

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

July 25, 2019

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 4:00 PM., at Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Maria Cerda-Moreno Marianne Lods
Sharon Yoshida Robert Dragotta
Suzanne Merighi Freeholder Surrency

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – May 23, 2019

A motion was made to approve the minutes from May 23, 2019. Ms. Moreno made two corrections. On page one, under special request “being” should read “be”. On page two under Jenson Cheng it should read “he will be delivering”. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected by Ms. Moreno. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dragotta and passed unanimously.

Long-Range Plan Proposals – Review and Selection

Two proposals were submitted, R & R Creative and the Vibrancy Group. The proposals are both close in pricing. The long-range plan will be paid over a two-year period. Mr. Pisarski commented that the Commission has three options, pick one of the proposals or ask them to work together. Mr. Dragotta likes the idea that The Vibrancy Group will be using students from PRATT to assist with the plan. Several Commission members said using the Vibrancy Group will give the plan a fresh perspective and Ms. Moreno suggested using R & R Creative stating they have experience with the Commission. Mr. Pisarski said most of the historic preservation component will be done in house. Mr. Pisarski said whoever is chosen will update the current plan and use graphics and less wording. Several Commission members express concern having the two organizations working together. A motion was made to approve using the Vibrancy Group to do the long-range plan with more graphics by Mr. Dragotta. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously.

Citizens Institute on Rural Design (CIRD) – Downtown Bridgeton Application

The State Council on the Arts reached out to Mr. Pisarski regarding submitting a grant through CIRD. Mr. Pisarski spoke to Amy Petrie with Bridgeton Main Street and she is interested in submitting a grant. The Commission and the State Council wrote letters of support. Only 10 grants are being awarded nationally. The grant is for \$10,000 with a \$10,000 match. Mr. Pisarski said if they receive the grant the Commission should set some funds aside in the 2020 budget to help with the match.

2020 Re-grant Guidelines & Application – Review and Approval

Mr. Pisarski informed that Commission that the 2020 re-grant application is ready to be released. The application has very few changes, the coloring coding on the budget forms was altered and the expense form is shorter. A workshop is being planned for September at the college. A motion was made to approve the re-grant application by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moreno and passed unanimously.

C & H Commission Budget – 2nd Quarter Review

Mr. Pisarski went through the budget. Mr. Pisarski reached out to Office on Aging to see if they want 50 tickets to the Bay Atlantic Symphony concert in November. Monies remaining available include \$22,000 in the line item and \$15,000 in marketing and promo of the arts. Mr. Pisarski is waiting for an invoice from the Levoy regarding Teen Arts in the amount of \$7,350.

Jenson Cheng Traveling Exhibit – RRCA in August

The exhibit is currently at Gallery 50 and then it will go to RRCA then move onto Atlantic County. Mr. Pisarski commented that a vitrine may be needed to hold one of the art pieces. The Commission can either pay to have a vitrine built or ask Mr. Cheng to remove the piece from the exhibit. The Commission would prefer to have the piece removed from the exhibit.

Senior's Month Art Competition – November 2nd Bay Atlantic Concert

Previously spoken about under budget review, Mr. Pisarski is waiting to hear back from Office on Aging, if they want the tickets. Mr. Pisarski will reach out to Bay Atlantic Symphony. Mr. Pisarski did request that blocks of tickets not be given to individuals.

Ms. Lods asked if the symphony is looking for a new director. Mr. Dragotta commented that they are looking for a director and the symphony has moved to Atlantic City.

Art Everywhere Murals:

The veteran's mural in Vineland is being completed. The next mural will be at Rowan College of South Jersey. A committee is being put together for the selection process for artist and design. An RFQ will be sent out for artists to bid on. Partners will be sought out to help with cost.

Ms. Lods received a new grant from New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. They will be renovating the Glasstown Plaza and doing three murals.

Cohansey Riverfest Plein Air Competition – Saturday, August 31, 2019

Everyone received a flyer in their packet for the Plein Air Competition. The competition will be on August 31 and the reception will be held September 6.

Artists' Day in Mauricetown – Saturday, September 7, 2019

Mr. Pisarski is working on the press and flyers for Artists Day.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Dragotta said the play Alterations was interesting and different. Between both nights close to 1,000 people attended. Ms. Yoshida said the audience related to the play. Ms. Lods asked how often Arthur Corley has done plays. Mr. Dragotta believes he does one every other year.

Ms. Yoshida said the Obon Festival attendance was low because of the heat. The pop up art

exhibit from the incarceration camps was well displayed.

Ms. Merighi said the Bayshore Center has the schedule out for their cultural cruises. Vineland Library will be having FanCon on October 20.

Mr. Pisarski commented that the Kite & Color Festival was well attended. They added fire trucks to spray water when the colors were being thrown.

Mr. Dragotta said the Bay Atlantic Symphony is having a fundraiser on September 28.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Everyone received a Vacationer magazine.

Other Old/New Business - None

Correspondence

In packets is a copy of an article listing New Jersey's most endangered historic sites and East Point Lighthouse is listed.

The Inquirer did an article about Cumberland County's Liberty Bell.

Adjourn

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