

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**June 23, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 4:00 PM., via teleconference.

**Present:** Penny Watson Maria Cerda-Moreno  
Marianne Lods Sharon Yoshida  
Suzanne Merighi Olive Doss

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director  
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

**Guest:** Kim Gauntt, Cumberland County Recreation & Tourism  
Omarey Williams, Shared Services Coordinator  
Lauren Van Embden

**Approval of Minutes – June 25, 2020**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from June 25, 2020. Ms. Merighi made several corrections to the June minutes. Under Project Inspiration “education” should be changed to “educate”. Under CARES Act it should read “what funds are needed to sustain”. Under Strategic Plan it should read “so can they be done”. Ms. Watson asked what is the meaning of GOS, to which Mr. Pisarski responded “General Operating Support”. It was suggested this be spelled out in the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Ms. Doss and passed unanimously.

**Special Request – Lauren Van Embden, Levoy Theatre**

Ms. Van Embden is requesting funds to hold four outdoor events in Buck Park, Millville. The free events will be geared towards family and youth, the four events will be interactive, comedy, hip-hop music and a professional act. Ms. Merighi asked about rain dates, Ms. Van Embden said rain dates would be scheduled. Ms. Watson questioned if they qualified for PPP funding, yes they received funding. A specific amount has not been requested but an estimated budget to hold the four events is \$15,000. Some funds have been raised from other sources. Mr. Pisarski commented that \$7,350 was set aside for Teen Arts. Ms. Watson suggested giving \$5,000 to the Levoy. If the Commission awards \$5,000 to the Levoy that will leave an estimated \$21,000 for the stabilization grants. A motion was made to approve \$5,000 to Levoy Theatre by Ms. Moreno. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously.

**Update on Strategic Plan – Omarey Williams**

Mr. Williams said Mr. Shrum contacted 10 regrantees via email and held two one-hour interviews. Millville Army Air Field said they have suffered greatly from COVID but on a positive note they developed a better online presence. Bayshore Center has missed out on sailings and opening of the café. Ms. Lods and Ms. Doss commented that they saw signs that the Schooner is sailing.

**C & H Commission Budget – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Review**

Mr. Pisarski said not much has changed with the budget. Mr. Pisarski said every department in the state was asked to cut their budget by 15% in 2021. The Governor's original proposed budget calls for an increase to the State Council on the Arts budget, but the revised budget may be very different.

**2021 Re-Grant Guidelines & Application – Review and Approval**

Commission members received in their packet a copy of the guidelines and application. Mr. Pisarski said there are three open seats on the grants review panel. Ms. Lods asked for a list of who will be serving on the panel. A motion was made to approve the application and guidelines as amended by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

**COVID-19 Stabilization Re-grant Program**

Commission members received in their packet copies of the stabilization grants that have been received so far. The Commission will have to assess the applications and come up with recommendations. If an organization is receiving an amount that requires Freeholder approval Mr. Pisarski will send out an email for a vote and have the vote memorialized at the August meeting.

**Landis Avenue Mural**

Russell Swanson sent an email regarding a new mural at 636 E. Landis Ave. in Vineland. On the budget sheet there is \$7,500 available for murals, \$5,000 has to be used for public art. The remaining \$2,500 that is not specified for murals is part of the stabilization re-grants. Mr. Pisarski said the budget for the mural is estimated at \$15,000. Several Commission members questioned the size of the mural, the mural will cover the whole wall. Ms. Lods would like to hold off on voting and see some of the previous work done by the artist. Mr. Pisarski said the design is in process and it will be a bistro scene. Ms. Lods felt comfortable approving with a reliance on Russell Swanson at Vineland Main Street to ensure a good design. A motion was made to approve \$5,000 for the Landis Ave. mural by Mr. Dragotta. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

**Cohansey RiverFest Plein Air Competition – CANCELED**

Mr. Pisarski spoke to Sharon Kiefer at Gallery 50 and it was decided an outside reception would not work for the Plein Air Competition so the competition has been canceled. Gallery 50 however is doing art shows virtually.

**Artists' Day in Mauricetown – CANCELED**

Mr. Pisarski has not had a formal conversation with Mauricetown Historical Society about canceling the event but for safety reasons Mr. Pisarski has decided to cancel.

Ms. Watson suggested having an art contest on what the shutdown/COVID means to the artist. Ms. Lods said the Riverfront Renaissance Center will be opening the main gallery in August, the re-opening reception will be August 21. The show is entitled "Artful Expressions of Isolation & Social Change". They are also having a public art contest called "The World in Motion Night Skies".

**Liaison Reports**

Mr. Pisarski asked Commission members to reach out to Ms. Doss and mentor her on how the liaison process works.

**Tourism Advisory Council/ Recreation Commission Comments – Kimberly Gauntt**

Ms. Gauntt is creating a recreation database on all the different sports organizations in Cumberland County. Ms. Gauntt is also working on bylaws and a mission statement for the Recreation Committee. Several new members are being added to the Recreation Committee. A tourism marketing campaign is being done to promote the outdoors.

**Other Old/New Business**

Mr. Pisarski spoke to Lisa Garrison and the third site (663 Greate St.) that was going be added to the Network to Freedom has been purchased by a private individual. Ms. Garrison asked if it is possible to change the third site to the Freedom bus tour. A motion was made to give Ms. Garrison the option to use the tour as the third site by Ms. Watson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dragotta and passed unanimously.

**Correspondence**

Nothing was discussed.

**Adjourn**

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