

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

April 24, 2012

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 3:30 PM., in the freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

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

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – March 27, 2012

A motion was made to approve the minutes from March 27, 2012 by Jean Jones. The motion was seconded by Patt Gale and passed unanimously. Penny Watson abstained.

Commission Budget – 1st Quarter Report

Matt Pisarski gave a report on the Commission's first quarter budget. Mr. Pisarski commented that there is little activity in the accounts.

2011 Comcast Spotlight Data Report

Comcast Spotlight is a program where the county advertises events on the Comcast website. Mr. Pisarski gave an overview on the data report. John Garrison asked who makes the decision on what events get posted. Mr. Pisarski said the Cumberland County Tourism Advisory Council makes that decision. Ms. Gale asked if there are any hyperlinks on Comcast linking them to Facebook or Twitter, etc. It was discussed that the Cultural & Heritage Commission partner with the Tourism Advisory Council to advertise 12 events, where only six are done at the present time. Mr. Pisarski is waiting to hear from Comcast if there will be a price increase to add six more events. The cost to advertise six events for six months is \$6,120. Rich Bermudez said we need to find ways to advertise all the events that are happening in Cumberland County. Marianne Lods said it is a lot less expensive to advertise on Facebook.

Commission By-laws DRAFT RFP Language

Commission members received a draft copy of the RFP for the by-laws in their packet. Mr. Pisarski asked Commission members if they have any changes or corrections to the RFP. Mr.

Pisarski heard from Nancy Moses and Ms. Moses suggested working together with Vicki Kramer and doing the by-laws and long range plan together. The Commission suggested doing two separate RFP's for the long range plan and by-laws and send them out at the same time. Ms. Watson asked if the awardee of the RFP is based on low bid. Mr. Pisarski said it is based on low bid and other factors.

Senior's Month Bay - Atlantic Symphony Concert - Saturday, May 12th – CCC

The Commission purchased 50 tickets and the tickets will be distributed through the Office on Aging. Mr. Garrison said the concert is in honor of Michele Hogan.

2012 Encore Awards – Thursday, May 17, 2012 – 6pm – Landis Theater

The Encore Awards will be held at Landis Theater on May 17th. Cost of tickets are \$80 per person and any donations will be reimbursed to the Commission's trust account. Mr. Pisarski said it will be an enjoyable evening but crowded. Ms. Watson asked if it will meet code for the amount of people attending. Suzanne Merighi asked how many people are expected to attend, and Mr. Pisarski responded around 200 people are anticipated. The step and repeat banner for the evening is being purchased through a Pennsylvania company, the cost may be cheaper than the original quote.

NJ State Council on the Arts Meeting & Lunch – Tuesday, May 22nd – 11am – Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts

It has been several years since the NJ State Council on the Arts (NJSCA) has met in Cumberland County. The meeting will be held at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts. Several NJSCA members are new on the Council and have not seen Cumberland County. After the meeting they will go to The Levoy for a tour, following the tour they will go to Wheaton Arts for lunch. The Commission will host lunch for the Commission members, three freeholders, Meghan Wren and Kim Chapman. Mr. Pisarski would like time for everyone to interact with NJSCA. Mr. Pisarski is working out the details with Susan Cogan. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission if they have others they would like to invite. A motion was made to approve buying lunch for approximately 20 people by Ms. Jones. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gale and passed unanimously. Mr. Garrison asked if any NJSCA members were from South Jersey. Mr. Pisarski responded that he did not believe so, but would double-check.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Jones said the Mauricetown Historical Society moved their small stack house to the rear of the Edward Compton property.

Ms. Merighi attended the Vineland Regional Dance Company spring concert. She said it was first rate.

Ms. Lods toured the Wood Mansion in Millville. Ms. Lods suggested everyone take advantage of their next public tour. The Cumberland County Historical Society will have a wine & cheese reception at the Wood Mansion on May 19th

Roy Kaneshiki commented that Bayshore Discovery Project is having continued success on their 2nd Fridays.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Postponed until May.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Garrison passed out a newspaper article regarding Appel Farm taking control over the Landis Theater in September.

Ms. Lods said there will be an ADA sensitivity training workshop at Wheaton Arts on April 26th.

Mr. Pisarski and Mr. Bermudez have been discussing having Mr. Bermudez's brother Obie Bermudez (Grammy Award winner) do a workshop regarding the recording business. Mr. Obie Bermudez lives in Texas so the workshop would have to take place around his schedule. Mr. Rich Bermudez said his brother would give a power point presentation and talk about the challenges of negotiating a recording deal. Mr. Pisarski said one of the challenges is cost of transportation. They would have the workshop take place when he is in the area but that leaves little time for promoting the workshop. Ms. Lods said she thinks it's a good idea to have the cost of the trip priced out so we can have a concrete date with plenty of time to promote the workshop. Ella Boykin said there are a lot of people creating good music in the area but they are having problems getting positive attention. Mr. Pisarski and Mr. Rich Bermudez will work on a formal proposal and get it to the Commission.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski received an email from Chris Volker, Boys & Girls Club of Vineland stating he no longer needs the Commission's help regarding the mural at Carl Arthur Center.

There are two newspaper articles concerning the Lenni Lenape lecture and the Bridgeton Library. Ms. Watson said it was originally cancelled because Dr. Bonita Evans threatened to hold a protest.

Commission members received in their packet a copy of the American Association for State and Local History membership card. Mr. Pisarski said it is one of the pilot organizations the Commission is covering for several of the history regrants. At the end of the year a survey will be done to see what the value is to members and which ones are worth keeping.

Adjourn

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.