

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

July 22, 2015

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Wednesday, July 22, 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

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – June 24, 2015

Ms. Watson made several corrections to the minutes on page one under special request correction to the spelling of “available” and on page three “Ms.” to “Mr.” Pisarski. Ms. Lods corrected the spelling of Maryann Cannon on page three. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected from June 24, 2015 by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Welcome to Commissioner Yogesh Thakur

Mr. Pisarski announced that the Freeholders appointed Mr. Thakur to the Commission at their June meeting. Mr. Thakur will fill Jean Jones’ unexpired term that ends in 2016. Mr. Thakur commented that when he lived in India he was in the marketing field, he is currently on a Visa in the United States and cannot work. The Commission introduced themselves. Mr. Pisarski asked Mr. Thakur about the Kite and Color Festival that was held at Buena Camp Ground. Mr. Thakur indicated 2,700 people were in attendance. Mr. Thakur said they need a lot of space and permission to have a bonfire that’s why it is held in Buena. He said if the Commission has any suggestions where it could be held in Cumberland County to please let him know. Mr. Pisarski said he would check with the Cumberland County Fairgrounds. Ms. Lods said the Mud Run has moved to the Fairgrounds from the Motorsports Park to save on cost. Several comments were made that the Fair Association is difficult to deal with and the fairgrounds are not utilized to the degree they could be.

Commission Budget Quarterly Report

Mr. Pisarski went through the budget report line by line so Mr. Thakur could gain a better understanding of the budget. Marketing Services and Promo of the Arts are funded through the State Council on the Arts. When you add the grant funds received from the State Council on the Arts and the Arts re-grant the total is \$116,165 those funds are broken up into a variety of line items. A \$50 membership was pulled from marketing services and it should have come from Promo of the Arts. \$1,150 was pulled from Promo of the Arts for Encore Awards, the program ad portion should have been taken from marketing services. The budget line item is funding that is received from the freeholders. History memberships were over budget. Ms. Silver asked what

happens if funds are not spent, and Mr. Pisarski responded that funds go back into the general county account and money that is received from the state must be spent or encumbered by the end of the calendar year. Funds from the artist forum and Encore tickets were added to the trust account. Commission members have two award letters in their packet from NJ State Council on the Arts. The Commission received \$5,000 for a co-sponsored event and \$116,165 for the local arts program.

Mr. Thakur asked about the cost of the website, Mr. Pisarski explained the cost and said a maintenance fee will be added every year to the line item. Mr. Thakur indicated he thought the costs seemed high, but Ms. Lods responded that she has seen quotes considerably higher for similar work.

Skirmish on the Lower Maurice River Project Update – Heritage Day, August 22, 2015

The second outreach meeting was well attended. The presentation was well received even though Hunter Research did not find any evidence of a skirmish. Mr. Pisarski explained the Dallas Landing project to Mr. Thakur. At the outreach meeting several people from the Maurice River Township side claimed people found artifacts in a certain upland eastern shore area along the river. The Commission members received in their packet an aerial map showing the location in question, which is owned by Wade Sjogren. Since a National Register nomination has been removed from the scope of work, there is \$5,000 remaining in the budget. Mr. Pisarski asked Hunter Research if the funds would cover an additional investigation of the property in question. The funds would cover metal detection but not ground penetrating radar. The draft report has been sent to the National Park Service. Mr. Pisarski indicated that should the National Park Service grant permission, a team from Hunter Research will investigate the site on the eastern shore of the river. The interpretative sign will not be done by August 22nd because of all the edits to the image and text; however, a plexi glass mockup will be done and taken to the site to make sure the sketch lies correctly with the background.

Heritage Day will be August 22nd from 11am – 4pm. The Commission will be covering some of the cost for the day.

Grant Writing Workshop Discussion

The Commission approved the 2016 re-grant applications last month, they have not been released yet as a Grant Writing Workshop needs to be scheduled first. Mr. Pisarski will present the changes made in the application for 2016. For the second part of the workshop someone usually comes in and talks about a topic that is useful to the re-grantees. Mr. Pisarski suggested speaking on the changing demographics in Cumberland County. Mr. Pisarski reached out Rachel Dukeman and she is willing to speak at the workshop. The Commission liked the suggestion of Rachel Dukeman. The workshop will take place in August at Cumberland County College.

Cohansey RiverFest Plein Air Competition – Saturday, August 22, 2015

Commission members received in their packet a flyer for the Plein Air contest. Mr. Pisarski commented that several pieces of work usually get sold, they are on display at Gallery 50. The Commission supplies funding to the winners and the judge. Mr. Pisarski will be at Gallery 50 in the morning and go to Heritage Day in the afternoon.

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

Mr. Pisarski spoke to Carol Perelli and Mauricetown Historical Society is set and ready to go. Mr. Pisarski would like to add a chalk artist. It was suggested to close a portion of Stable Lane for the chalk artist. Comments were made about the weather being an issue, Ms. Lods suggested talking to the artist regarding the weather.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Kaneshiki said the Obon Festival was held for the 70th year. Mr. Pisarski asked how to expand the event, it was suggested having people park at the school and shuttle them over.

The Millville Army Air Field reported to Ms. Silver that attendance for the Airshow was between 15,000 – 18,000 people for the weekend. The Boys and Girls Club did their first comic book.

Ms. Merighi said in August Gallery 50 will be having a show called Bare Attitudes an Exhibition of Nudes.

Mr. Pisarski explained liaison responsibilities to Mr. Thakur.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Ms. Gauntt is working with Sassafras Design for design of the Cumberland County Tourism website. Ms. Gauntt met with SNJ Today which will be marketing the county.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Pisarski sent an email to Omni Developers with suggestions regarding the design of the Commission website.

Correspondence**Adjourn**

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