

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**February 15, 2011**

**Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, NJ 08302**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

<b>Present:</b>	Penny Watson	Suzanne Merighi
	Patricia Gale	Roy Kaneshiki
	John Garrison	Flavia Alaya
	Ella Boykin	Freeholder Fiocchi

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner

Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Freeholder Fiocchi informed the Commission that Freeholder Kirstein has a conflict when the Commission holds their meetings. Freeholder Fiocchi will be the lead liaison and if he cannot attend Freeholder Kirstein or Director Whelan will attend the meetings.

**Welcome Freeholder Liaison Samuel Fiocchi**

Matthew Pisarski welcomed Freeholder Fiocchi to the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2011**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from January 27, 2011 by Flavia Alaya. The motion was seconded by John Garrison and passed unanimously.

### **2011 Winter Eagle Festival – Recap**

The annual Winter Eagle Festival was February 5<sup>th</sup>. Attendance for the day was 400-500. The Commission offers kids to participate in making a clay sculpture. Jackie Sandro from Clay College operated the kids table. Roy Kaneshiki also assisted at the kids table. Mr. Pisarski said the day went very well despite the rainy weather.

### **Re-grant Awards Update**

Mr. Pisarski said the Freeholders passed the awards as recommended by the Commission. Award letters and contracts have been sent out to the re-grantees. In the packets were the final award recommendations which also listed the liaisons. Mr. Pisarski explained to Freeholder Fiocchi why commission members are given different organizations to report on. Some commission members were given four organizations due to a 30% increase in the number of re-grantees. Ms. Alaya asked Mr. Pisarski if they were still in the time frame for groups to comment on their award. Mr. Pisarski responded that the appeal period was still open.

### **History BHP Project Schedule Discussion**

The Commission received \$18,000 from the New Jersey Historical Commission for a Building History Participation Project. Mr. Pisarski said four history organizations will be picked for this project. The four re-grantees will work with three consultants over the next year. The consultants will be looking for problem areas within the organization and suggest solutions for the problem areas. Mr. Pisarski said a similar project was done with the arts community which worked out very well. Penny Watson questioned how a history organization would be considered for the project. Mr. Pisarski said they have to apply. In order to apply the organization has to meet certain criteria. They have to have history as a primary mission and must have received re-grant money within two of the past three years. Ms. Alaya asked if there were exceptions for this year's re-grantees. Mr. Pisarski said it would be up to the Commission if they wanted to include the new re-grantees which are New Sweden Colonial Farmstead Museum & Living Center and Port Norris Historical Society. Vineland African Community Development Corp. is not included in the list because their primary mission is not history.

In the Commission's packets are copies of the projected time line and draft application. Mr. Garrison asked if Mr. Pisarski wanted help reaching out to the history re-grantees to see if they are going to participate. Mr. Pisarski said he will reach out to the organizations. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission to look over the application and if they have any changes to email him.

Ella Boykin asked what the steps are after the application process is done. Mr. Pisarski explained the process and provided a draft timeline for the project. Mr. Garrison asked if there was any follow up on how the art group has done. Mr. Pisarski said there was a monitoring session and results of a survey were distributed. Patricia Gale suggested that at the next meeting we find out how many history groups are going to participate. If four organizations are not participating then the Commission can reach out to other history groups.

### **Newsletter Services Contract**

Carol Smith's contract ends at the end of March. Last year the newsletter did not have to go out to bid due to the fact it came in under certain fiscal thresholds. The Commission said they are happy with Ms. Smith's work. Mr. Pisarski asked Ms. Smith to submit a proposal for this year's newsletter.

### **Encore Award Selection**

The Commission received in their packets a list of Encore Awardees by year since 1999. The Encore Awards are May 19<sup>th</sup> at Bally's Grand Ballroom. Mr. Pisarski explained to Freeholder Fiocchi what the Encore Awards are. The Encore Awards ceremony is an elegant event that offers members of South Jersey Cultural Alliance the opportunity to honor those people who have contributed greatly to arts and history within their community. Freeholder Fiocchi asked how does the Commission select who receives the award. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission makes the decision. Ms. Watson suggested Austin Gould. Freeholder Fiocchi mentioned the Levoy Theater.

### **Advocacy Initiative**

Mr. Pisarski thanked Ms. Alaya for informing him about the Arts Action Fund. The Arts Action Fund is asking people to contact their elected officials about arts funding. A sample letter is in the Commission member's packets. Ms. Alaya said the cuts are ruthless and art is about jobs not just decoration.

### **Liaison Reports**

There are no liaison reports. The commissioners had just received their assignments.

**Other Old/New Business**

Ms. Gale asked about terms for Commission members. Mr. Pisarski said terms are five years and they are set by the Freeholders. Ms. Alaya asked if someone can be appointed mid-term. Mr. Pisarski said yes and that person would serve out the remainder of the five years. Ms. Gale said members should be asked first if they want to continue to serve on the board. Mr. Pisarski will try to keep track of member's appointments and ask beforehand if they want to continue to serve on the board.

**Correspondence**

The New Jersey Historical Commission is having an event to honor the awardees of grants. The event will be held on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> in Trenton. Mr. Pisarski said if anyone would like to attend please let him know.

Mr. Pisarski passed around a cell-phone tower site review. The tower will be on 49 east of Millville. Mr. Pisarski informed the Commission there are no historical resources within several miles of the proposed tower. Mr. Pisarski asked if anyone has heard anything regarding the cell phone tower in Bridgeton. No one had any further updates.

**Adjourn**

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.