

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

January 27, 2011

Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, NJ 08302

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Penny Watson Suzanne Merighi
 Jean Jones John Garrison
 Flavia Alaya Ella Boykin

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Joseph DeLuca, Bridgeton Antiquarian League

Approval of Minutes – December 21, 2010

A motion was made to approve the minutes from December 21, 2010 by Penny Watson. The motion was seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously. In Mr. Kaneshiki's absence, Ms Alaya assumed the chair.

Flavia Alaya had a few questions regarding the commission members terms. Matthew Pisarski said the last term was a five year term. He indicated he would check on term length policy and report back at the next meeting.

Special Request – Joseph DeLuca

Joseph DeLuca has a special request in the amount of \$750 for the annual Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Italian Festival held each year on July 16th. The procession will start at the Immaculate Conception School and work its way to the Catholic Church for mass. The procession will include a statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. A breakfast will be held at Centerton Country Club. Mr. DeLuca said press kits are sent to newspapers and radio. Mr. DeLuca said it takes around \$3,000 to have the event. Mr. Pisarski asked if it was possible to have music added to the procession. Mr. DeLuca indicated that music has not been part of the ceremony in recent years. He said around 300 people attend the procession and 225 attend the breakfast. Ms. Alaya thanked Mr. DeLuca for his presentation and informed him the commission will get back to him.

Penny Watson said the special request might better have been submitted as a regular regrant application since the event has occurred annually the past couple of years and is therefore not a new or last-minute event. It was questioned if they have their 501(C)(3), Ella Boykin said it sounds like a religious event. Mr. Pisarski responded by pointing out that other traditional religious inspired events, such as the Obon Festival, are funded by

the Commission, but agreed that the Commission should distinguish between cultural and purely religious components. Ms. Alaya said maybe an educational brochure could be printed. She referenced an effort in Bridgeton to highlight Italian heritage and suggested that a brochure could contribute to the larger effort. It was suggested to fund the part of the event which will be held in Bridgeton and not the portion held at the Centerton County Club, since this facility is not in Cumberland County. Suzanne Merighi said in her view this event is not an emergency request. While \$2,000 is set aside for special requests, she indicated that special request funding should only be used in circumstances where the organization was not aware of the event or opportunity at the time of the last regrant application period. Since in this case the organization knew of the annual event during the regrant application period, special request funding should not be used. A motion was made to deny the request by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson and passed 5-0, with Ms. Alaya abstaining.

2011 Winter Eagle Festival – Saturday, February 5, 2011

Mr. Pisarski said the Commission will be having their clay table with Jackie Sandro from Clay College. Volunteers are needed throughout the day at the kids table. If anyone can help out please let Mr. Pisarski know. The event runs from 8am – 4pm.

Artists Directory Update

Requests are coming in to be included in the new online Artist Directory. So far 37 artists have been added. Mr. Pisarski said the art represented is very diverse. Ms. Merighi said some well-known artists are not listed, including Patt Witt and Glenn Rudderow. Mr. Pisarski said it's up to the artist to get their information submitted, but said he would reach out to Barn Studio to remind them.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Garrison asked if the Commission received their liaison assignments. Mr. Pisarski is waiting for the final Freeholder decision on regrant funding.

Other Old/New Business

Ms. Merighi discussed the "Colors of Hope" initiative being worked on by South Jersey Healthcare, Noyes Museum of Art, and the Commission. The initial program will purchase Cumberland County artist-produced work (at \$300/piece) which will be placed throughout the new Scarpa Cancer Center at the Regional Medical Center in Vineland. South Jersey Healthcare is soliciting donor support for each of 20 locations for the art and so far have 17 \$1,000 commitments for the 20 available spaces. Ms. Merighi indicated that she and her husband Larry are donors to the effort. She distributed brochures to the Commission members which described the program.

Ms. Alaya reported on the progress she had made on establishing a subcommittee to review the guidelines for the history regrant program. She indicated that along with herself and Penny Watson, Jonathan Wood has offered to serve. Ms. Boykin indicated that she knows someone from Vineland who would like to serve as well. Ms. Alaya also mentioned the latest cultural event plans for Bridgeton, including a public mural project sponsored by Appel Farm and a new Main Street initiative called FoodFilmFest lanned

for April 9.

Ms. Watson indicated that due to the collapse of the Levoy Theatre she expects it to be delisted from the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski gave the commission members a copy of the cover letter given to the Freeholders regarding regrant recommendations. Also, a printout was given regarding the website activity on www.ccculturalheritage.org.

Adjourn

Ms. Merighi moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Watson. Passed unanimously.

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