

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

July 21, 2009
3:30 pm

Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, NJ 08302

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Roy Kaneshiki
Penny Watson
Suzanne Merighi
John Garrison
Jean Jones
Flavia Alaya
Marianne Lods
Ella Boykin

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2009

A motion to approve the minutes from June 16, 2009, with corrections, was made by Penny Watson. The motion was seconded by Flavia Alaya and passed unanimously.

Commission Group Photo – Selection

Mr. Pisarski presented three different photos to the Commission members to decide which photo they would like to see on the Commission's website. After careful review a photo was chosen by majority consensus.

Broad Street Bridge keeper's House

Mr. Pisarski mentioned that at last month's meeting Penny Watson had mentioned the Broad Street Bridge Keeper's House and he said it does not appear to be at the location where the Department of Transportation said they would place it. In everyone's packet he provided a draft letter and copies of letters from 2006 to Mr. Bruce Riegel with a map showing where the placement of the Bridge Keeper's House should be and a response letter from the DOT in 2007 stating the location of the Bridge Keeper's House to be relocated to the

northeast quadrant of the parking lot site southeast of the bridge.

Ms. Watson visited the site recently and the Bridge Keeper's House was not there. One of the workers pointed out what Ms. Watson thinks is the foundation for it. Ms. Alaya asked Ms. Watson how long ago was it that she visited the site and Ms. Watson replied two weeks ago. Ms. Alaya said she spoke to the foreman at the construction site today and he said the Bridge Keeper's House is there and asked her to come out today to see where it is placed. Ms. Alaya had a full schedule and could not go out to the site today. She said she can take a couple of pictures and let Mr. Pisarski know if indeed it is in the correct location.

Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission if they could approve the correspondence and if he hears from Ms. Alaya tomorrow that the Bridge Keeper's House is in the correct location then the correspondence will not be sent. A motion was made by Flavia Alaya to send a letter to Bruce Riegel at NJDOT should the structure not be in its correct location. The motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously.

Commission Budget – 2nd Quarter Report

Mr. Pisarski provided a handout of the second quarter budget report. Mr. Pisarski noted this handout is all of the expenses up through the second quarter for the different accounts. Mr. Pisarski pointed out the account for Artistic Services was overdrawn. This is a minor issue and he can move monies from Promo of the Arts to this line item. Mr. Pisarski stated the budget line item needs to be zero by the end of the year and asked the Commission to give it some thought as to how they would like to see the money spent. He said a couple suggestions are the need to work on the artist directory and his thoughts were they could possibly assign a couple thousand dollars to Loaded Media to put the artist directory on our website. Mr. Pisarski noted the Commission also needs to do a one year update on the Building Arts Participation project in order to monitor the impact of the projection on the participants.

Mr. Pisarski noted there is \$5,750.00 in contingency funds that can be used on anything including food. Ms. Lods said everyone needs to also think of the typical programming that comes up in the fall. Ms. Watson said they could also divvy up the funds and distribute it to the Re-grantees. Mr. Pisarski replied they could do that. Ms. Merighi asked Mr. Pisarski if this would be a good time to re-examine their five year plan. He said one of the things they could do is have an event and bring everyone back in to follow up on the cultural plan. Ms. Lods said she would like to look at the Re-grantees and see if, based on good remarks by the review committee, there might be one or two they had hoped to give more money to but couldn't. Mr. Pisarski said he will review the re-grant awards for this year and will send out an e-mail to everyone.

Ms. Alaya mentioned the Freeholders recent action endorsing the funding of a preservation plan for the County and asked the status of these funds relative to Historic Preservation. Mr. Pisarski said the issue of Historic Preservation came before the Freeholder Board based on the language of the voter question that took place in 1994 and it allowed for the acquisition of open space for recreational purposes. The tax has been used since its inception exclusively for farmland preservation and was recognized at the time that would absolutely be the priority and that's basically still the position to this day. The consultant who is going to be selected based on recent action by the Freeholder Board most likely will be a planning firm that has specialization in land use preservation. Mr. Pisarski noted that if the Commission would like to send a letter or correspondence reminding the Freeholders that cultural resources should be incorporated into any analysis that would be fine. Mr. Pisarski recommended that any correspondence would be based on the Commission's role as an advisory board to the Freeholders.

Update on Wharton Social Impact Corps

Mr. Pisarski said he has an e-mail out to Meghan to see what stage the Social Impact Corp project is in, but has yet to hear back from her. Mr. Pisarski noted the Commission we should have the final report for the next Cultural and Heritage meeting and he needs to work with the Freeholders office to look into the luncheon and will e-mail everyone with the details once he has them.

East Point Artists' Day - Update

Mr. Pisarski said the sub-committee met again for the second time. The committee is working on a variety of additional activities for that day. Gail Robinson was present at this meeting and they have John Diorio signed up to have his butterfly garden open free with donations suggested. They are also going to show where the dike is located running up to Matt's Landing ("hike the dike"), as they do not want any cars going on it. Mr. Pisarski noted they also have the Thompson's Beach observatory deck platform designated on the map and have asked the Audubon Society to provide a volunteer with a scope to help people sight birds. Pete Dunn has indicated they should be able to do this but Mr. Pisarski said they do not yet have a hundred-percent confirmation. The press release inviting artists to submit examples for consideration will most likely go out within the next week or so. Ms. Lods asked Mr. Pisarski the date of the event and he replied September 26, 2009. Steve Eisenhower will definitely be there in the morning to do "seining" at the boat ramp. The music is booked with the Snake Brothers and Steve Byrne. The Barn Studio of Art will be playing some role in this year's event and Citizen's United will facilitate "Paint the Lighthouse."

Liaison Reports

Ms. Merighi was in contact with Susan Jacques of the Buddhist Temple. Unfortunately she could not attend the Obon Festival due to prior obligations with WheatonArts Glass weekend. Mr. Pisarski said Sharon Yoshida came into the office and told him the event was very well attended. Mr. Kaneshiki noted he attended the event and it was the biggest crowd he has ever seen.

Mr. Kaneshiki attended the Southern Shore Music Festival. He said the weather was horrible and it rained all day. He attended the event later in the afternoon. Arlo Guthrie performed in the Barn. Mr. Pisarski said Bob Rose is retiring at the end of this month and he does not know exactly what will happen with this event for next year.

Mr. Pisarski and Ms. Boykin attended the Puerto Rican Festival Banquet on Saturday July 18, 2009. They handed out medals of gratitude, of which Mr. Pisarski received one on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Pisarski had to leave early and Ms. Boykin said she had accepted additional awards on his behalf, and then Ms. Boykin presented Mr. Pisarski with all of the awards he had received. Mr. Pisarski mentioned this is Sonia Lorenzana's last year as president of Festival Puertorriqueno.

Ms. Boykin heard from the Barn Studio and received a wonderful letter from the Vineland Regional Dance Company with their calendar of events.

Mr. Garrison reports that Ms. Boykin's hip-hop class at the Boys and Girls Club is still going strong, even during the summer.

Ms. Watson was in contact with two of her groups; the Seabrook Cultural Center and spoke to Mr. Baker who was very appreciative of the money received and stated it is going for conservation of artifacts. She also spoke to Maud Goodnight at the College. She asked if there was one particular event the Commission was associated with and Ms. Goodnight said she would get back to her.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Pisarski got a reminder that the Commission has to update its ADA Plan. Mr. Pisarski has gone through the plan and said the Commission has already done a great deal and reviewed the items that have already been completed.

- ADA Compliance Riders with all of our contracts
- Have ADA Plans from all of our Re-Grantee's
- Through Disability Awareness Day, we have a list of services for people with disabilities
- Accessibility logos on our website and notices that go out of the office
- Informational statement funded by the Commission which states the facility is handicap accessible

- Dave Grennon and the Golden Agenda is on our list for marketing
- ADA Plans for all the venues for Teen Arts
- Pull forces on all the doors on county complex have been reduced to comply with ADA standards
- Emergency phone in the county complex elevator is now Braille-lettered
- All the stair railings are now compliant
- The door ways in the restrooms in the administration building and the sinks are handicap accessible
- The website uses relative units
- Website pages do not depend on style sheets for content
- Color and contrast on the website are compliant

Mr. Pisarski noted that the website vendor indicated that while the skip navigation will make the website compliant, it will negatively impact our position in search engines. Mr. Pisarski said he would draft something indicating what the Commission has done and come up with goals for the next three years for next month's meeting. Ms. Lods thought we might stress workshops and awareness because there are always new Commissioners and others who could use sensitivity training.

Mr. Pisarski provided a handout of the Guidelines and Application for the 2010 Re-grant Round in everyone's packet. He indicated these need to be released. He has made a few changes in the narrative based on comments made last year: on page eleven he has added a budget narrative, which is something that was suggested last year. In the past we have asked for the original and eight copies. After much consideration, Mr. Pisarski said with relocation of the offices there is now a scanner available to the department and documents can be scanned and turned into PDF format very easily. He was thinking of ways to reduce costs for everyone involved and ease of application, for example, we could ask for just one original copy of the application and he could scan the applications and save them on the server and make CD's and mail the CD's to the grants review panel. Ms. Merighi asked if there would ever be the opportunity for the re-grantees to fill out the application on line. Mr. Pisarski replied that this is the next step, but we cannot make that leap this year because there will need to be something done on the website to make it workable.

A motion to accept the 2010 Re-Grant Application with the noted amendments was made by Jean Jones. The motion was seconded by Roy Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski provided to everyone a copy of the letter congratulating Shirley Santos for receiving the Teacher of the Year Award.

Mr. Pisarski received his Preservation New Jersey newsletter yesterday and

Penny Watson has joined the Board and he was very happy to see the Commission listed in her bio. Ms. Watson mentioned as a board member she encourages organizations to join Preservation New Jersey and said the cost for non-profits is \$65.00.

A motion for the Commission to become a member of Preservation New Jersey was made by John Garrison. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

Ms. Boykin mentioned the upcoming Census and how very important this is for Cumberland County. Mr. Pisarski said that Sharon Mollick of the Planning Department is handling this if anyone had any questions.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Flavia Alaya. The motion was seconded by Ella Boykin and unanimously carried.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.