

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

April 29, 2014

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present:	Marianne Lods	Ella Boykin
	Roy Kaneshiki	John Garrison
	Merle Silver	Suzanne Merighi
	Penny Watson	Freeholder Surace

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest(s):

Suzanne Merighi thanked everyone for rescheduling on short notice.

Approval of Minutes – February 25, 2014

A motion was made to approve the minutes from December 17, 2013 by Roy Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ella Boykin and passed unanimously. Marianne Lods abstained.

Newsletter Services Discussion

Matthew Pisarski said Carol Smith who publishes the Cultural & Heritage newsletter is retiring. A decision needs to be made on how the Commission wants to proceed. Mr. Pisarski said a RFQ can be sent out to get quotes for the same work Ms. Smith has done in the past. It is a two page newsletter done once a month electronically. Option two would be to use Constant Contact which is done internally. Ms. Smith suggested someone who was previously employed by the Daily Journal, Ms. Lods said she knows the person from the Daily Journal and said she is a community person and a good writer. Mr. Pisarski drafted an RFQ that would be good for one year. Mr. Pisarski commented that after we get back the RFQ's a decision can be made at next month's meeting on what direction the Commission wants to take. A motion was made to release the RFQ by Mr. Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Merle Silver and passed unanimously.

Seniors Month Bay-Atlantic Symphony Concert – Saturday, May 3rd, 8pm - CCC

Commission members received in their packet a description of the concert that is being offered to the seniors. The Commission purchased 50 tickets at a reduced price which was provided to the Office on Aging who will distribute them. Mr. Kaneshiki said he will be attending.

Funds also have been set aside in the budget to offset the cost for the Senior Art Contest that Office on Aging offers to seniors.

2014 Encore Awards – Thursday, May 29th 6pm – Levoy Theatre

Commission members have an invitation to the Encore Awards in their packet. It will be the same format as last year just a different venue. Jean Jones will be receiving the Encore Award from the Commission. The South Jersey Cultural Alliance will be giving Patt Witt the Life Time Achievement Award. A bulk of tickets will be purchased from the Commission's operating account, as members reimburse the Commission the money will go back into the trust account. A motion was made to approve that reimbursements go into the trust account by John Garrison. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously.

Penny Watson asked if Ms. Jones is still a member of the Commission. Mr. Pisarski said she has resigned, Mr. Pisarski will be asking the Freeholders to make her an emeritus member. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission needs to start thinking about Ms. Jones replacement.

Commission Budget – 1st Quarter Review

Mr. Pisarski went through the 1st quarter review. Since it is the 1st quarter not much funding has been spent. Mr. Pisarski said the county changed banks and consequently the trust account will no longer receive interest dividends. Suzanne Merighi asked if there are any other memberships that will be due besides those indicated in the review report and Mr. Pisarski responded that there maybe two more, although memberships fluctuate from year to year.

Sandy Disaster Relief Grants for Historic Properties Workshop – Thursday, May 22nd 6pm – CCC

Mr. Pisarski said he was contacted by the NJ Historic Trust and was told the Governor will be making an announcement regarding grants for historic properties that were impacted by Superstorm Sandy. They will issue cost share grants to public and private properties. The Historic Trust wants to hold a workshop in South Jersey and Mr. Pisarski negotiated with them to ensure the workshop will be held at Cumberland County College. There is a two phase application with the first phase due on June 10th. The first phase is to see if your building/property is eligible. Mr. Pisarski said details will not be available until the Governor makes the announcement. Mr. Pisarski said he would like to provide refreshments at the workshop. A motion was made to offset the cost of refreshments not to exceed \$250 by Ms. Boykin. The motion was seconded by Ms. Silver and passed unanimously.

CHABA – Tourism/Marketing Grant Application

Mr. Pisarski informed the Commission that an oversight was made and CHABA was left out of the DMO funding. Mr. Pisarski suggested awarding CHABA \$750 through the Commission's miscellaneous line item. A motion was made to award CHABA \$750 by Mr. Garrison. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson and passed unanimously.

Virtual Site Evaluation – NJSCA LAP Grant – Jason Bowcutt

Mr. Pisarski said the art regrant funding, formally referred to as Local Arts Programming (LAP) runs in three-year cycles and the application was due in March for years 2015 – 2017. Part of the process is a site evaluation done by reviewers from outside of New Jersey. In the last cycle someone from New York came to Cumberland County for a physical visit. In this cycle the evaluator is from Utah and a virtual site visit will be done (i.e. phone conference call). Mr. Pisarski suggested the Chair of the Commission, Freeholder Liaison, two regrantees and the department head sit in on the conference call. Mr. Pisarski will check with data processing to see if a webcam can be set up.

Ms. Lods asked how much funding was received and Mr. Pisarski responded that in the last cycle \$109,590 was given to the Commission annually.

Ms. Lods said the portion of funding from the hotel/motel occupancy tax that goes to arts, tourism and history includes a “poison pill” component which stipulates that if the state reduces the allocation below a minimum level the tax will be extinguished. Ms. Lods said there are several bills before the legislature to increase the apportionment to arts, history and tourism. Mr. Pisarski said there are three bills currently under proposal and has included a copy of each bill in the meeting packet. Two bills are matching and they would increase the percentage of the hotel/motel occupancy revenue going to the arts, tourism and history. The second bill would allocate a portion of tourism funding to go directly to county departments of tourism.

After some discussion, the consensus was reached to show support for all the current bills.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Garrison said he spoke to Mary Bernard of the Vineland Senior Center which received a re-grant for arts and crafts programming. Ms. Bernard has several projects planned and was very grateful for the funding.

Ms. Lods spoke to Laura Johnson, Bayshore Center at Bivalve who indicated they have a full calendar coming up. Ms. Lods also mentioned a new program launched in the Arts District which is called Art Bar. The program combines art with a pub atmosphere and for your fee you get your use of art supplies and a take home work of art, a drink and an appetizer.

Ms. Watson commented that Sam Donovan, a local muralist, will have a show at Gallery 50.

Mr. Kaneshiki said Jackie Sandro has a display of photography at Cumberland County College. Ms. Sandro took Vineland High School students to dissect oysters and they returned to Clay College and made oyster plates. Ms. Lods said they received funds from Millville Development Corp. to do the oyster project. Steve Schimmel from the Jewish Federation is working on the Film Festival and he is considering moving the venue to a church.

Ms. Merighi informed the Commission that Bridgeton Library will have a program on May 10th called “Fun with Body Parts.” The program revolves around saints, relics and reliquaries.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Not in attendance.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Kaneshiki asked about the Dallas Landing project. Mr. Pisarski will discuss it at next month’s meeting.

Ms. Silver said she read an article about the CEO Group in which Louis Magazzu was named its Director. She suggested that the Commission could reach out to the CEO Group to build an arts/business partnership. Mr. Pisarski met with Lou Magazzu recently to discuss the Hartson House in Vineland, a historic site. Mr. Pisarski indicated he would contact Mr. Magazzu regarding same.

Ms. Merighi asked if regrantees are required to use technology to promote themselves. She suggested that perhaps the Commission could encourage the use of social media among its regrantees. Mr. Pisarski suggested that a component can be added to the application which would encourage social media use. He said the application needed to be amended anyway this year as the regrant panel had several suggestions for improvements.

Mr. Pisarski and Maria Moreno attended a meeting in Mauricetown regarding a district nomination to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The community was very receptive to the idea. A draft nomination will be submitted to the state pro bono by a University of Delaware graduate student.

Ms. Watson indicated that the Annual Vernacular Architectural Forum will be held in South Jersey starting May 8th. The forum will be at Stockton College but a bus tour is also being done in Cumberland County. Mr. Pisarski indicated he is helping to facilitate the bus tour.

Ms. Merighi thanked Freeholder Surace for attending the meeting. Freeholder Surace congratulated Mr. Pisarski and the Commission for doing a great job and indicated he would like to see the newsletter continued.

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Adjourn

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.