# CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

#### June 24, 2015

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 3:30 PM., at the Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

**Present:** Penny Watson Suzanne Merighi

Marianne Lods Roy Kaneshiki

Maria Cerda-Moreno

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Leonides Negron, Vineland Puerto Rican Festival

## Approval of Minutes – May 26, 2015

A motion was made to approve the minutes from May 26, 2015 by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

#### **Welcome to Commissioner Yogesh Thakur**

Mr. Thakur was appointed to the Commission at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Freeholder meeting, but Mr. Thakur was unable to attend today's meeting due to a conflict with high school graduations.

# <u>Special Request/Challenge Grant Discussion from Vineland Puerto Rican Festival – Leonides Negron and Annie Gonzalez</u>

A letter was in the Commission members' packets for a special request regarding a folklore event. Mr. Negron also passed out a bio on Andres Jimenez who he would like to have perform at the event. Mr. Pisarski commented that this special request may qualify for a challenge grant. Mr. Negron would like to do a pre-50 year celebration of the Puerto Rican Festival. Mr. Pisarski commented that Andres Jimenez is the "founding father" of folk music of Puerto Rico. Mr. Negron would like to bring Mr. Jimenez to the Landis Theater in November. Mr. Negron has provided a draft budget. Mr. Pisarski asked how much money will be recouped in tickets sales. Mr. Negron feels \$10,000 will be brought in from ticket sales, senior citizens will be offered a discount. There is a \$1,300 fee for use of the Landis Theater, \$500 for the use of the theater and the city gets a dollar per-seat for a total of \$700. Mr. Pisarski said the Puerto Rican Festival already receives re-grant funding so they are not eligible for special request funds. Commission members received a copy of the draft guidelines for a challenge grant. Mr. Pisarski explained to Mr. Negron what a challenge grant is, an organization would commit to a certain amount of funding provided that the organization brings in a certain amount of funding by the cutoff date. Mr. Pisarski would like the organization to provide two dollars for every dollar the Commission will give, so a 2:1 match. Ms. Lods suggested putting a cap on funds given by the Commission. The organization would have to report to the Commission every funder's name and the amount that was donated by the cutoff date. Mr. Pisarski said miscellaneous funds are availiable to support this challenge grant. Mr. Pisarski will offer draft language for letters/flyers to be sent

out. It was suggested to Mr. Negron to fundraise the months of July – September. Mr. Pisarski said tickets sales should cover the cost of the artist and travel. The Commission will discuss the cap and Mr. Pisarski will inform Mr. Negron of the decision. Mr. Negron invited everyone to the Puerto Rican Festival Banquet on July 18<sup>th</sup>, the tickets are \$50 and it will be held at the Motorsports Park.

Mr. Pisarski said the cap can be set between \$2,500-\$3,000. Ms. Watson commented that she doesn't want the cap set too high. Ms. Lods commented that there are a lot of businesses in Vineland that can donate. A motion was made to approve the challenge grant to the Puerto Rican Festival in the amount of \$2,500 by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

## **Re-grant Application Draft Discussion**

Mr. Pisarski informed the Commission that some minor changes have been made to the budget form and on page eight Mr. Pisarski specified exactly the criteria for evaluation that the grants review panel uses to provide the score the panel gives to the Commission. Ms. Moreno has offered Spanish speaking services to re-grantees that may need it. Mr. Pisarski will be meeting with his counter parts from Gloucester and Burlington to compare applications. A motion was made to approve the changes to the application by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously.

# <u>Skirmish on the Lower Maurice River 2<sup>nd</sup> Outreach Meeting – Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 6pm, Leechester Hall, Leesburg</u>

Commission members received in their packets a flyer to the outreach meeting in Leesburg. Hunter Research is working on the final report. Handouts will be distributed at the meeting, Mr. Hunter asked that the final report not be given out because it is a draft document. The background image on the flyer is the KOCOA map. Mr. Pisarski commented that while Hunter Research did not find any archeological evidence, they have provided considerable clarification on the skirmish through documentary research, landscape analysis and other means. Mr. Kaneshiki asked about the signage dedication which will take place August 22<sup>nd</sup> during Heritage Day at the Bayshore Center. The video podcast will not be complete by that time. There will be funds left over from the National Park Service (NPS) grant, NPS said the funds can be used for interpretation. Mr. Pisarski suggested inviting Hunter Research to Heritage Day and set up an "archeology dig" at the Bayshore Center. Ms. Watson proposed a trunk show that could be taken to schools. Ms. Merighi asked if NPS is disappointed that nothing was found, and Mr. Pisarski responded they are not due to the thoroughness in which the research has been conducted. Mr. Pisarski will email everyone the report when it becomes available and add it to the website.

#### Caribbean Heritage Programming in 2016 – WheatonArts Folklife Center

Commission members are welcome to attend tonight's meeting at the Folklife Center. Mr. Pisarski has been working with Monica Murray of Taste of the Island, Ms. Murray is bringing a sampler tray to the meeting. All Caribbean artists are invited to participate in the event. Mr. Pisarski will be meeting with Susan Gogan of WheatonArts to set up joint programming between WheatonArts and the Folklife Center. The Caribbean Festival will take place in 2016. Ms. Moreno has a contact to the Guatemalan organization to get artists for the festival. Ms. Lods also has associates she will contact.

#### **Liaison Reports**

Ms. Merighi said in July Gallery 50 will be having their Petite Moments juried art competition.

Mr. Kaneshiki commented that Bay Day was a success.

Ms. Moreno went to opening day at Barn Studio, Ms. Witt told Ms. Moreno the handicap bathroom is complete. Neil Hartley of The American Historical Theatre portrayed President Franklin Delano Roosevelt at Cumberland County Library. Ms. Moreno said it was a small group but very entertaining. Mr. Pisarski asked if there were refreshments, Ms. Moreno was not aware of any.

Ms. Watson passed around pictures of the rain barrels that students painted. The barrels are on display at Hankins, Bridge the Gap and Bridgeton Library. The mosaic project done by Clay College will have a power point presentation on July 1<sup>st</sup>. CHABA had a power point video on Bridgeton's Historic District.

Ms. Lods informed the Commission that 40 tiles have been installed from the Tile the Town project and 60 more are still to be installed.

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

Postponed until next meeting.

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

Mr. Pisarski said Nancy Moses published her second book, "Stolen, Smuggled, Sold: On the Hunt for Cultural Treasures". Ms. Moses would like to do a book signing in South Jersey with the Commission hosting. Ms. Pisarski would like the venue to match the theme.

Ms. Lods said Marianne Cannon won the bid for a mural on the Somers Point Library, updates are on Facebook. The City of Millville has split from the Millville Development Corporation (MDC). MDC will no longer receive support from the city they will keep their name and 501c3. The board has reorganized and they will adopt new bylaws.

# **Correspondence**

#### Adjourn

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