

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES****August 27, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Marianne Lods
Roy Kaneshiki
Jean Jones
Freeholder Kirstein
Ella Boykin
Merle Silver
Suzanne Merighi

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest(s): James Watson, Cumberland County Economic Development Director
Theodore Baker, County Counsel

Approval of Minutes – July 23, 2013

A motion was made to approve the minutes from June 25th by Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously.

Discussion of Re-grantee Contract Compliance – Theodore Baker, County Counsel

Mr. Pisarski stated the Commission members had several documents in their packet pertaining to the Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Salem and Gloucester Counties' contract compliance. The final report for the 2012-2013 history re-grant was submitted past the July 19th deadline, so Mr. Pisarski asked Steven Schimmel, Executive Director of the Federation, to submit the proper documents so the final payment for 2013 could be processed. Mr. Schimmel indicated the event had not yet occurred and provided a save the date post card. This raised concerns with Mr. Pisarski because the event is supposed to occur by the completion of the grant period that ends in June. Mr. Pisarski then decided to check the Federation's 2011-2012 re-grant and that final report did suggest the event had been completed. Mr. Pisarski indicated however that there were no flyers, brochures or photos supporting that the event did occur in 2012. Mr. Pisarski asked for more information from Mr. Schimmel. In the email exchange provided to the Commission, Mr. Schimmel stated the re-grant funded event in fact did not occur in 2012. Ms. Silver asked what the project was supposed to be in 2012, and Mr. Pisarski responded it was going to be a photography exhibit of historic synagogues in Cumberland County. Mr. Pisarski asked County Counsel Theodore Baker to attend the meeting since this issue deals with public funds. Mr. Baker said he looked over all the documentation and said false documents were submitted and the Commission had several options on how they could proceed. The Commission could ask for the funds to be returned, complete the project or repurpose the money. Mr. Baker suggested the funds should be returned. Mr. Pisarski also added that any decision that is made has to be approved by the funding agency, the New Jersey Historical Commission. Mr. Pisarski said Freeholder action will have to be taken to reallocate funds if everyone agrees that is the action that should be taken and provided the funds are returned. Mr. Pisarski said the Federation's history re-grant award for 2012 was \$2,500. Marianne Lods asked what the Federation

projected to do with the 2013 funds. Mr. Pisarski responded that the funded project was a retrospective of Jewish history in Bridgeton, Millville and Vineland. Mr. Pisarski said he has not seen any misrepresentation for the art re-grant. A motion was made to request the immediate return of funds for the 2011-2012 history re-grant by Merle Silver. The motion was seconded Ms. Lods and passed unanimously.

Mr. Pisarski said final payment has not been issued for 2013 and the Federation was informed it will not be issued until conformation is received that the event has been held. Mr. Kaneshiki asked if a date has been set for the 2013 event. Mr. Pisarski responded that he has not been provided with a specific date for the event or exhibition. Ms. Boykin suggested that the Commission hold the final payment of 2013 funds until 2012 is repaid. The funds should have been spent by June 30th or encumbered. Mr. Pisarski indicated that Mr. Schimmel said the event was delayed and the event will be forth coming. Mr. Baker asked if the Federation's Board is aware of what is going on. Mr. Baker will send a letter stating the Commission wants 2012 funds returned immediately. The Commission will hold off until next meeting regarding a decision for 2013 funds. Ms. Merighi asked if this set of circumstances will have a poor reflection on the Commission. Mr. Pisarski responded that the Commission can only go by the paper work that is submitted by the re-grantees and encouraged the liaisons to make sure events happen. Ms. Boykin suggested that more consequences need to happen other than simply the return of funds. Mr. Baker suggested stating to the Federation that failure to return funds will jeopardize future funding.

Cohansey RiverFest Plein Air Competition – Recap

The Commission partnered with Gallery 50 again for the Cohansey Riverfest Plein Air Competition. Mr. Pisarski stated that 22 pieces of art from 16 artists were produced. The reception will take place September 6th at which time the awards will be handed out. Mr. Pisarski will send out an email with the winners' names.

NPS American Battlefield Protection Program Grant – Update

Mr. Pisarski went to Washington, DC for training on the Battlefield grant. The Freeholders are scheduled to vote on the grant agreement and the next steps include drafting a Request for Proposal and establishing a work plan. Mr. Pisarski will ask the National Park Service for permission to keep the RFP process already completed. Mr. Pisarski said that NPS would like six responses to any RFP and that NPS has a list of certain consultants which have been problematic in the past. Due to these concerns, NPS usually does not want an organization to conduct the RFP process without NPS oversight, but Mr. Pisarski contended that the County's RFP process should be satisfactory to the NPS and the work to date should be accepted by them. The actual consultant work will most likely begin in early 2014 with a completion date of August 2015. Cumberland County received the only revolutionary war grant this year. Mr. Pisarski said there were 24 awardees. Mr. Pisarski said there were repeat awardees, which is a good sign that additional funding may be available as the project progresses. Ms. Merighi suggested partnering with a University for the archaeological work. Mr. Pisarski commented that is possible for the second phase of the project. Mr. Pisarski said that if the Commission can confirm that the activities did occur through documentary research, we should be able to delineate a specific battlefield site. In answer to a question about the location of the battlefield, Mr. Pisarski said Dallas' Landing is located at the end of Route 553 in Port Norris. Ms. Jones said it is now referred to today as Peek of the Moon. Outreach meetings will take place in Port Norris so data can be collected and to build interest within the local community. Due to

concerns related to unauthorized excavation, the exact location of the project will not be told to the public.

ADA Accessibility Workshop – August 28, 2013 – Bayshore Center in Bivalve

The workshop will take place August 28th at the Bayshore Center in Bivalve.

Grant Writing Workshop w/ Rachel Dukeman – September 12, 2013 – Gallery 50 , Inc.

The grant writing workshop will take place September 12th at Gallery 50. Rachel Dukeman will facilitate. Ms. Lods asked if all regrantees were required to attend, and Mr. Pisarski responded that while it is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged.

Artists Day in Mauricetown – September 14, 2013

Artists Day will take place September 14th in Mauricetown at the Compton House. A “save the date” flyer has been sent out, music is scheduled and ten artists are lined up. Mr. Pisarski said easels are needed for the kid’s tent.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Merighi attended the Cohansey RiverFest celebration and visited Gallery 50, which had a show of Mead Barnett’s work. The next show at Gallery 50 is September 5th. City of Vineland completed their concerts in the park.

Ms. Jones said Clay College has a very diverse exhibit until the end of the month.

Ms. Lods commented that the Millville Army Air Field Museum has a traveling Warbird exhibit. On September 28th the Aviation Show will take place. September 29th a new event will take place in Millville called “Community Day and Block Party”. There will be a free concert at the Levoy by the US Army Field Band. Later that evening will be family night in the park.

Mr. Kaneshiki said second Friday at Bayshore Center in Bivalve went very well.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Not in attendance.

Public Comment

Raymond Sotnychuk is attending the meeting to find out what the Cultural & Heritage Commission does and what sort of funding may be available. Mr. Sotnychuk said his family owns the Arbuckel House in Vineland at 7071 Main Road. In 1997 it was named a local historic site on the County Register for Historic Structures and Sites. Mr. Pisarski asked Mr.Sotnychuk to stay after the meeting to discuss available to him.

Other Old/New Business

The Commission received an award of merit from the American Association of State and Local History. The event will take place on September 20th in Alabama. Mr. Pisarski is asking for the Commission to cover his one night hotel stay in Birmingham and indicated that the Planning Department is covering his traveling expenses. A motion was made to cover Mr. Pisarski’s hotel by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously

Correspondence

The packets included a Daily Journal article regarding the Time Travelers project dated August 14, 2013.

Following up on a discussion from last month's meeting, the packets included an article written by John Garrison about 25 years ago on Cause Marketing.

The Commission was provided with a letter from the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the raceway storm damage.

The packets included an award letter from the NJ Historical Commission for the 2013-2014 General Operating Support funds.

A letter from the 3rd District Legislators was provided to the Commission congratulating the Commission on their New Jersey State Council on the Arts award.

Finally, the e-newsletter from Southern New Jersey Development Council was provided which included an article about the Time Traveler Project.

Adjourn

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.