

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

November 23, 2015

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Wednesday, November 23, 2015 at 3:30 PM., at the Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

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

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Ralph Padilla, PRAC of Southern NJ

Approval of Minutes – September 23, 2015 & October 28, 2015

A motion was made to approve the minutes from September 23 2015 by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moreno and passed unanimously. A motion was made to approve the minutes from October 28, 2015 by Ms. Silver. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously. Ms. Watson abstained.

Special Request from the Puerto Rican Action Committee of Southern NJ

Mr. Padilla is requesting funds for a cultural entertainment event that will take place in 2016 at the Levoy Theater. Mr. Padilla said PRAC of Southern NJ was created in the early 70's to assist with the migrant labor workforce. PRAC offers many services: after school programs, assists with people buying homes and employment services. Mr. Padilla said it is difficult to find funding for programs. Mr. Padilla said the last census showed that 29.3% of the population is Hispanic, Mr. Padilla feels that is not an accurate number, that it is fact a higher percentage. Mr. Padilla would like to bring premier Latin entertainment to the Levoy. The first concert would be The Legends of Salsa. Mr. Padilla said an international baseball tournament will also take place in 2016 with the plans to make the tournament grow bigger every year with teams coming from Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. Ms. Silver asked what PRAC's mission is and Mr. Padilla responded that it is to improve the quality of life and heritage of the Hispanic community. Mr. Padilla said PRAC has held meetings with City of Millville and Economic Development Directors. The Salsa concert has only just begun being marketed and over 300 tickets have already been sold. Ms. Boykin asked what the price of the tickets are, and Mr. Padilla responded that the tickets are \$45-\$60. Mr. Pisarski said since the letter asking for funds came in after the regrant were due Mr. Padilla was told to apply for a special request and in 2016 PRAC will submit a regrant application. Mr. Pisarski said funds are available. Ms. Moreno asked if PRAC was trying to create groups to represent the Hispanic heritage in Cumberland County. Mr. Padilla commented that Cumberland County is a great location and there are no Hispanic owned dance companies in Cumberland. Mr. Kaneshiki asked why they chose to have the concert at the Levoy. Mr. Padilla commented that Millville is full of arts and cultural. Mr. Kaneshiki asked

what the funds will be used for, marketing and artistic salaries. Mr. Padilla commented that PRAC is in the process of changing its name so it is not confused with CASA Prac and to show it serves not just the Puerto Rican community. Mr. Pisarski will inform Mr. Padilla of the Commission's decision by email.

Ms. Merighi asked what event the \$1,000 is going towards, and Mr. Pisarski responded that the request letter lists multiple events for which the funds could go. Ms. Boykin suggested funding the event. Mr. Garrison commented that several good points were made and he thought it was great that they have spoken to economic development leaders. A motion was made to approve the \$1,000 to PRAC of Southern NJ by Mr. Garrison. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

2016 Budget Approval – Recommendations from Budget Subcommittee

Commission members received in their packet a spread sheet for the 2016 proposed budget. Mr. Pisarski went through each line item. A line was added for tickets to be distributed during Disability Awareness Day, since over 60 tickets were given out at the 2015 Disability Awareness Day. Freeholder Sheppard asked if the tickets were used, and Mr. Pisarski responded that over 35 attended. Mr. Kaneshiki asked if there was any feedback from the regrantees that received the history memberships to American Association for State and Local History and the South Jersey Cultural Alliance. Mr. Pisarski responded that positive feedback was received. Ms. Silver asked about the extra money left in the 2016 budget, and Mr. Pisarski said the funds will be used for Art Everywhere, to offset the expenses related to a mural in Vineland and an art installation on the river in Millville. A motion was made to approve the 2016 budget by Mr. Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

2016 Re-grant Applications – Grants Review Panel Recommendations

Commission members received in there a packet a list of recommendations for the 2016 regrants. Mr. Pisarski said this year's panel was very diverse and they did a great job. 32 applications were received. Mr. Pisarski stated the panelist wanted to reward the organizations that were passionate about what they are doing. The panel was very pleased with Off Broad Street Players and New Life Alliance Association. They were disappointed with the Deerfield Harvest Festival, as the panel felt they have lost their direction and have too much going on. A majority of the regrantees received stable funding. The panel opted not to fund True Renaissance Organization. The panel felt what True Renaissance wanted to do could have been done on a much more efficient scale. The scores are in the left column and they range from -5 to +5. Lenni Lenape, New Life Alliance, Off Broad Street, Levoy Theater and Gallery 50 received an increase in funding. Deerfield Recreation Committee received a cut in funding. Mr. Pisarski informed Freeholder Sheppard that the Commission makes the funding recommendations and if anyone would like to make a change they can make that suggestion. Millville Historical Society was a new applicant for a history regrant. Several history applicants received small increases. Freeholder Sheppard commented that if applicants do not improve their applications they may lose funding. Mr. Garrison asked about the workshops, Mr. Pisarski said the workshops have been well attended. The panel would like Gallery 50 to have a more diversified board. The panel would like to put a condition on Gallery 50's regrant that they diversify their board within the next six months before they receive their funding. The Commission asked if Gallery 50 was unfairly targeted and whether other organizations have diverse boards. Mr. Pisarski commented that Gallery 50 was asked in previous years to diversify their board and with a majority of Bridgeton residents being Hispanic, the board should have good representation from the

Hispanic community. Mr. Pisarski suggested holding final payment in 2016. Ms. Watson proposed asking Gallery 50 for a plan on how they plan on moving forward with diversifying their board. Ms. Merighi asked if other boards are being looked at, and Mr. Pisarski commented that Gallery 50's lack of diversity was glaring but that diversity on governance boards is reviewed across the board. It was suggested that Commission members attend board meetings of their liaison assignments. Mr. Pisarski said no preconditions will be sent but a letter will be sent asking for a plan from Gallery 50. A motion was made to approve the grant recommendations by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Ms. Silver and passed unanimously.

Nominations Subcommittee Appointment

Ms. Watson, Mr. Garrison and Mr. Thakur will be on the nominations subcommittee.

Approval of 2016 Meeting Dates

Approval of meeting dates has been postponed until next month. Mr. Pisarski said meetings will take place at different locations once every quarter. The January meeting will take place at the Barn Studio.

Logo Design Competition – Update

15 designs have been submitted for the competition. The competition is open to the public.

Cumberland Mall Display - Update

The display will be installed within the next 10 days. The space is only available until mid-January. The display then will be moved in the hall way by the mall office.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Merighi said Gallery 50 will be holding their holiday shop with 70 artists. Bridgeton Recreation will be having their Festival of Lights, December 3-5. Clay College had a painter come in that was the only surviving student of Salvador Dali.

Mr. Kaneshiki said the Buddhist Temple had a bus trip to New York. Mr. Kaneshiki commented that Bay Atlantic Symphony will be having a concert in March that is dedicated to the Lenni Lenape. Mr. Pisarski said March is senior's month and suggested getting tickets for the seniors.

Freeholder Sheppard attended a program at the Bayshore Center on Bootleggers.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Postponed until next meeting.

Other Old/New Business

Due to the holidays the December meeting will be moved to December 21st.

Correspondence

None.

Adjourn

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