

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES****March 24, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 3:30 PM., in the freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Penny Watson Suzanne Merighi
Roy Kaneshiki John Garrison
Ella Boykin Merle Silver
Maria Cerda-Moreno Marianne Lods

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – February 24, 2015

A motion was made to approve the minutes from February 24, 2015. Ms. Watson made a correction on page three under Farmland Movie Presentation, “show” should be “shown.” A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Ms. Boykin and passed unanimously.

Social Media Mini-grant Applications – Award Determination

Commission members received the applications for the mini grant program. There were 10 spots available and 10 applications were received. A motion was made to approve a resolution for the 10 applications by Mr. Garrison. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously. Mr. Pisarski will send out award letters to the applicants. When the project is complete Mr. Pisarski will put together a report from the staff at SNJ Today.

Battle of Dallas’ Landing Update and Signage Design Discussion

Richard Hunter and his staff will be at the April meeting. Mr. Pisarski said Dr. Hunter has told him that very little information has been found. The shoreline investigation will take place in April. Ground penetrating radar was done at the Calpaldi Farm and nothing was found. Mr. Pisarski thinks Hunter Research feels there is no need to do a national register nomination because there is nothing to register. The second public outreach meeting will be June 25th at Lee Chester Hall in Leesburg. There will not be a rental fee for the hall and dinner will be provided. Commission members received in their packet the concept design for signage from VSBA. Mr. Pisarski will check the budget to see if there are funds for an artist to do a rendering of a shallop. Dr. Hunter feels the signage does not give enough space for explanation. Ms. Watson wants to make sure the signage is legible. Mr. Pisarski said the purpose of the transparency is to place the rendering in context with the water behind it. Mr. Pisarski said he does not currently have the size or pricing of the signage. The commission wants to make sure there are no issues with fogging and durability. Mr. Pisarski commented that steps could be in front of the sign so children can see through it. The signage would be placed on the docks at the Bayshore Center. Ms. Silver asked if no evidence is found, will we still move forward with the interpretation. Mr. Pisarski responded that interpretation would be done in any case. If nothing is found the

interpretation will talk about life more generally in 1781 and the general conflict between loyalists and revolutionaries. Ms. Silver questioned the distance between where the sign is going to be located in Bivalve and where the historical site of Dallas Landing is located. Mr. Pisarski said you can see the site from Bivalve but there is no evidence to show the battle occurred at Dallas Landing. Mr. Pisarski said if the budget allows an additional panel can be done with other images and information. Ms. Watson feels there should be a map showing where Dallas Landing was historically located. The commission said they like the concept of the design depending on construction, longevity, legibility and durability.

Art Everywhere Cumberland County Public Art Concept Discussion

Mr. Pisarski played a video regarding public art in the county. Mr. Pisarski has had discussions with the Positive Youth Coalition and Prosecutor Jennifer Webb-McRae. The concept is to engage at risk youth with art. The coalition is ready to move forward with this project and asked Mr. Pisarski to help. Millville City Council member Lynne Porreca-Compari contacted Mr. Pisarski and would like to be involved and indicated Millville has money in the city budget to assist. Mr. Pisarski gave a presentation at a Freeholder meeting and they thought it was a wonderful idea. Ms. Lods said Ms. Porreca-Compari sits on her board and she has never brought the idea up and never commented amount having funds to help. Ms. Boykin said she is part of the positive youth coalition that started in Vineland and now is spreading throughout the county. Mr. Pisarski said we are the only county-wide coalition in the state. Mr. Pisarski said such a public art program has many benefits as it is economic development which builds property values, it regains civic space that has been lost and studies in Philadelphia show it reduces ethnic violence. The concept would be to create a county wide art program administered through the Cultural & Heritage Commission. Mr. Pisarski said Director Derella commented about the many areas of the county which could benefit from such a program. Ms. Lods spoke about the Kick Starter program that the City of Millville is using to raise funds for their tile the town concept. After the tiles are painted there will be a contest and the winning tiles will be put on buildings with the owner's permission. Mr. Pisarski said if the Commission wants to pursue the public art concept he would like to put together a field trip to Philadelphia and do a bus tour of murals. Mr. Pisarski indicated private fundraising has never been pursued by the Commission but we could for this project, since it does not compete with other programming in the county. A committee would be created to help identify locations were the art would be placed. A panel of artists and youth would identify what type of art would go at what location and which artist would manage that location with the final say coming from an administrative committee and property owner/municipality where the art is being located. Mr. Pisarski is working with Mark Anderson from the prosecutor's office regarding grant funds. Ms. Boykin asked if the school boards and municipalities would help with financial assistance. Mr. Pisarski commented that we could go to them in 2016 but in the meantime we should work on a private fundraising campaign. Ms. Watson asked what the kids will be doing, and Mr. Pisarski said the artist would do the outline and the kids would do most of the painting. Mr. Pisarski would like the youth involved in the committees. Ms. Lods explained how the artist was chosen and the cost for the mosaic mural in the Glasstown Arts District. Ms. Moreno asked if the project will be mostly murals, Mr. Pisarski said it can be any public art but to launch the project it will probably be a mural. Ms. Silver asked about getting local corporations to donate. Mr. Garrison asked if the trust account is a 501(c)3, and Mr. Pisarski responded it is not, although he would check to see if donations are tax deductible. Ms. Merighi spoke about several businesses in the county that have art on their property. Ms. Lods commented that art also prevents graffiti. Mr. Pisarski said Kim Wood suggested doing a presentation to the Chambers of Commerce. Ms. Lods said Assembly Fiocchi

may be interested in the project, he has legislation that he introduced to designate 25 art districts to work with the Department of Travel and Tourism for marketing funds. Mr. Pisarski said as more information becomes available he will keep the Commission informed.

2015 Saturday Artists' Talk Forum – Saturday, April 25, 2015

Mr. Pisarski is concerned with the low RSVP's for the forum. Commission members believe people will likely register late. Mr. Pisarski is trying to get an ad in the Current newspaper. RSVP's are important so the correct amount of food and books can be ordered. Books, speaker fees and newspaper ads are being covered by the grant, while the food is coming out of the Commission operating line. Mr. Pisarski has sent flyers to the College, WheatonArts, Noyes, Rutgers and many others. It was also posted to Facebook and Twitter.

2015 Encore Awards – Thursday, May 21st – Flyer Theater, Camden County College

Mr. Pisarski emailed commission members a list of previous recipients of the Encore Award. Mr. Pisarski asked for suggestions for the year, Mr. Garrison suggested Paul Somers from Bay Atlantic Symphony. A motion was made to give the Encore Award to Paul Somers by Mr. Garrison. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

Older American's Month Programming Discussion

The Office on Aging will be receiving \$500 from the Commission for their Senior Art Contest. A \$1,000 will be given to Bay Atlantic Symphony to purchase tickets for Older Americans Month. Office on Aging would like the tickets to be for a concert that is later in the month because most tickets are already gone before the newsletter gets out. Mr. Kaneshiki suggested getting tickets to an event at the Levoy. Mr. Pisarski will reach out to the Levoy and see if two different events can be offered.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Garrison was impressed with Bayshore's volunteer training program. Mr. Garrison met with Gail Gould from Lenni Lenape Indians and he learned about their history. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission's May meeting will be held in Fairfield Township at their Tribal Lands.

Mr. Kaneshiki met Yvonne Custis from the Friends of Bridgeton Library, they are trying to get funds for better handicap access.

Ms. Merighi said Upper Deerfield Township Community Day will be April 25th. Gallery 50 will be having an opening reception April 3rd and the artist will be Alex Alampi. Ms. Merighi commented that Gallery 50's website is well done.

Ms. Moreno said Cumberland County College will have an Underground Railroad Symposium on April 27th. Cumberland County Library is planning their 2015 events to include storytelling and theater.

Ms. Silver said Millville Army Air Field Museum is having an airshow May 9th & 10th.

Ms. Boykin contacted all her liaisons.

Ms. Lods spoke to Kim Ayars and the cards for the Underground Railroad Symposium are almost done. Mr. Pisarski said Freeholder Sheppard said the Historical Society did not know

about the Symposium.

Mr. Pisarski and Ms. Moreno are working with Juan Rodriguez on his event. It will take place in September at Vineland Library.

Ms. Lods said they are partnering with Millville Schools for a Multi-Cultural event May 1st at Levoy Theater. There will be five different entertainment groups.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Mr. Pisarski said Ms. Gauntt sent out the award letters from the SSRDMO funding.

Other Old/New Business

Ms. Watson spoke to the Cumberland County Historical Society about the Sheriff's records. The records were once at the Historical Society and the Sheriff's Dept. took them back. Ms. Watson would like to get an intern to index the books. Mr. Pisarski said we could apply for a special project grant to help with the cost.

Correspondence

The Commission received a letter from Laura Johnson, Bayshore Center thanking the Commission for the grant funds.

Ms. Owens, CAWA sent in a letter thanking the Commission for co-sponsoring the photo contest.

Courtenay Reece sent in a thank you card for listening to Bridgeton Library's appeal.

Sharon Loudon sent in a note thanking the Commission for letting her be a part of the Artists Talk.

The State Historic Preservation Office provided correspondence indicating the renovations to the old prosecutor's office behind the courthouse in Bridgeton were approved by her office.

A newspaper article was in Commission member's packets regarding funding for Millville Historical Society's renovation project.

Adjourn

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