

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES****September 26, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 4:00 PM., at Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Maria Cerda-Moreno Yogesh Thakur
Suzanne Merighi Sharon Yoshida
Freeholder Surrency

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Kimberly Gauntt, Cumberland County Tourism & Recreation
Joyce Garofolo, South Jersey Genealogy Club

Approval of Minutes – August 22, 2019

A motion was made to approve the minutes from August 22, 2019. Ms. Merighi made two corrections under strategic plan Ms. Shrum should read Mr. Shrum and counties should read county's. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Ms. Yoshida and passed unanimously. Ms. Moreno abstained. Ms. Yoshida questioned the use of the apostrophe on certain words, discussion followed.

Special Request: South Jersey Genealogy Club – Joyce Garofolo

Mr. Pisarski said the event would be held in 2020 so if the Commission makes the decision to fund the project 2020 funds would be used. Ms. Garofolo said they are planning a Genealogy Jamboree on May 9th at Rowan College of South Jersey. Ms. Garofolo said different genealogy and history organizations will be participating. They are looking for at least 20 different organizations to set up informational tables with another room available for presentations. Mr. Pisarski said the club is not a nonprofit so any funding would have to be paid directly to the college for the rental of the space, the cost of the rental space is \$540. Ms. Merighi asked the hours of the event, it would be held from 10am – 4pm. Ms. Garofolo said it is a free event and she will be asking area restaurants for coupons to hand out. Expected attendance is to be around 200 people. Ms. Merighi suggested informing the libraries. Mr. Pisarski informed Ms. Garofolo that the Commission will make a decision and he will inform her via email. Mr. Pisarski will contact the college regarding payment. Mr. Pisarski said if the Commission agrees to fund the project when the budget subcommittee meets it will be added as a line item. Mr. Pisarski suggested the Commission vote on funding the event and he will email the rest of the Commission. At the next meeting the vote would be ratified.

2020 Budget Subcommittee Appointments

Mr. Pisarski asked if there are any volunteers for the subcommittee, Ms. Merighi and Mr. Thakur volunteered. Mr. Thakur can appoint someone to serve on the subcommittee. Mr. Pisarski will email the remaining members and ask someone to volunteer.

2020 Re-grant Application Due – Friday, October 18, 2019

Re-grant applications have been sent out they are due October 18. A press release was done and it is being promoted on social media.

Disability Awareness Day – Saturday, October 19, 2019

The Commission will have a table set up. In the past Mr. Pisarski has reached out to the Levoy to pick an event so tickets can be given away at Disability Awareness Day.

Cohansey RiverFest Plein Air Competition – Recap

Mr. Pisarski said 18 artists participated. Yvonne Mucci was the first place winner.

Artists' Day in Mauricetown – Recap

The weather was great for Artists' Day. A nice crowd came out to see the artists' and the Snake Brothers. Artists' commented that the attendees asked many questions.

Grant Writing Workshop – Recap

Around 40 people attended the workshop with several new organizations attending.

Deerfield Harvest Festival Special Funding Discussion

Mr. Pisarski emailed Commission members regarding the Deerfield Harvest Festival in need of emergency funds. They did not apply for re-grant funding. Mr. Pisarski met with several people from the county administration office and they agreed to fund them \$2,500 with the agreement they would apply for re-grant funds next year. A full-page ad will be in the program book. Mr. Pisarski spoke to Mr. Spoltore and told him to concentrate on the artistic component of the festival for the re-grant.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Merighi attended the Garba event and said in was slow in the beginning but she returned later that evening and it was well attended. Bayshore Center are having their Cultural Cruises. In addition, they are having a speaker series called "Two Perfect Storms" regarding the storms that have come through the Bayshore.

Mr. Thakur said on October 12 there will be a traditional event called "Navaratri" that will be held at Silver Lake School.

Ms. Yoshida commented that she attended the Full Moon Festival at Seabrook Buddhist Temple. Ms. Yoshida went back to the Millville Library for the origami storytelling to see if attendance was better but it was still poorly attended. A reception was held for Helga Merits, Ms. Yoshida said it was well attended. Ms. Merits is doing a documentary on Seabrook. Ms. Yoshida thanked Mr. Dragotta for hosting Ms. Merits and her crew.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Ms. Gauntt said the next tourism meeting would be held October 8 at the Lummis Library in Greenwich. Ms. Gauntt will be asking for more funding from Southern Shore DMO. Ms. Gauntt will be attending NJEA and NJ Tourism Industry Assoc. Conferences. Ms. Merighi asked what is being promoted at the conferences; Ms. Gauntt promotes all of Cumberland

County, if anyone has any brochures they want her to take please get them to her. Several new programs will be held in 2020: Make it and take art and horseback riding for the disabled. A fishing competition will be held March – October. County on Canvas will be returning, the prize money will be higher than other competitions because the county keeps the winners art. The budget for County on Canvas will be split between Cultural & Heritage and Tourism. Mr. Pisarski said a decision needs to be made if out of county residents can participate. The artwork will be a Cumberland County theme.

Other Old/New Business

Correspondence - None

Commission members received in their packet a letter from the state regarding a bridge on Main Road in Vineland that goes over Route 55. Mr. Pisarski said there is no impact on any historical resources.

Lummis Library sent in a thank you letter for the list of burials at Potters Tavern and a program book from the rededication ceremony that the county found.

A flyer was given out for the “Votes for Women” sponsored by Greenwich Tea Burning Chapter, the event will be held on November 9 in Millville.

Adjourn

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