

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES****November 21, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 4:00 PM., at Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Yogesh Thakur Michael Cagno
 Sharon Yoshida Robert Dragotta
 Suzanne Merighi

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – September 29, 2019

A motion was made to approve the minutes from September 26, 2019 by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dragotta and passed unanimously.

Correspondence Re: South Jersey Genealogy Club Special Request Funding

Mr. Pisarski confirmed the Commission approved funding for the Genealogy Jamboree. The check will go directly to the college for rental expenses in 2020.

2019 Budget 3rd Quarter Review

Mr. Pisarski went through the budget. Juan Rodriguez (New Life Alliance) was given \$1,975 to do a photo exhibit and the exhibit has yet to take place. Mr. Pisarski reviewed the Commission's history with Mr. Rodriguez. Mr. Pisarski suggested possibly Mr. Rodriguez collaborating with another organization next year. Mr. Cagno said he had the same issues with him in Atlantic County and he no longer has dealings with Mr. Rodriguez. Several commission members questioned why are we still supporting him, they would rather support another organization in the future. Mr. Pisarski did not accept Mr. Rodriguez' 2020 re-grant application because it was a month and half-late.

There is currently \$6,530 still available in the operating budget and \$700 in grants funds. All funds have to be allocated by November 27. Mr. Pisarski said the county clerk's office is working on a marketing program that will promote the 19th amendment. The clerk's office is asking for a cost share for marketing expenses. The cost could range from \$1,000 - \$2,500. Ms. Merighi asked what the purpose of the program was and Mr. Pisarski said the primary purpose is to improve voting numbers in Cumberland County. Mr. Pisarski will reach out to Ms. Riley (county clerk) and let her know that the billboard needs work and the program needs an educational and historical component to receive funding from the Commission. Mr. Cagno suggested asking other nonprofits to get involved.

In 2018, \$6,000 was set aside for the West Jersey Time Traveler podcasts. Funds were going to SNJ Today for 4 new and 19 Spanish-language podcasts. SNJ Today was paid \$4,500 and completed 15 Spanish-language podcasts; however, SNJToday has since fundamentally

dissolved and the remaining \$1,500 needs to be reallocated to a new vendor. Mr. Pisarski suggested giving the remaining work that needs to be completed to Keith Wasserman (Shoot the Moon). Mr. Pisarski does not know what the cost is to complete the work. Mr. Pisarski said the podcast page on the website needs to be updated. Mr. Pisarski will forward Mr. Wasserman's quote for work when he receives it.

Approval of 2020 Proposed Commission Budget

The budget subcommittee was not able to meet, so the review of the proposed 2020 budget must be reviewed by the entire Commission. Mr. Pisarski stated there are a few changes. A cut was received from the New Jersey Historical Commission so funds will be pulled from the operating budget to maintain stable history re-grant funding. There were also some minor changes to various line items. A motion was made to approve the 2020 budget by Mr. Cagno. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dragotta and passed unanimously.

Approval of 2020 Re-grant Award Funding Recommendations

Commission members received a list of re-grant recommendations. Mr. Cagno asked for a better explanation regarding the scoring system. Mr. Pisarski said a -1 up to a +1 is considered stable funding, and generally a negative number suggests a cut in funding and a positive number suggests an increase. As for amounts of those cuts and increases, it is dependent upon total requests and available funds and is not an exact science. Commission discussion followed. Mr. Thakur questioned the dance studio's being non-profits, Mr. Pisarski commented that they are indeed non-profits and the proper IRS documentation was provided. Mr. Dragotta asked if contingencies can be put on the funding, Mr. Pisarski commented yes the Commission could add conditions. Ms. Merighi questioned the funding for history re-grants. Mr. Pisarski said more funding was requested, but with limited funds in order to award something to each application, cuts had to be made for some organizations which scored well. A motion was made to approve the 2020 grant recommendations by Mr. Dragotta. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cagno and passed unanimously.

Approval of 2020 C & H Commission Meeting Dates

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month except November and December. A motion was made to approve the 2020 meeting dates by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dragotta and passed unanimously.

January 23, 2020	February 27, 2020
March 26, 2020	April 23, 2020
May 28, 2020	June 25, 2020
July 23, 2020	August 27, 2020
September 24, 2020	October 22, 2020
November 19, 2020**	December 17, 2020**

Appointment of Nominations Committee

Ms. Merighi and Mr. Dragotta volunteered to sit on the nominations committee.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Dragotta attended Mary Poppins by Off Broad Street Players and said it was a wonderful show. Mr. Dragotta wanted everyone to know that the film crew that was working on the Seabrook Documentary (Helga Merits) had an excellent time staying at his home and they will be back in the spring. Mr. Dragotta would like to have a film night for the documentaries that are being done by Ms. Merits. It was suggested to add the films to the Jewish Film Festival and pay for the extra nights at Levoy Theatre.

Ms. Yoshida said Seabrook Buddhist Temple is working with the Cumberland County Holocaust Commission, they will be showing a film on February 19.

Several Commission members attended the Jewish Film festival and commented how well it was attended and how nicely it was organized.

Ms. Merighi said Vineland Library had a FanCon and that the library was very busy for the event. Bayshore Center will be hosting an event regarding the evolution of African spirituals and on December 5 they will be having a water story moderated by Megan Wren.

Mr. Thakur said Friends of India Society had an indoor event called Navaratri.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Postponed until next meeting.

Other Old/New Business**Correspondence – None**

Two letters were received from the New Jersey State Historic Preservation office, the first letter is regarding a bridge over 49 in Maurice River, and there is no impact. The second letter is regarding demolition of 202 Sharpe Street in Millville. Mr. Pisarski would like to draft a letter stating demolition would only be warranted if something were structurally wrong with the building.

Adjourn

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