

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES****December 18, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at 3:30 PM., in the freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Suzanne Merighi Patt Gale
Roy Kaneshiki Penny Watson
Jean Jones Marianne Lods

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – November 27, 2012

A motion was made to approve the minutes from November 27, 2012 by Roy Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously. Marianne Lods abstained.

Mr. Kaneshiki pointed out that in the public notice statement the reference to the News of Cumberland County needs to be changed to the South Jersey Times.

Freeholder Proclamation to Patricia Gale

Mr. Pisarski presented Patt Gale with a proclamation from the Freeholders for her 25 years of service. Suzanne Merighi thanked Ms. Gale for serving on the Commission and presented her with an art piece made by Mr. Kaneshiki. A photo was taken of all Commission members present.

Conflict Recusal Statement

Matthew Pisarski passed out a conflict recusal statement for the Commission members to sign relating to the re-grant review process.

2013 Officer Nominations

Mr. Pisarski indicated the Nominations Committee informed him that Mr. Kaneshiki offered to take the secretary's position. Consequently, the officers as nominated were announced as follows:

Ella Boykin – Chair
Suzanne Merighi – Vice Chair
Penny Watson – Treasurer
Roy Kaneshiki – Secretary

A motion was made to approve the 2013 Officers by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson and passed unanimously.

Mr. Pisarski said it is Patt Gale's last month to serve on the Commission. Mr. Pisarski is working on finding appropriate candidates for Ms. Gale's vacated seat. Mr. Pisarski is also

looking for candidates to replace Rich Bermudez due to his lack of attendance, if that is what the Commission ultimately selects to do. Mr. Pisarski informed the Commission that at next month's meeting they should have recommendations to vote on to send to the Freeholder Board. Ms. Watson asked if she should still try and contact City of Bridgeton Councilwoman Gladys Lugardo-Hemple for recommendations. Mr. Pisarski said it would be great if the Commission had multiple candidates to select from and to recommend to the Freeholders. Mr. Pisarski said Rich Bermudez far exceeded the number of missed meetings that is stated in the bylaws.

Commission Retreat Proposal from Nancy Moses

Mr. Pisarski commented that it has been several years since the Commission had a retreat. Ms. Moses has recommended that since the Commission is updating the by-laws and plan now would be a perfect time to hold a retreat. Ms. Moses put together a proposal for the Commission to spend the day in Philadelphia and meet with leaders from government, tourism and the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance. The home base of the retreat would be the Union League. Mr. Pisarski said the retreat would be an added expense of \$2,875 to the planning and by-laws proposal. Ms. Lods asked when the retreat would take place and Mr. Pisarski responded that the retreat will take place in March or April. Ms. Lods said the retreat is not costly but ask what is the goal. Mr. Pisarski said it would benefit the Commission to experience best practices within the region. Ms. Merighi asked if it would be a problem taking the dollars out of New Jersey. Mr. Pisarski responded that it would not, but if the Commission would like to have the retreat held in New Jersey, research would have to be done for a location. Ms. Merighi commented that Philadelphia has a great reputation for judging the economic impact of the arts in the local economy and we could all benefit from learning those practices. Ms. Lods would like to learn how to build new audiences, how to get diversity on boards and how do we come up with a formula that addresses Cumberland County. Ms. Merighi asked where the funds would come from to attend the retreat and Mr. Pisarski responded that the funds would come from the operating line item. A motion was made to approve a 2013 retreat with the budget of \$2,875 by Ms. Watson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Kaneshiki attended Second Friday at the Bayshore Discovery Project and mentioned that they were not as busy as several previous events. He attributed this decline in attendance to the weather .

Ms. Lods said Vineland Regional Dance Company performed at the Soul of the Season.

Mr. Pisarski passed out disks to each Commission member with all the regrant applications in .pdf format. This information will assist the Commission members with their liaison duties.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Kimberly Gauntt was not in attendance. Ms. Lods commented that Southern Shore DMO will be having their monthly meeting December 19th.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Pisarski said he conducted a survey asking the four organizations that participated in the building history program what subsidized memberships were beneficial in 2012. The memberships were broken down into three categories based on the responses. Three of the four organizations responded to the survey. The categories and membership ranking were as follows:

Strong Impact - American Association for State and Local History

Some Impact – South Jersey Cultural Alliance and the League of Historical Societies of NJ

Little/No Impact – Preservation New Jersey and Advocates for NJ History

Mr. Pisarski asked what the Commission wants to do regarding memberships in 2013; replace, reduce or stay with the same memberships. Mr. Pisarski suggested reducing the number of subsidized memberships and use the savings to subsidize a conference attendance. It was suggested to keep American Association for State and Local History and South Jersey Cultural Alliance and drop League of Historical Societies of NJ, Preservation New Jersey and Advocates for NJ History and perhaps pick up another organization. Ms. Lods commented that if the Commission picks a third organization it needs to be a solid organization with defined benefits. Ms. Merighi suggested talking to other groups and see what organizations they belong to. A motion was made to approve subsidized memberships for 2013 for the American Association for State and Local History and the South Jersey Cultural Alliance by Jean Jones. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously.

Ms. Lods was a reviewer for Cape May County's Arts re-grant program. She said nothing was done electronically and was happy that Cumberland County was up to date and did the regrants electronically.

Ms. Watson asked how the West Jersey Time Traveler project was progressing. Mr. Pisarski said seven podcasts are up on the website with two more almost complete. Mr. Pisarski asked Keith Wasserman for an update for the Cultural & Heritage Newsletter. Ms. Merighi was impressed with the podcast for the Bivalve Shipping Sheds.

The RFP for the Dallas Landing project is on the website. Ms. Gale questioned some of the road references and location information that were in the Dallas Landing newspaper article.

Ms. Merighi asked when the meeting dates will be posted to the website. Mr. Pisarski responded that they would be up on the website by the next meeting.

Ms. Gale thanked everyone for a wonderful opportunity serving on the Commission.

Correspondence

Adjourn

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.