

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

April 20, 2010
3:30 pm

Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, NJ 08302

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Marianne Lods
Roy Kaneshiki
Suzanne Merighi
Jean Jones
Patricia Gale
Ella Boykin
Penny Watson
John Garrison

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – March 16, 2010

A motion to approve the minutes from March 16, 2010 was made by Penny Watson. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

Encore Award Reception – May 26, 2010

Mr. Pisarski noted everyone received an invitation to the Encore Awards via PDF. He said the cost is \$75.00 per person and the checks are due to him by the end of this week. Mr. Pisarski said the members that will be attending the event are Roy Kaneshiki, Penny Watson and Marianne Lods. Also in attendance will be Todd Noon from Vineland Main Street and Carola Hartley from Bridgeton Main Street.

Teen Arts Reception Recap

Mr. Pisarski mentioned that last Friday April 16, 2010 the Teen Arts reception was held in the Patt Witt Gallery at the Renaissance Center for the Arts. Mr. Pisarski noted the art work was very well displayed and Amy Sullivan did a very good job putting it together. Mo Pagano was there and met with several of the

students. There is a Teen Arts Committee and Mr. Pisarski said he will be reaching out to them in the next week or so. He has met with Mike Cagno and he is on board to meet with the committee and has been putting information together for the committee to consider. Ms. Lods said she was most impressed with the origami sculpture that the Alternative School presented.

Rutgers Public History Internships – Jewish Historical Society

Mr. Pisarski noted in everyone's packet there is a copy of a letter he sent to Gary Saretzky. He said Mr. Saretzky has reached out to Kirk Wisemayer at the Jewish Federation. Mr. Wisemayer is working with Mr. Saretzky on the additional paperwork and the Federation may also provide reimbursement on travel expenses to create an incentive for students. Mr. Pisarski noted his only concern with this internship program is that out of over eighty available internships, only eighteen are selected annually.

Wharton Field Application Project – Millville Army Air Field Museum

Mr. Pisarski provided everyone with a copy of the explanation for the Field Application Project. He indicated that he has spoken with representatives from Wharton and they are supportive of the project. The next step is to work with the Millville Army Air Field Museum Board and Lisa Jester on a description of the project. This would take place this fall and there is no cost associated with the project.

Cohansey Riverfest – August 28, 2010

Mr. Pisarski said Flavia Alaya has been the liaison on this event. He said the event is being organized by a group of non-profits in the City of Bridgeton that has decided to try to put together a river festival celebrating the Cohansey River and its watershed. The event is set for August 28, 2010. Rutgers and the City of Bridgeton are participating. As for the Commission, he asked the members to give some thought on doing some type of artistic component that would be little to no cost and related to the river. Mr. Pisarski said one of the things he and Flavia were discussing was to work with the Buddhist Temple to see if they could release paper lanterns onto the water. Mr. Pisarski said the idea is to do something to highlight the river. In other river festivals they have artwork on the river, decorated boats, and a variety of different things.

Mr. Kaneshiki asked where the festival would be held. Mr. Pisarski replied it would be headquartered at the Sheppard House at the Commerce Street Bridge and there would also be satellite ^{Site} ~~sights~~ in Greenwich and Fairfield and other activities along the river. Ms. Lods mentioned the possibility of a Plein Air Art Competition. There are certainly a lot of different great scenes along the river

where the festival would take place and the only cost would be prize money. For instance, the competition held in Millville has a total prize money expense of only \$900.00. Ms. Watson said there could be a photography component as well. Mr. Pisarski suggested they could reach out to Gallery 50 for some help organizing these components. Mr. Pisarski said he will check with Flavia as she is the Commission representative on the coordinating committee.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Pisarski said he and Mike Cagno met with Carolyn Heckman of South Jersey Healthcare regarding the Healing Arts program. He said it looks as if they are moving forward with this program. Mr. Pisarski mentioned Suzanne Merighi to Ms. Heckman and asked that she be the primary liaison between the Commission and South Jersey Healthcare. They are going to present this project at their next foundation meeting and first identify the specific spaces where artwork can be placed and then the foundation can use it as a fundraiser for the foundation. The current minimum giving opportunity the foundation has is \$5,000.00, and the purchase of artwork for the space at \$750.00 or \$1,000.00 could provide more affordable giving opportunities. Mr. Pisarski noted a separate Adhoc committee would be formed comprised of a number of people including someone from the Commission, a Freeholder, staff, ex-patients, Mike Cagno, artists, and a variety of others who will then lay out the process for the acquisition of the artwork. The hospital foundation will probably start out small, most likely in their cancer research center and if it works well expand it into other facilities. Ms. Merighi noted she was recently at the Princeton Medical Center to visit someone and their walls were lined with framed paintings, watercolors, photographs and they also had glass display cases with jewelry and the items were all for sale.

Mr. Pisarski passed around the Cumberland County Master Gardeners Cookbook for everyone to review. He said the books are for sale at the 4-H Center with proceeds supporting the Master Gardener program.

Mr. Pisarski asked Roy if he would like to discuss the Four Centuries in a Weekend history project. Mr. Pisarski indicated it has been challenging building consensus around this event. Mr. Pisarski said the best way to get this moving forward is to have the chairs of the two County Cultural & Heritage Commissions (Cumberland and Salem) get together over lunch to discuss what they want to do. As discussed in the past the challenge is to figure out if this could be done and if it would be a weekend, a week or over a couple of weekends as a passport program. Mr. Kaneshiki said he would reach out to the Salem County Chairman and report back to the Commission as to what they have decided to do.

Ms. Merighi mentioned the Upper Deerfield Community Day that is being held on Saturday April 24, 2010 at the Municipal Building in Upper Deerfield.

Ms. Merighi commented on the impending disaster for Libraries due to the state budget crisis and the cut of seventy-four percent.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski provided a copy of the 2010 Spring Concerts from the City of Vineland.

Ms. Lods provided a flyer for the upcoming Multicultural Event that is being held on April 30, 2010 at the Glasstown Plaza.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.