

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**May 25, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 3:30 PM., at Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

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

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director  
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

**Guest:** Kimberly Gauntt, Cumberland County Recreation & Tourism  
Tyler Daddario, Levoy Theatre  
Lauren Van Emden, Levoy Theatre

**Approval of Minutes – April 27, 2017**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from April 27, 2017 by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

**Senior's Month – Senior Art Show/Winchester Center Event – Update**

Commission members had in their packet an invitation to the Senior Art Show. The commission provided sponsorship for the event. The invite that was sent out for the Blind Center's "Spring Fling" that the Commission sponsored the music for was in everyone's packet.

**Highway 77 Motel Sign Appeal – Correspondence to Lidl Grocery**

Mr. Pisarski sent a letter to Lidl asking them to work with the county on preserving the motel sign. Ms. Watson suggested reaching out to the municipal zoning board, Mr. Pisarski reached out to Upper Deerfield and they approved a site plan. Ms. Moreno asked if there was any background information regarding the sign, Mr. Pisarski commented that we do not.

**Cumberland County as Safe Haven Exhibit - Update**

The Safe Haven is an exhibit that the Council for the Humanities will be funding. The exhibit will show the diversity of Cumberland County and how it benefits the county. There will be seven themes and panels to match the themes. There will be several groups to do the research for each panel. Ms. Watson mentioned another event regarding the Theater of the Oppressed. Mr. Pisarski would like to bring them into the county. Renee Brecht from the Cumberland County Improvement Authority (CCIA) will be reaching out to them regarding cost and she will get back to Mr. Pisarski. Mr. Pisarski commented Dr. Robyn Magalit Rodriguez wrote In Lady Liberty's Shadow. The Commission previously approved purchasing books and having a book signing with Dr. Rodriguez. All the events will be tied together.

**275 N. Delsea Mural – Unveiling May 31, 2017, 3pm**

Mr. Pisarski commented that the mural turned out great. The CCIA will be doing a grand reopening and unveiling the mural.

**Teen Arts Festival**

The Commission assisted with funding of the festival, the festival was on hiatus for the past several years. Ms. Van Emden thanked the commission for funding. Five schools participated which brought in 150-200 students. Mr. Daddario passed out printed material regarding the festival. An app was created for the festival and a snapchat filter. 13 different workshops were available for the students to attend: dance, music, visual arts etc. There were three competitive workshops: music, theater and visual arts. Mr. Daddario said several students are moving to the state level to compete. Ms. Van Embden said they received a grant to create an “Arts for Smarts” program. All the students that participated in the festival received a voucher to see Peter Pan at the Levoy Theatre this summer. Ms. Van Embden commented that the budget was \$9,000 for the festival, the Commission gave a sponsorship of \$5,000. The registration fee was waived for many schools due to bussing cost. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission will continue to sponsor the festival in 2018. Ms. Van Embden will send a complete budget.

**Landis Theater Proposal**

The theater is proposing giving out discounted tickets to students. Each high school in Cumberland County would receive 20 tickets each for two different concerts for 40 tickets total. Mr. Pisarski is proposing the Commission purchase 175 tickets to be given out, the total cost would be \$1,400. The Commission would give the theater the funds and they would handle everything with the schools. Ms. Boykin suggested giving tickets to chaperones. Mr. Pisarski said that was discussed and they decided against it. A motion was made to approve the allotment of \$1,400 for the tickets by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously. Mr. Garrison questioned if there is a way to find out if students showed up and from what schools. Ms. Lods suggested coding the tickets. Mr. Pisarski will be getting feedback from Mr. Swanson from Landis Theater.

**Liaison Reports**

Ms. Merighi attended a CHABA meeting but was rescheduled because they did not have a quorum. The Millville Army Air Show is this weekend.

Ms. Moreno commented that a farmers market will be every Wednesday at the Bayshore Center.

Mr. Kaneshiki said Bay Day has been canceled. Mr. Pisarski commented that they will be having an event but it will be broken down into smaller events. Mr. Kaneshiki said the Obon Festival will be in July.

Mr. Boykin took the Freedom Tour, the bus was at full capacity. The bus stopped at four churches on the west side of the county.

Ms. Lods said multi-cultural week will be next week for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes in Millville. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> a free event will be at the Levoy Theatre, there will be three music acts.

**Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt**

Ms. Gauntt commented that mini grants will not be given out this year, tourism council opted to

do a billboard campaign. The billboards will be up for six months.

Mr. Pisarski passed out a report regarding the Arts & Economic Prosperity Study. Arts & Cultural programming in Cumberland County attracted over 225,000 people. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission to look over the study and email him any questions or highlight anything that you feel is important. Mr. Pisarski was asked to give a presentation at the August Freeholder meeting. Mr. Pisarski commented that the majority of the attendees are over 50. Ms. Merighi asked if there will be a summary, Mr. Pisarski will be making an executive summary. Mr. Pisarski is going to try and get information about other counties to compare Cumberland County results to.

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

Ms. Merighi commented that with the new federal budget it looks like arts and humanity will be sparsely funded if at all. Mr. Merighi questioned if the Commission will be doing any advocacy. Mr. Pisarski will check will Art Pride to see what is to be done.

Ms. Lods said the Federal Prison contacted the Art Center in Millville and took a tour.

Ms. Merighi congratulated Mr. Kaneshiki on receiving another degree.

Mr. Kaneshiki asked about Kite & Color Festival, Mr. Pisarski will get tickets for Commission members that are interested.

Ms. Lods asked about Encore Awards, Mr. Pisarski said things went great but attendance was low.

### **Correspondence**

Mr. Pisarski wrote a letter of support for preservation and interpretation of the Cumberland Nail and Iron Company Office building.

### **Adjourn**

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