

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**January 28, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

**Present:** Marianne Lods  
Roy Kaneshiki  
Marianne Lods  
Maria Cerda-Moreno  
Freeholder Sheppard

Ella Boykin  
John Garrison  
Suzanne Merighi  
Freeholder Surace

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner  
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

**Guest(s):** James Watson, Cumberland County Economic Development  
Carmelita Vazquez, Vicinage XV  
Kimberly Ayres, Cumberland County College

**Welcome to Liaisons Freeholder Sheppard and Freeholder Surace**

Suzanne Merighi welcomed Freeholder Sheppard and Freeholder Surace to the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2013**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from December 17, 2013 by Roy Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ella Boykin and passed unanimously.

**2015 Underground Railroad Symposium – Carmelita Vazquez, Vicinage XV and Kimberly Ayres, Cumberland County College**

Matthew Pisarski introduced Carmelita Vazquez from the Vicinage and Kim Ayres from Cumberland County College. Ms. Vazquez and several others have been working together to plan an Underground Railroad Symposium. Several handouts were given to help explain the project and Vicinage Committee. The symposium is planned to educate the community on all levels of the historical background of the community. Ms. Vazquez and Ms. Ayres are reaching out to people and agencies in the community that want to be involved in the symposium. The event will take place at Cumberland County College and Greenwich Township in the spring of 2015. Ms. Ayres said Cumberland County College is a proud sponsor with so much rich history in the area. Ms. Ayres would like to see this lead to Cumberland County being part of the Freedom Trail through the National Park Service. Mr. Pisarski went through the agenda for the symposium and explained what the day would be about. Mr. Pisarski said the potential for the event is to have a state-wide impact. The Commission was asked if they would like to collaborate on the event and help with sponsorship funding for some of the components of the event. The Commission agreed that it is a great idea. Ms. Boykin asked if the symposium would be free or a fee would have to be charged. Ms. Vazquez said they would like the event to be free. Freeholder Sheppard mentioned an event at the Cumberland County Library regarding Sojourner Truth. Mr. Pisarski asked if there is an anniversary connection to the symposium. Mr.

Pisarski mentioned the Commission has had several guests at the Commission meetings recently, which is a great indicator of collaboration. The Commission is looking forward in assisting in the symposium.

### **2014 Re-grant Liaison Drawing**

The "bowl" was passed around for everyone to pick their liaison assignments for the year. Ms. Merighi said regrant information was previously handed out with all contact information for each organization. Mr. Pisarski will send an email to each organization so they know who their liaison will be.

### **2013 Annual Report**

Mr. Pisarski went through the annual report and explained what was on each page. A motion was made to approve the 2013 Annual Report by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

### **2014 Winter Eagle Festival – Saturday, February 8, 2014**

Clay College will assist at the scuply clay table for the day. If any Commission members are available to help throughout the day please let Mr. Pisarski know. Mr. Pisarski explained the event to Maria Cerda-Moreno. Ms. Merighi asked how it was promoted, flyers, emails, posters and press releases. A fifth viewing site has been added this year at the Bayshore Center. Jim Watson asked if any promotion is done for other 2014 events at the festival. The 2014 calendar of events are currently being worked on. Freeholder Sheppard questioned why the 2014 calendar events are not out yet. It was explained that organizations do not have their events set at the end of the previous year.

Freeholder Sheppard introduced Freeholder Barber who stopped in to say hello to the Commission.

### **Liaison Reports**

No reports at this time.

### **Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt**

Not in attendance.

### **Other Old/New Business**

The Jewish Federation returned their history regrant funds and Mr. Pisarski reached out to Sara Cureton at the Historical Commission to see if the Cultural & Heritage Commission could reallocate the funds in county. The Historical Commission denied the request and asked for the funds to be returned after several months of communication. While this funding was returned, Mr. Pisarski said other funds were allocated from the 2013 budget to do one or two additional podcast sites.

### **Correspondence**

There is a letter from the New Jersey Historical Commission stating the Commission did not get a special project grant regarding the interior assessments of the podcast sites.

Commission members received a copy of the 2013 attendance sheet.

A copy of an article regarding accessibility at the Levoy Theatre was in Commission packets, the article was giving praise to the Theatre.

A list of previous Encore Award winners were provided. Mr. Pisarski explained what the Encore Awards were. Mr. Pisarski said they are lobbying to have the Awards at the Levoy. Mr. Pisarski asked if the Commission would be willing to assist in funding so the event remains in Cumberland County. Freeholder Sheppard asked about having the event at Cumberland County College. Mr. Pisarski said they like to have it in an arts district setting and the Theatre would provide that. Mr. Pisarski will send an email to Commission members if funding is needed. Mr. Watson commented that Economic Development may be able to assist in funding. A motion was made to approve funding not to exceed \$500 by Ms. Boykin. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously.

Mr. Pisarski said the Commission has to think about who they would like to award this year. Mr. Pisarski said Jean Jones must to retire from the Commission due to health concerns and he would like to recommend Ms. Jones for the award. The Commission supported this suggestion.

Commission members received a copy of the Long Range Extension Plan. Mr. Pisarski sent it to the Commissions funding agents. The plan is for another five years. A motion was made to approve the Long Range Plan as presented by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Boykin and passed unanimously.

Ms. Lods asked about the website and if the Commission is still using Loaded Media. Ms. Lods said Loaded Media is having issues. Mr. Pisarski indicated he would look into it.

A letter was received from Jean Edwards, Cumberland County Library stating the library disagreed with the findings from the Regrant panel, but which did not request an appeal.

Mr. Kaneshiki asked about Dallas Landing. Mr. Pisarski said the RFP process has to be redone. Freeholder Sheppard said the owner of the land in front of the site Dom Capaldi would like to speak to someone about the project.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Boykin. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.