

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

November 25, 2014

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present:	Penny Watson	Suzanne Merighi
	Marianne Lods	Roy Kaneshiki
	John Garrison	Merle Silver
	Ella Boykin	Freeholder Sheppard

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – October 28, 2014

A motion was made to approve the minutes from November 24, 2014. Ms. Watson made a correction under Tourism Advisory Council Comments; the sentence should read The Commission will receive \$1,000. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected by Ms. Boykin. The motion was seconded by Ms. Silver and passed unanimously.

2015 Budget Approval – Recommendations from Budget Subcommittee

Mr. Pisarski thanked Ms. Merighi, Ms. Watson and Ms. Silver for serving on the subcommittee. Mr. Pisarski read through the 2015 budget recommendations. The newsletter expenses dropped since the switch has been made to Constant Contact. A large amount of funding has been dedicated to the website for updates in 2015. The funding for workshops was doubled. Under artistic services the teen arts line item has been removed. No special requests were received in 2014 so the amount will be lowered to \$1,000. Artist day was over budget in 2014 so it is recommended to increase the budget by \$500. With the budget subcommittee recommendations general operating support would be \$16,165. The committee recommends increasing art regrant funding from \$95,000 to \$100,000 and increasing history regrant funding from \$12,000 to \$15,000. The miscellaneous project line item has been reduced. The history grant offset line item has increased. Ms. Silver asked if the \$506 paid for a full year of service for the newsletter, Mr. Pisarski said the amount was increased to allow for unexpected costs. A motion was made to approve the 2015 budget by Ms. Silver. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously.

2015 Re-grant Applications – Grants Review Panel Recommendations

Commission members received a spread sheet of the grant recommendations. The ADA subcommittee and the grants review panel met and reviewed the applications. The applications were scored from -6 to +6. The Grants Review Panel, on recommendation of the State Council on the Arts, did not make funding recommendations. On the spread sheet in the far right column the first number is the score for each organization. If the organization received a 0 - +1 = stable, +2 = 7% increase, +3 = 10% increase (history received 22%), +4 = 21/22% increase (Seabrook Buddhist Temple 6.25%) Seabrook did not receive 21% because they cannot be awarded more

than they requested. Ms. Boykin asked if the regrantees were aware of the scoring system. Mr. Pisarski responded that they were not provided the exact scoring methodology, but were aware of the competitive, merit-based criteria. Ms. Watson asked why the Bridgeton Library scored so poorly. Mr. Pisarski said Bridgeton Library is proposing to combine with Cumberland Regional High School on a poetry festival, the panel said the application was lacking information and they felt the application was thrown together. Mr. Garrison suggested talking to the applicants that received low scores and explaining to them what needs to be fixed. Mr. Pisarski said comments are always provided to the applicants. Ms. Lods questioned why Vineland Regional Dance Company received a -1. Mr. Pisarski commented that they receive a lot of funding every year but their programming has not increased. Mr. Pisarski said the Levoy Theatre is going to try for direct state funding in the coming years. Mr. Pisarski said changes can be made to increase or decrease funding for an organization and once the decision is made the recommendations will go to the Freeholders for approval. When the announcements are made Mr. Pisarski said just the awarded amount will be released with the percentages removed from the data. Ms. Silver commented she likes the American Littoral Society's project. Mr. Garrison asked what the amount was in parentheses. Mr. Pisarski responded it is last year's requested amount. Ms. Lods is glad to see Cumberland County College applied for the Underground Railroad project. Bridgeton Library and Vineland Regional Dance Company are the only two organizations that received cuts. Ms. Watson would like to see Bridgeton Library receive more funding, Mr. Pisarski said the Friends of Bridgeton Library is recommended to receive \$1,000 as well. Ms. Merighi asked if Bridgeton Library's application indicates what the \$700 is going to be used for. Mr. Pisarski said there will be travel expenses for the poet and supply costs. They also receive funding from the Dodge Foundation. Last year Cumberland Regional High School did not fully comply with their contractual obligation, they did not acknowledge they received funding from the Commission in all of their printed materials. Ms. Lods asked why the City of Vineland did not ask for funding for their summer concerts. Mr. Pisarski said the Grants Review Panel was getting more critical saying they did not have a big enough impact on the city. Based on those comments, the City of Vineland switched their request to programming at the Senior Center. A motion was made to approve the grant recommendations by Mr. Garrison. The motion was seconded by Ms. Boykin and passed unanimously.

Nominations Subcommittee Appointments

Ms. Merighi suggested that current officers could move up a step and just a secretary needs to be selected. Ms. Merighi, Ms. Lods and Ms. Silver have agreed to be on the nominations subcommittee.

Approval of 2015 Meeting Dates

Commission members received a list of 2015 meeting dates in their packet. Next month's meeting is scheduled for December 23rd it was agreed to move the meeting to December 16th. A motion was made to approve the change of the December meeting date and to accept the 2015 meeting dates by Mr. Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Kaneshiki said Clay College had a display of oyster plates. Ms. Merighi said she went on Saturday and several oyster plates were sold. Mr. Kaneshiki stated he used the extra tickets provided by the Commission and attended the Tommy Dorsey concert, which was excellent.

Ms. Lods comment that the Levoy Theatre is having several events over the holidays.

Ms. Merighi noticed in the newspaper the Levoy Theatre is promoting an initiative for an additional donation called the Balcony Bunch.

Ms. Boykin asked about the marquee she saw at Landis Theater. Ms. Lods said it is the Chamber Orchestra from Bay-Atlantic Symphony performing at the Landis.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Ms. Gauntt indicated she has drafted the resolution for the \$20,000 grant that is being received from the Southern Shore Region Destination Marketing Organization. Ms. Lods asked if it will be handled the same way as in years past. Ms. Gauntt confirmed it will, after the resolutions are passed she will send out applications. The Commission will receive a \$1,000. The tourism council will be completing a website with a portion of the funds. Freeholder Sheppard asked how many organizations participate; Mr. Pisarski said 15 groups applied last year for the marketing grants. The grant has to be used for marketing and is open to any nonprofit organization. The Cumberland County Recreation Commission will be having the annual Christmas party for the disabled on December 13th all ages are welcomed to participate.

Ms. Lods said the state travel and tourism grants were announced last week and Ms. Lods' organization was denied and Millville Army Air Field was also denied. Ms. Merighi asked if anyone from South Jersey sits on the board to advocate for South Jersey. Ms. Lods said the State Arts Council does not, but she is not sure on the tourism side. Ms. Merighi suggested submitting some names for consideration.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Kaneshiki asked if the video was available yet from the Dallas Landing public meeting. Mr. Pisarski indicated the video is not yet ready, but the meeting was a tremendous success. Richard Hunter and his team informed the public what their findings were and what they plan on doing over the next several months. The next step is site analysis. Ms. Merighi thanked the Commission members who attended. Mr. Pisarski announced the Commission received the full requested grant to complete the interpretive signage from the State Council for the Humanities.

Freeholder Sheppard said there was an article in the Atlantic City Press regarding Eco-Tourism.

The Eagle Festival will be February 7th. Mr. Pisarski would like to add some new components to the festival and asked for suggestions.

Ms. Watson said the granddaughter of the architect who designed the Tea Burning Monument will have an art exhibit at Lummis Library for Christmas in Greenwich on December 14th. Freeholder Sheppard said there will be 15 houses on the tour.

Ms. Merighi suggested everyone friend the Commission on Twitter and Facebook.

Ms. Lods mentioned the 14th Annual Soul of the Season will take place December 13th.

Mr. Garrison mentioned Bay Atlantic Symphony will have a Holiday Cheer concert December 13th & 14th.

Correspondence

Everyone received a copy of the award letter for New Jersey Artists Development Workshop/South. It is a workshop for artists on maintaining the artist life style. The grant was previously provided to the South Jersey Cultural Alliance and the events were held in Atlantic City. Due to waning attendance the grant was moved to the Commission.

Adjourn

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.