

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

September 27, 2018

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 4:00 PM., at Landis Theater Vineland, New Jersey.

Present: Penny Watson Roy Kaneshiki
John Garrison Ella Boykin
Maria Cerda-Moreno

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Chris Volker, Boys & Girls Club of Vineland

Approval of Minutes – August 23, 2018

A motion was made to approve the minutes from August 23, 2018 by Mr. Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ms. Boykin and passed unanimously.

Mural Project - Update

In Commission's packets were several pictures of the new mural in downtown Bridgeton. Mr. Pisarski indicated that the main image is complete but the Ferracute insignia still needs to be added at the top. Ms. Boykin asked how the project came about, and Mr. Pisarski responded that the Department of Community Affairs recommended the project to Steven Paul. Bridgeton is the only town in South Jersey that took advantage of this offer. Mr. Pisarski received a call from Michael Cagno who indicated that he thought the use of this dot matrix method for a mural was a great idea and intends to use it in Atlantic City. SNJ Today will be doing a news piece on the mural. Mr. Pisarski will ask Mr. Paul if a ribbon cutting will be done.

2019 Budget Subcommittee Appointments

Ms. Watson, Ms. Boykin and Ms. Moreno volunteered to serve on the committee.

EOF Freedom Tour/Bethel AME Church

On September 28th Ms. Boykin and Lisa Garrison will be hosting an Underground Railroad Tour in Greenwich for students from Cumberland County College. The church steeple is currently being restored, Mr. Pisarski commented that the bell should be able to be rung for the tour.

663 Ye Greate Street – Methodist Meetinghouse

Mr. Pisarski said the meetinghouse is an abandoned residence that is banked owned. The building is part of the Underground Railroad and Bethel AME Church history. Wells Fargo will provide a \$25,000 grant to stabilize the building if an entity is willing to take it over. Several things have to be worked out first; who would take the lead on the stabilization and who would become the owner of the property. Mr. Pisarski spoke to Jerry Velazquez about funding, Watson and Henry did a stabilization budget with the amount being \$97,000. Ms. Watson said the cost also included restoring the exterior. Mr. Pisarski suggested applying for a \$50,000 Historic Trust

Grant and Wells Fargo will commit \$25,000. Wells Fargo said they could possibly donate more but a figure is needed. It was also suggested that county workers could do some of the work to cut cost. Mr. Pisarski said a \$25,000 local commitment is needed with the suggestion that the county and Improvement Authority splitting the amount. Mr. Pisarski asked if the Commission would want to take the lead on the project. After the project is complete someone would have to take ownership. Ms. Boykin questioned what the purpose of the building would be. Ms. Watson said it would have permanent exhibits about the Underground Railroad. Mr. Pisarski commented that the township does not want ownership of the building but they do support it being owned by the county or a nonprofit. The Commission agreed to take the lead on the rehab of the meeting house.

Understanding Communities Project

The New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) started a new funding program called Understanding Communities. NJHC plans to develop focus groups among the state's multi-ethnic community with a goal to better understand how New Jersey history and history organizations can be more inclusive for all. NJHC asked two counties to participate in the pilot program, Cumberland and Passaic. The goal is to find out how history organizations can better represent that particular ethnic group. Mr. Pisarski said Cumberland County's responsibility is to come up with focus group members, Mr. Pisarski does not want nonprofit leaders to be in the group, but rather members of the community who may not have a particular agenda. Lisa Garrison turned in a proposal for \$3,500 to lead the focus group but funding is not available. Focus group members will receive a stipend. NJHC suggested for Mr. Pisarski to apply for funding for additional outreach efforts in the next regrant cycle.

2019 Re-grant Applications Due – Friday, October 12, 2018

A few applications have been received, Mr. Pisarski will send out a reminder next week.

2018 Disability Awareness Day – Saturday, October 20, 2018 (9am – noon)

Mr. Pisarski said the Commission was invited to have a table but were not asked to sponsor this year. The budget will be checked to see if the Commission can donate tickets to an event as in previous years.

Disaster Preparedness Workshop – Recap

South Jersey Cultural Alliance funded and the County hosted the workshop. The primary discussion was on active shooter situations and how to prepare for other incidents.

Cohansey RiverFest Plein Air Competition – Recap

The art work from Plein Air is in the windows of Gallery 50. It was suggested to hold another Plein Air competition in the winter with artists only using four colors. Gallery 50 is on board and many artists from Artists Day thought it was a good idea. The Commission agreed to give it a try in December.

Artists' Day in Mauricetown – Recap

The artists showed up in spite of the rainy weather. The historical society was happy because the weather brought a lot of activity inside the house. The musicians only played for a short time.

Grant Writing Workshop – Recap

The workshop was well attended. Ms. Boykin commented the workshop was very informative.

Historic Preservation Issues Roundtable – Thursday, September 27, 2018

The roundtable will be held at Landis Theater, 30 people have preregistered. The roundtable is being held at Landis Theater because it is the only building in Cumberland County that used historic preservation tax credits in its restoration.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Kaneshiki was at Second Friday for Bayshore Center he said they used oysters from Cape May, which were delicious.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Postponed until next meeting.

Other Old/New Business

Chris Volker approached the Commission about funding for Hispanic Heritage month. The funding would be for food, supplies and decorations. Mr. Pisarski commented that grant funds cannot be used for food. Mr. Volker was informed he would have to write a letter to the Commission requesting funds. The Boys and Girls Club will be changing their name to the Boys and Girls Club of Cumberland County. They recently opened a site in the Laurel Lake area and are looking to come to Bridgeton. A motion was made to approve awarding \$200 for Hispanic Heritage Month by Mr. Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson and passed unanimously.

Ms. Watson said the Historic Trust gave out two grants in Cumberland County, study of the wall of Stone School in Greenwich and the Courthouse. The Methodist Church in Mauricetown applied but they do not give out grants to religious organizations.

Mr. Kaneshiki and Mr. Garrison asked to not be reappointed to the Commission due to health concerns. Mr. Pisarski asked them to write letters indicating they did not wish to be reappointed. Several new members need to be appointed.

Correspondence**Adjourn**

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