Theater called “Alterations”. Mr. Pisarski said Mr. Corley is not associated with a nonprofit so if the Commission awarded him funding the funds would go directly to Landis Theater for rental fees. Mr. Corley said the play is a personal play he is the writer and director, the play is about mental health, suicide, depression etc. Mr. Corley spoke to the Cumberland County Guidance Center and they are willing to speak to people after the play letting them know that help is available. Mr. Dragotta asked about the cast, rehearsal and cost. Mr. Corley said the rental fee is \$2,750 the total cost for the event is estimated at \$5,750. Ms. Watson asked how he would be promoting the play, Mr. Corley said they will advertise through radio and social media. Ms. Merighi asked Mr. Corley how much funding he is requesting, Mr. Corley replied any amount would be appreciated.

Mr. Pisarski talked to Angela at Landis Theater and she spoke very highly of Mr. Corley. Mr. Thakur questioned Mr. Pisarski how many more special requests the Commission may be receiving. Mr. Pisarski said we usually receive three to five each year. A motion was made to approve \$1,000 to Landis Theater to offset the rental cost by Mr. Dragotta. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed. Ms. Merighi abstained.

### **Encore Award Nomination**

The Encore Awards will take place in Tuckerton. In 2018 Lisa Garrison received the Encore Award, Mr. Pisarski will email everyone the list of previous winners. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission to think of this year’s awardee. Ms. Lods suggested Roy Kaneshiki.

### **Update on West Jersey Time Traveler Signage**

An excel sheet is in everyone’s packet listing all the sites that are on the West Jersey Time Traveler project. A new stop has been added and the location is the Bridgeton City Park (hump back bridge) the city will be covering the cost. The next step in the process is creating the English versions for the remaining five podcasts. A committee of historians has to be created to review the content for the podcasts. The previous committee was Lisa Jester, Megan Wren and Ms. Watson. Ms. Watson agreed to serve on the committee Mr. Pisarski will reach out to Ms. Jester and Ms. Wren. Mr. Pisarski would also like to include Ms. Boykin. Last year a \$150 stipend was given to committee members. A motion was made to approve the committee including Ms. Boykin by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moreno and passed. Ms. Watson abstained. A second motion was made to approve the \$150 stipend by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed. Ms. Watson abstained.

### **2018 Annual Report**

In Commission member’s packet was the 2018 report. Mr. Pisarski went through the report stating the long-range plan needs to be updated. The March meeting is usually held at a different location Mr. Pisarski reached out to Seabrook Buddhist Temple and they are interested in hosting the meeting. An ADA workshop needs to be held Mr. Pisarski suggested having it at Bridgeton

Library to show the challenges of facility access. Ms. Merighi asked who reviews the budget, and Mr. Pisarski responded that the accounts are reviewed by the treasurer and auditor.

**Liaison Reports**

Ms. Merighi commented that staffing changes are taking place at the Vineland Library.

Mr. Dragotta emailed his regrantees and he will be having a meeting with PRAC.

**Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt**

**Other Old/New Business**

Mr. Pisarski received a letter from All That Dance Studio, Mr. Pisarski will reach out to them and suggest they become a regrantee in 2020.

Ms. Lods thought there was too much blue in the mural brochure and she had a few other small edits.

**Correspondence - None**

**Adjourn**

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