

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**July 27, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 3:30 PM., at Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

**Present:** Penny Watson Suzanne Merighi  
Merle Silver Roy Kaneshiki  
John Garrison Yogesh Thakur  
Ella Boykin

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director  
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

**Approval of Minutes – May 25, 2017**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from May 25, 2017. Ms. Merighi made a correction on page two, the name should read Ms. Boykin. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected by Mr. Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson and passed unanimously.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Review**

Mr. Pisarski went through the budget. The new expenses for the quarter were listed. Ms. Silver asked about the expense for the Spring Fling, and Mr. Pisarski replied it was the musical entertainment for the Center for the Blind. Ms. Merighi questioned the funding for the Dallas Landing project that was paid to Shoot the Moon. Mr. Pisarski commented that the project was budgeted in a previous cycle but Shoot the Moon did not bill the Commission so the funds were used for another project. So when the billing was submitted for this funding round Mr. Pisarski took the funds from marketing services, contingency and miscellaneous.

**2018 Guidelines and Application Review and Approval**

Commission members received in their packet a draft copy of the 2018 re-grant guidelines. Also, the award announcements from the State Council on the Arts were in the packet. The Commission received stable funding for the arts. Mr. Pisarski reduced the re-grant application in size, reducing some of the guidelines which were no longer applicable given the reduced size of the application. Ms. Silver commented that the application seems overwhelming. Mr. Pisarski commented that the Commission has a grant writing workshop to assist with the application. If the application is approved a press release will be sent out and an email sent to regrantees. Ms. Merighi asked if there were any comments from the grants review panel regarding the guidelines they had suggested to the regrantees. Ms. Pisarski said discussion takes place at the grants review panel meeting, the panel is not so much concerned with missing data but they are concerned about repeat applicants not being responsive to their previous year comments. Mr. Pisarski will be providing the panel with their comments from the previous year. Ms. Watson suggested resending the comments to the regrantees. Mr. Thakur asked if there were examples of the forms to go by for new regrantees. Mr. Pisarski said there is not but he can add them. A

motion was made to approve the re-grant application by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thakur and passed unanimously.

### **Grant Writing Workshop - Discussion**

Last year the workshop was split into two days one for history and one for art, the same thing will be done this year. Mr. Pisarski commented that the New Jersey Historical Commission is putting pressure on the counties to increase history participation, Cumberland County did not see an increase for 2017. The workshops will be cross-promoted with Burlington and Gloucester. The workshops will be held November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Cohansey RiverFest Plein Air Competition – August 26, 2017**

The date of the RiverFest has changed to September 16<sup>th</sup> but the Plein Air Competition will still remain in August because it coincides with Nature & the Landscape at Gallery 50. Steven Paul (Bridgeton Main Street) would like the Commission to participate in RiverFest, Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission for ideas. Mr. Pisarski suggested partnering with Gallery 50. Other suggestions were a musician, Clay College or Maker Space in Bridgeton.

### **Dr. Rodriguez Book Signing – August 31, 2017**

Commission members received in their packet a flyer for the book signing. 40 copies of the book were purchased and they will be sold at the signing, Commission members will have to decide who receives the proceeds. A motion was made to keep the funds from the book signing and those funds will be added to the trust account by Ms. Boykin. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously. Ms. Watson suggested if there were books left over to donate one to each of the libraries. Mr. Pisarski commented that Dr. Rodriguez will read an excerpt, do the book signing and field questions. New Jersey Council for the Humanities is recognized on the flyer, they are not directly funding the signing but the Commission is receiving \$5,000 for the Safe Haven exhibit. Mr. Pisarski would like the signing recorded, the video will be added to the YouTube channel and SNJ Today will also play a clip on their station.

### **Liaison Reports**

Ms. Merighi commented that the Air Field Museum had the Air Show over Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Pisarski said it was well attended. Barn Studio of Art had their annual Barn Day June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Kaneshiki said the Obon Festival was well attended.

Mr. Pisarski attended the Kite and Color Festival at the fairgrounds. Mr. Thakur said the festival turned out great for having at the fairgrounds for the first time. About 1,600 were in attendance. It will be held in Cumberland County in 2018. Dance night will be September 30<sup>th</sup> at Holly Heights School and Bollywood Night will be held October 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt**

Postponed until next meeting.

### **Other Old/New Business**

The Commission approved being a co-sponsor for Oyster Fest in November. The co-sponsor brings their own personal touch to the fundraiser. Mr. Pisarski spoken to Jaime Warner with the Bayshore Center regarding the challenges of the Fest, silent auction is getting stale and the

audience is not diverse. Mr. Pisarski suggested reaching out to artists and see if they will donate time or a piece of art work in exchange for a ticket to Oyster Fest. The Commission should also buy a table. Ms. Boykin asked what happens at the fest besides eating, Mr. Pisarski will reach out to Ms. Warner.

Ms. Silver asked Mr. Pisarski if someone from Port Elizabeth Library reach out to him. They are trying to make a historical society.

**Correspondence**

**Adjourn**

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