

# CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

April 16, 2008  
3:30 pm

**Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, NJ 08302**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

**Present:** Jean Jones  
Marianne Lods  
Penny Watson  
John Garrison

Suzanne Merighi  
Flavia Alaya  
Roy Kaneshiki

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner  
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary  
Freeholder Jane Christy  
Special Guests: Seabrook Buddhist Temple  
Cumberland County Library

## **Approval of Minutes – March 18, 2008**

A motion to approve the minutes from March 18, 2008 was made by Roy Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

## **Special Requests – Seabrook Buddhist Temple**

Itsuko Asada and Frances Tazumi, representatives for the Seabrook Buddhist Temple, presented a request for special funding. Ms. Asada presented pictures of the annual Obon Festival to the Commission. She is requesting \$1,000.00 for this year's event. Ms. Asada mentioned the Obon Festival has been around for a long time but was not sure how long the event would continue due to the rising cost. The date had to be changed from the 19<sup>th</sup> of July to the 26<sup>th</sup> of July due to a conflict with the Taiko drummers from New York.

Mr. Pisarski explained to Ms. Asada the special request is a one time request to

be followed in subsequent years by participation in the Commission's re-grant program. Mr. Pisarski mentioned he would be willing to assist the Buddhist Temple with that future re-grant applications. Ms. Asada thanked the Commission and hoped to see everyone at this year's Obon Festival.

Flavia Alaya made a motion to approve the special request of \$1,000.00 to the Seabrook Buddhist Temple with the understanding an administrative letter be provided to specify how the funding will be spent. Suzanne Merighi seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

### **Special Requests – Cumberland County Library**

Nancy Forester, as representative for the Cumberland County Library, presented a request for special funding. Ms. Forester mentioned this would be for the Library's official opening of the new Library entrance. There will be a small gallery space and new meeting room with a small ceremony being held on May 28, 2008. Ms. Forester's idea for the gallery space is to have a series of exhibits, with the first one being the many faces of Cumberland County. Ms. Forester mentioned they need to purchase brackets to hold the displays on the walls. The cost of the brackets are \$500.00 for thirty pieces. Lighting is also needed for the gallery space. Mr. Kaneshiki asked Ms. Forester if she has looked in to what the Millville Army Museum uses for their displays. Ms. Forester noted she has not but would look into it. Ms. Forester thanked the Commission for their time.

Mr. Pisarski discussed with the Commission that currently there are funds available for both special requests. Mr. Pisarski noted the request from the Cumberland County Library could be categorized as an Intra-County Agreement instead of a special request. The Commission felt comfortable with this idea for the Library's request.

John Garrison made a motion to approve the special request of \$500.00 for the brackets for the gallery space at the Cumberland County Library. Flavia Alaya seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

### **Yokohama International School – Recap**

Mr. Pisarski asked Suzanne Merighi to describe to the Commission how the concert went. Ms. Merighi thought the concert was wonderful and very well attended with a broad variety of people in the audience and the Yokohama students did an outstanding job in their performance. Mr. Pisarski spoke with Diane Macris, his counterpart, who hosted the Yokohama group the day after their stay in Cumberland County. Ms. Macris indicated that the students and their chaperones made very positive comments about Cumberland County. Amato and the kids and everyone involved were raving about their stay in Cumberland County.

### **Teen Arts Festival – May 2, 2008 (Reception 6-9 PM, April 18<sup>th</sup>)**

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the Teen Arts Reception would be held on Friday April 18, 2008 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Riverfront Renaissance Center in Millville and the Festival would follow on Friday May 2, 2008 from 8:30 to 2:00. Mr. Pisarski noted that everyone is invited to attend both events. He indicated there are over two hundred kids that signed up for the event and the costs are being shared once again with the Millville Arts District.

### **Encore Awards - Invitation**

Mr. Pisarski provided invitations in everyone's packets for this year's Encore Awards. A table has been reserved for ten guests. As Commission members, there is no charge but if you choose to bring a guest, the cost would be \$75.00 per ticket. As in the past, the Commission has taken a full-page ad for the book.

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

Mr. Pisarski noted Nancy Moses met yesterday with Salem County's Cultural and Heritage Commission. The meeting went very well and the Commission members in Salem were very excited. They consider Cumberland County their big sister and would like to learn from our Commission. Salem's Commission only has two issues; they want to remain as an independent Commission and retain their ability to assign regrants in Salem County. Other than that, everything is negotiable. Nancy Moses suggested, and the Salem Commission supported, the idea of a joint Commission meeting later in the year. Mr. Pisarski said he would look into this and report back at next month's meeting.

Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission to e-mail him with any suggestions they have for the upcoming meeting with Salem County's Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Flavia Alaya mentioned the upcoming Scenic Byway meeting next week. She noted she cannot attend and wanted to know if she should send around the memorandum of the last meeting to see if anyone wanted Ms. Alaya to carry any questions to that meeting.

Jane Christy mentioned the petition to save Parvins State Park and indicated there will be a rally on Saturday April 19, 2008.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Suzanne Merighi. The motion was seconded by Flavia Alaya and passed

unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.