

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

February 26, 2013

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 3:30 PM., in the freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Suzanne Merighi Ella Boykin
Roy Kaneshiki Penny Watson
Jean Jones Marianne Lods
Merle Silver

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Kim Gauntt, Cumberland County Recreation & Tourism
Melissa Clifton, Cumberland County Office on Aging
Bob Crowe

Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2013

A motion was made to approve the minutes from January 22, 2013 by Suzanne Merighi. The motion was seconded by Roy Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Special Request – New Life Alliance Association NJ – Juan Rodriguez

Mr. Rodriguez did not attend the meeting and the Commission still has several questions regarding his request. Mr. Pisarski said his letter is not clear on what he is asking for. Ms. Lods suggested he attend a regrant workshop.

Special Request – Bridgeton Rotary Club Foundation – Bob Crowe

Mr. Crowe is asking for special funding to enclose the “spike machine” and add appropriate interpretive signage. The spike machine is located in the Bridgeton City Park. The machine was added to the city park in approximately 1847, and was originally part of the nail and irons works. Mr. Crowe said the signage would inform people about the historic use and importance of the spike machine. The estimated cost for signage is \$2,500. Mr. Crowe passed around pictures of the machine and the wording that would be on the signage. The signage will be aluminum with a bronze coating. Penny Watson said the machine is a very important artifact and needs to be preserved. Matt Pisarski asked who verified the text that will be on the signage. Mr. Crowe said he collected the information from several books. Ms. Watson asked that the Commission have a final review of the wording if funding is provided. Mr. Crowe said the City of Bridgeton is responsible for maintaining the property because it is located on city land but he has a volunteer group that cleans the park and helps maintain the area. Mr. Crowe said he has all the approvals from the city for the project. Jean Jones asked for something to be in writing regarding who is responsible for maintaining the structure. Mr. Pisarski said acknowledgment has to be done if funding is provided. Mr. Crowe said acknowledgement will be done but he is not sure in what capacity. A motion was made to approve \$500 for the signage for the spike

machine by Ms. Watson. The motion was seconded by Marianne Lods and passed by a vote of 6 to 1.

Special Request – County Office on Aging – Melissa Clifton

Ms. Clifton is asking for special funding to assist in the cost of the Older Americans Art Exhibit and Competition. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission funded the project in 2012. Ms. Clifton commented that the event gets bigger each year. Ms. Watson asked if they could be a regrant. Mr. Pisarski said they would be added as a line item since it's a county-run arts and cultural event. A motion was made to approve \$500 for the art exhibit by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Mr. Pisarski reminded the Commission that the budget line item for special project funding started with \$1,000 and the Commission awarded \$500 to the City of Vineland in January. The Office on Aging funding would come from special project funds while funding for the spike machine would come from the county line item since it is a history project.

2013 Winter Eagle Festival Recap

Mr. Pisarski said the festival was a success. The children's table was very popular. Attendance was down due to weather. Ms. Merighi said the Chili Bowl dinner was a sellout.

AASLH Leadership in History Award Nomination Discussion

The American Association for State and Local History awards special citations to benchmark history projects at its annual conference each year. Penny Watson suggested the Commission submit the West Jersey Time Travelers project for nomination. Mr. Pisarski said that while it is a hard award to win, he has submitted the project as a nomination for the award.

2013 Encore Awardee Discussion and Selection

The Encore Awards will be at Landis Theater on May 22nd. Last year the Woodruff Brothers received the award. Mr. Pisarski asked for suggestions for the 2013 awardee. Mr. Pisarski will email the Commission who won the award in the past decade. Ms. Lods recommended Jed Gaylin from the Bay Atlantic Symphony.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Jones said Clay College had a doilies exhibit.

Ms. Silver commented that she reached out to her liaison assignments.

Ms. Lods said she attended a Bridgeton Main Street meeting and attended the Off Broad Street Players rendition of "Damn Yankees".

Ms. Watson let the Commission know that Patt Witt will be inducted in the Cumberland County Women's Hall of Fame.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Ms. Gauntt passed out the tourism meeting dates and their locations. The 2013 calendar of events is being printed. Southern Shore DMO will be attending the Flower Show March 2nd – 8th. Ms. Gauntt said a FAM Tour is being put together with a tentative date of September 25th;

the focus will be on Millville and Vineland. Ms. Gauntt will also be attending the NJ Conference on Tourism March 20th & 21st.

Other Old/New Business

Everyone received a contact information list in their packets for Commission members. Also, an agenda for the March 13th retreat is in the packet. Mr. Pisarski said a few seats are still available.

Ms. Watson said the City of Bridgeton and Bridgeton Library will host a traveling Smithsonian Tour called Home Town Team, June 28th – August 10, 2014. Other community activities will be tied into the tour.

Ms. Boykin passed out a flyer regarding Black History Month, 50th anniversary of The March on Washington and the 150th anniversary of The Emancipation Proclamation.

Ms. Watson said Save the Library will be hosting speaker Nelson Johnson in May who wrote Boardwalk Empire.

Correspondence

A letter from DEP was included in the packets regarding the replacement of the roof on Broad Street School in Bridgeton.

An article regarding Dallas' Landing was in the South Jersey Times.

Adjourn

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.