

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**December 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 Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 3:30 PM., at the Millville Development Corp. Office in Millville, New Jersey.

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

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary
Freeholder Jane Christy

Approval of Minutes – November 18, 2008

A motion to approve the minutes from November 18, 2008 with corrections was made by Jean Jones. The motion was seconded by Patricia Gale and passed unanimously. Marianne Lods abstained.

National Register Nomination Workshop – December 17, 2008

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the National Register Nomination Workshop that is being held on Wednesday December 17, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Luciano Center at Cumberland County College. Bob Craig of the State Historic Preservation Office will be there and the Commission is hosting by providing pastries in the morning and lunch for the participants.

Mr. Pisarski noted at last count there were eighteen participants registered. Mr. Craig set the cap strictly to twenty participants. Mr. Pisarski mentioned to the Commission if they knew of anyone that would be interested to let him know. There will be members from Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Atlantic Counties.

Recommendations from Nominations Committee

Suzanne Merighi reported the recommendation for Officers on behalf of the subcommittee.

Suzanne Merighi made a motion to accept the proposed slate of Officers for 2009. Those officers would be Chairperson – Marianne Lods, Vice-Chairperson Roy Kaneshiki, Treasurer – Flavia Alaya, and Secretary – John Garrison. The motion was seconded by Patricia Gale and passed unanimously.

2009 Meeting Dates

Mr. Pisarski provided the Commission with a copy of the 2009 meeting dates. The meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month.

A motion was made to approve the 2009 meeting dates by Roy Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

South Jersey Cultural Alliance 2009 Workshops

Mr. Pisarski said this workshop was something that came up last minute and he went ahead and offered the Commission's name to a workshop series that the South Jersey Cultural Alliance has put together. They are contracting with the LaSalle Non-Profit Center and Allison Trimarco and they would like to conduct three Arts and Business workshops in 2009. South Jersey Cultural Alliance asked Mr. Pisarski about having the workshops at Cumberland County College and Mr. Pisarski replied if the County hosts the workshops there would be no charge for the Luciano Center. The Luciano Center is available for three dates which are January 15th, February 19th and April 2, 2009. The notice has gone out with the Commission hosting the workshops. Mr. Pisarski noted the Commission would not be providing any funding for the workshop.

Mr. Pisarski stated he would like to try and encourage the regrantees to participate in these workshops and the question would be if the Commission would like to subsidize the fifty dollar fee for the regrantees to attend. Mr. Pisarski noted the Commission could offer to pay for five slots for the regrantees; we could make it competitive or it could be offered on a first come first serve basis. Suzanne Merighi asked who is eligible to participate in the workshops. Mr. Pisarski replied it would be for arts non-profit in the South Jersey lower eight counties and they do not have to be members of the South Jersey Cultural Alliance. Flavia Alaya suggested a type of lottery drawing for a couple of organizations that would commit to all three workshops. Mr. Pisarski noted the other option could be to advertise the workshop series through the Commission and say that if the organization is interested in attending there is the possibility of a potential scholarship and they would need to write to the Commission and request the scholarship. Patricia Gale asked Mr. Pisarski when the workshops

are advertised, to state that the scholarships being offered are limited to non-profit art organizations.

A motion was made by Flavia Alaya to advertise through the Commission indicating a limited number of scholarships. The motion was seconded by Patricia Gale and passed unanimously.

Freeholder Christy's Farewell Agenda

Penny Watson suggested to Jane Christy that the Commission wants to have lunch with her after the holidays. Mr. Pisarski noted there is a expenditure limit when going through the County system, something to be discussed further at some point. Some dates and places were floated, but Ms. Christy suggested that the others pick a date and surprise her with the location. Ms. Watson noted there was also a presentation to be given to Ms. Christy today. Mr. Kaneshiki said on behalf of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission that he would like to present Ms. Christy with a gift to say thank you for all the time and efforts she has given to the Commission over the years. Ms. Christy thanked everyone for the beautiful ceramic bowl, which Mr. Kaneshiki had handcrafted. Ms. Christy mentioned she also had a departing gift to give everyone and presented a small desk clock to each of the members.

Mr. Pisarski noted that the Commission has previously considered recommending motion to recommend Ms. Christy as a Commission member beginning in January 2009. Penny Watson followed immediately with a motion to recommend Jane Christy as a Commission member. The motion was seconded by Roy Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Other Old/New Business

Ms. Christy discussed the Freeholders decision to table the resolution for the re-grant awards due to questions arising from some organizations not being funded. Ms. Christy stated Mr. Magazzu wanted more time to review the minutes and reports. After a brief discussion, Mr. Pisarski offered to draft a memo to Mr. Magazzu discussing the appeal process and indicating that the Review Panel and Commission vote and the matter then goes to the then goes to the Freeholder Board.

On the question of proposed inter-county collaboration, Ms. Lods said she has received some responses from the members of the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission. They will be in touch in the New Year.

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the New York Times article that Marianne Lods had

pointed out to him. The state obligation to fund the arts, is tied to the hotel/motel tax. There may be another cut in 2009 for the 2010 budget. The article noted there could be an additional fifteen percent cut from the budget for arts funding. Ms. Lods also mentioned she recently went to a tourism meeting and the Office of Travel and Tourism has frozen all money for grants. Mr. Pisarski noted, however, that he had received today the first payment check for \$113,000.00 on the current grant cycle.

Mr. Pisarski noted Dave Grennon stopped by his office on behalf of the Disabled Advisory Council and has provided the Commission with a Plaque of thanks for our including accessibility issues, in the regrants review process.. Mr. Pisarski passed the Plaque around for everyone to see.

Correspondence

No correspondence was reported. Ms. Alaya noted, however, that Bridgeton had enjoyed a very successful holiday house tour on December 6, 2008 and thanked the Commission for their assistance in spreading the word and including the event in County mailings.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Flavia Alaya. The motion was seconded by Penny Watson and unanimously carried.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.