

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES****October 28, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 3PM., at the Vineland Historical & Antiquarian Society Vineland, New Jersey.

Present: Suzanne Merighi Marianne Lods
Roy Kaneshiki Ella Boykin
Merle Silver Yogesh Thakur
Freeholder Sheppard

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Chris Volker, Boys & Girls Club Vineland
Juan Rodriguez, New Life Alliance
Mark Demitroff
Pat Martinelli, Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society

Chris Volker, Director of the Boys & Girls Club in Vineland stated they have two locations and are in five schools. Mr. Volker is very appreciative of all the support from the Commission. In 2015 the students worked on cartooning and illustration, they created a comic book with the teachers being superheroes. Between both sites there are 130 kids that participate in the program and other 100 kids at the schools. Mr. Volker said Bay Atlantic Credit Union donated a building to the club. The building will be turned into a teen center. The club has plans to wrap the building in a mural. The kids will help the artists and they will be creating a video diary of the project. The club will use 2016 regrant funds from the Commission to help pay for the project. Freeholder Sheppard asked about after school activities, Mr. Volker said they are an after school early evening program. Mr. Volker said they need to raise \$25,000-\$30,000 to renovate the building. November 6th a Mardi Gras dance will be held to raise funds.

Juan Rodriguez spoke about owning and operating the first Hispanic newspaper in New Jersey. Mr. Rodriguez used the Cultural & Heritage regrant funds for a traveling photo exhibit at the different county libraries. Mr. Pisarski commented that Courtney Reece with the Bridgeton Library said the photo exhibit was a big hit with the community and asked for the exhibit to remain at the library longer. He would like use his 2016 regrant funds for a Latin concert at Landis Football Stadium.

Mr. Pisarski thanked Pat Martinelli for hosting the Cultural & Heritage meeting. Ms. Martinelli said Vineland Historical & Antiquarian Society is the oldest historical society in New Jersey. After the society finishes up some small projects they are going to pursue status on the New Jersey National Register for Historic Places. Mr. Pisarski said the ramp and stairs looks wonderful.

Approval of Minutes – September 23, 2015

Postponed until next meeting.

2016 Re-grant Applications: Grants Review Panel Meeting, Thursday, November 19th

Commission members received in their packet a list of the 2016 regants. 25 art applications were received and seven history applications were received. Mr. Pisarski said there was one new organization that applied and several organizations did not reapply. Organizations are seeking an increase in funding for history and the arts. The grants review panel will meet in November and review the applications. After the meeting the Commission will receive the scores and recommendations. If the Commission approves the recommendations in November they will go before the Freeholder board in December and award letters will go out in January. Mr. Pisarski made a comparison to other counties stating we received 32 applications, Gloucester received 13 and Ocean received 21.

2015 Budget – 3rd Quarter Review

Postponed until next meeting.

2016 Budget Subcommittee – Appointments

Mr. Pisarski asked for volunteers to serve on the budget subcommittee, Ms. Lods, Ms. Merighi and Ms. Boykin offered.

Social Media/Technology Mini-Grants & Challenge Grant Programs – Discussion

Both programs are pilot programs that were initiated this year. The mini grant was 10 \$500 mini grants to organizations. Mr. Pisarski said all organizations have met with SNJ Today and all organizations gave positive feedback from the program. Does the Commission want to recommend to the budget subcommittee to set aside money for a similar mini grant program in 2016? The Commission expressed that they would like to see the program continue.

A challenge grant was provided to the Puerto Rican Festival, but the grant did not work out as they were not able to find any private funding to match the challenge grant. Mr. Pisarski said he thinks the Puerto Rican Festival did not understand how the challenge grant worked. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission if they would like to set aside funds for a 2016 challenge grant and if so how much. Mr. Pisarski explained that this year's challenge grant funds will have to be used another way because it is too late in the year to issue another challenge grant. Mr. Thakur asked how you apply for a challenge grant, Mr. Pisarski said you have to apply for funding to the Commission. Mr. Pisarski would like to set aside enough funding in 2016 to offer two grants. Whoever receives the grant would get an award letter and all private funds would have to be received after the award letter was sent out. Mr. Pisarski said that if the budget subcommittee approves funding for the challenge grant, applications could potentially be sent out in January. Mr. Pisarski said the grant could be issued to regrantees only or it could be opened to the public. Ms. Merighi would like the grant to be open to the public. Ms. Lods asked if direct grantees from the state be excluded and would the grant be open to arts and history. Mr. Pisarski said it depends on the source of the funding. Freeholder Sheppard asked if a time frame will be given to use the grant money so another organization could potentially apply if the first one was unsuccessful. Mr. Pisarski responded that a time frame will be set.

Presentation by Mark Demitroff: “Come Ernest Homeseekers: Ethnic Settlements in the Pines”

Mr. Demitroff gave a slide show on ethnic settlements in South Jersey. Mr. Pisarski thanked Mr. Demitroff for the presentation.

Logo Design Competition – Update

Mr. Pisarski commented that people are showing interest in the competition. He will send out another email blast.

Cumberland Mall Display – Update

A new tourism display will be at the Cumberland Mall. Cultural & Heritage will be handling the new display with tourism information added.

Disability Awareness Day - Recap

Mr. Pisarski said Disability Awareness Day was well attended. Over 60 tickets were given out to see Ragtime at the Levoy.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Silver commented that Upper Deerfield Community Day will be held April 21st. Veterans Appreciation Day will be held November 7th at the Millville Army Air Field Museum. Ms. Merighi asked about the Deerfield Harvest Festival. The Jewish Film Festival was the best attended of all the years.

Ms. Merighi said Gallery 50 will have their final show of the year, John Wernega - "Mummers on Parade" will be in the windows of the Gallery.

Mr. Kaneshiki said Buddhist Temple is sponsoring a trip to New York City.

Ms. Lods said the Riverfront Renaissance Center will be starting their holiday sales. Next week closing will be taking place on the building that the Millville Development Corporation bought. For the holidays a pottery pop-up store will be in the building.

Freeholder Sheppard said he attended the Greenwich Ghost Tour, it was well attended.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Postponed until next meeting.

Other Old/New Business

Ms. Lods asked if there was anything new on Public Art Everywhere, Mr. Pisarski said the intent is to work with Chris Volker on the new building for the Boys & Girls Club. Also, Mr. Pisarski is looking for projects to do in the three cities.

Ms. Martinelli thanked the Commission for the Race in Time grant. She said everything is coming together and all the Cumberland County Historical Societies are on board.

Mr. Pisarski said there is no new news on the grant for the Caribbean Festival. Several meetings have been planned to start with details on the festival. The festival will last 16 weeks.

Mr. Kaneshiki showed the Commission an article regarding Cesar Viveros and Wendel White they both took part in the Artists Talk in April.

Ms. Silver asked about the Dallas Landing project. Mr. Pisarski said the research is complete and the signage will be done in two weeks. The podcast will be done at a later date.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski sent a letter to the Third District regarding the lack of South Jersey representatives on the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the New Jersey Historical Commission. Mr. Pisarski has not heard anything back, Art pride is aware of the problem. Freeholder Sheppard asked why First District was not sent a letter and Mr. Pisarski responded that the 1st District does have representation, while the 3rd District has absolutely no representation.

Adjourn

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