

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE  
COMMISSION MINUTES****November 19, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 4:00p.m., via teleconference.

**Present:** Penny Watson Maria Cerda-Moreno  
Marianne Lods Michael Cagno  
Sharon Yoshida Robert Dragotta  
Suzanne Merighi Olive Doss  
Commissioner Barber

Matthew Pisarski, Planning Director  
Matt Horowitz, Recording Secretary  
Omarey Williams, Shared Services Coordinator

**Guest:**

**Approval of Minutes – October 22, 2020**

A motion was made to approve the October minutes by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously by the Commission.

**2020 Budget Third Quarter Review**

Mr. Pisarski explained he emailed out the latest version of the third quarter review including the COVID-19 Stabilization Offset Funds and explained funds would have to be encumbered by November 25, 2020, as accounts would close for auditing. He reported a remainder of \$10,756 in grant funds to encumber and \$20,707 from the budget line item to be encumbered. Mr. Pisarski suggested a good way to encumber such an amount would be to give \$10,000 to The Levoy Theatre, as well as \$10,000 for WheatonArts, which would still leave \$10,756 to still be encumbered on the grant side. Following a brief period of discussion amongst the Commission members, it was decided to spread it across the originations who needed it most. A motion to provide \$10,000 to Levoy Theatre, \$10,000 to WheatonArts, with the remaining amount to be awarded by staff recommendation to the re-grantees on a pro-rated basis based on their existing rewards was made by Mr. Cagno, seconded by Mr. Dragotta, and passed unanimously by the Commission.

**Approval of 2021 Proposed Commission Budget**

Omarey Williams explained he and Mr. Pisarski had recently been working together on a 2021 Proposed Commission Budget. Mr. Williams stated they looked to try to, at least, stay stable on all of the programming and allocating similar amounts of money. Mr. Williams pointed out the history grant they received was up from 2020 with a total of \$28,857 with the Arts Grant at \$126,974. He explained the total History Grant amount would be re-granted out and \$100,000 of the art grant would be re-granted out. Mr. Williams also made note of \$30,000 from the County Commissioners added to both the line item/operating costs. Mr. Pisarski added they tried to do stable line items recognizing that 2021 would be just as hectic and unknown as 2020 due to

COVID-19. He also explained these were just estimates as to where they wanted to allot the funding, which could be adjusted throughout the year. Following a brief period of discussion amongst the Commission members, a motion to approve the 2021 Proposed Commission Budget as presented was made by Mr. Dragotta, seconded by Ms. Cerda-Moreno, and passed unanimously by the Commission.

### **Approval of 2021 Re-grant Award Funding Recommendations**

Mr. Williams explained there were eighteen applicants for Arts and seven for History; those eighteen Arts grantees were allocated portions of the \$100,000 based on the budget with the \$28,857 amongst the seven applicants for History, as well. Everyone who asked for an increase was provided an increase within their amount awarded. Mr. Williams further explained they were able to remain stable for those organizations that did not ask for an increase. Marianne Lods asked if this was the same number of applicants as 2020? Mr. Williams explained, for History, there was one that did not re-apply, being Vineland Historical and for Arts, there were four organizations who did not re-apply. Mr. Pisarski explained that would be Greater Bridgeton, Inc., Bridgeton Main Street, and Hands In Action, as well as Cumberland Black Hall of Fame. Mr. Pisarski & Mr. Williams stated all of these organizations hoped to return in 2022. Suzanne Merighi & Michael Cagno mentioned they were both able to sit in and listen to the Grants Review Panel and commended them for their thoughtfulness and extended their gratitude to them, as well as Mr. Pisarski & Mr. Williams. Following a brief period of discussion amongst the Commission, a motion to approve the awards for the Arts & History Re-grantees as submitted was made by Ms. Lods, seconded by Mr. Dragotta, and passed unanimously by the Commission.

### **Approval of 2021 C&H Commission Meeting Dates**

Maria Cerda-Moreno asked what the asterisks (\*) next to “November” and “December” were meant to indicate, to which Mr. Williams explained the meetings are typically held on the fourth Thursday of each month and those two months were moved up one week due to Thanksgiving & Christmas. A motion to accept the 2021 C&H Commission Meeting Dates schedule was made by Ms. Merighi, seconded by Ms. Yoshida, and passed unanimously by the Commission

### **Approval of Nominations Committee**

Penny Watson asked who was on the Nominations Committee the previous year, to which Mr. Pisarski stated he was unsure. Michael Cagno, Penny Watson, and Olive Doss all volunteered to be on the 2021 Nominations Committee. Ms. Watson asked Mr. Williams to, please, send out a current list, as well as who was available to serve on the Nominations Committee, via email.

### **Liaison Reports**

Regarding Liaison Reports, Mr. Cagno has been scheduling monthly emails conversations with Clay College, the library, and Millville Army Airfield Museum. He stated the Army Airfield Museum has been receiving a number of visitors, the library recently finished up their last project with outdoor readings, and the Clay College artist video was very recently uploaded to YouTube. Marianne Lods further explained Millville had been approved to receive a State Grant for \$3.2 million for improvements to the library building, who had already received their \$1.5 million match. Ms. Lods also added, regarding the Millville Army Airfield Museum, on Saturday, November 7, she attended the annual Veterans Day event, which was extremely well-done, safe and included a socially distant boxed lunch.

Suzanne Merighi stated All That Dance was still doing virtual and in-person programming, which were all masked and socially distant. She explained they were planning to bring in a dancer from The United Kingdom for The Nutcracker and the enrollment to participate was only \$5.00. Regarding Cumberland Players, Ms. Merighi reported they had moved all of their 2020 programming to be re-scheduled throughout 2021, as well as some additional projects still in-the-works and to be determined. She explained Cumberland Players tended to be using a lot more social media these days to help get the word out, as well as online fundraising. Michael Cagno asked to be excused for a separate Zoom meeting and the Commission stated it was great to see him looking so well. Mr. Pisarski explained there would be no Tourism Advisory Council/Recreation Commission Comments this month from Kim Gauntt, as she was out of the office with terrible sciatica-related pain.

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

Penny Watson reported that the Vineland Historical Society and Siloam Cemetery both received grants from the New Jersey Historic Trust for preservation plans. She explained, once they had the preservation plans, they would be able to apply to the Trust for funds for Capital Improvement restoration. Commissioner Barber stated she wanted to congratulate Ms. Watson for being named the County Historian the previous month and extended her thanks for Ms. Watson volunteering her time and knowledge. Ms. Watson extended her thanks and stated she would soon be in touch with Commissioner Barber, via email.

### **Correspondence**

Mr. Pisarski stated the only item of Correspondence included within the meeting packet was a resolution re-appointing Maria Cerda-Moreno to the Commission and noted he did see a typo whereas instead of "Cerda," they had put "Garcia" and would see, if they could make that correction at next month's meeting. The Commission congratulated Ms. Cerda-Moreno for still being part of the group, as well as five years of membership.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Lods, it was seconded by Ms. Merighi, and passed unanimously by the Commission, who wished each other a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe and healthy holiday season.