

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**June 28, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 4:00 PM., at Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

**Present:** Penny Watson Suzanne Merighi  
Marianne Lods Roy Kaneshiki  
Maria Cerda-Moreno Ella Boykin

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director  
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

**Guest:** Kimberly Gauntt, Cumberland County Recreation & Tourism

**Approval of Minutes – May 24, 2018**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from May 24, 2018 by Ms. Watson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

**WheatonArts Asian Program Funding**

Everyone received in their packet the schedule for 2018 for the Asian programming. WheatonArts received \$11,000 in funding from New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Ms. Lods asked why are they eligible for funding from the Commission when they received state funding, and Mr. Pisarski responded that the Commission's funding is not coming from grant funds. WheatonArts is requesting \$6,600 from the Commission to match the grant. Mr. Pisarski said funding is available. Iveta Pirgova is also asking for additional \$600 for food for two different events in October. Ms. Lods and Ms. Watson like the program but they feel WheatonArts is asking for too much money. A motion was made to approve \$6,600 for the Asian programming by Ms. Watson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Boykin and passed unanimously.

**Motel 77 Sign Acquisition and Mothballing**

Mr. Pisarski wrote a letter to Lidl requesting that the county take over ownership of the Motel 77 sign. Lidl (local office) gave permission to remove the sign but we have to wait to hear from the corporate office in Germany. Mr. Pisarski asked for quotes from four companies regarding moving the sign, one quote was received from AVA for \$2,500. The cost includes taking down the sign and moving it to 800 E. Commerce St. (public works). Mr. Pisarski said he has spoken to Upper Deerfield and they are in support of saving the sign. Ms. Merighi commented that if we plan on saving the sign we should come up with a plan and not leave it to sit and rust. Ms. Boykin suggested doing a timeline so action is taken on the sign. Mr. Pisarski said he would attend an Upper Deerfield Township meeting and keep them updated on the progress of the sign and we would like to work with Upper Deerfield for placement of the sign. When the time comes Mr. Pisarski will contact SNJ Today to do a story. A motion was made to approve relocating the sign in the amount of \$2,500 by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

**Disaster Preparedness Workshop – July 12, 2018**

The New Jersey Historical Commission wants organizations to have a disaster preparedness plan in place. Mr. Pisarski has scheduled a workshop on this topic for July 12<sup>th</sup>. Samantha Forsko with Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts will lead the workshop. Ms. Forsko will hand out a pocket guide to assist organizations on what to do in case of a disaster. Ms. Merighi suggested doing an emergency preparedness workshop that concentrates on event scenarios, such as active shooter. Mr. Pisarski is meeting with South Jersey Cultural Alliance and indicated he will speak to them about such a workshop.

**Liaison Reports**

Ms. Merighi said Cumberland Players is holding auditions for The Crucible. Nancy Patterson told Ms. Merighi they are working on infrastructure around the East Point Lighthouse and they opened a gift shop. The Lighthouse received an award from the New Jersey Historical Preservation Office.

Ms. Moreno met with Chris Volker with the Boys & Girls Club, she said the kids did two beautiful sculptures. Mr. Volker would like to take a tour of the Steam Works building with some kids.

**Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt**

Ms. Gauntt said mini grants will be given out. Ms. Gauntt will be meeting with the several mayors regarding a big marketing campaign for the county in July. Ms. Gauntt and Mr. Pisarski met with Cape May County regarding a history trail brochure that will include Cumberland, Cape May and Salem counties. Cost is not known yet but there will be a fee to get the brochure printed. Everyone received a copy of the 2017 economic impact report.

**Other Old/New Business**

Ms. Lods commented that Levoy and ArtC are partnering to show The Art Spirit: The Story of Pat Witt & the Barn Studio of Art & Shattered: Portrait of a Glass Factory (documentaries) on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Several members attended the Kite and Color Festival and they had a good time despite the bad weather.

**Correspondence**

A letter was received from the State Historic Preservation Office regarding improvement along 49 between Bridgeton and Salem.

**Adjourn**

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