

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**July 24, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 at 3:30 PM., in the freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

**Present:**        Suzanne Merighi                      Ella Boykin  
                  John Garrison                         Roy Kaneshiki  
                  Jean Jones                             Marianne Lods  
                  Patt Gale                                Penny Watson

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner  
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

**Approval of Minutes – April 24, 2012**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from March 27, 2012 by Suzanne Merighi. The motion was seconded by Roy Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

**Resolution 2012-01: Supporting Grant Application for Broad Street Bridge Keeper's House**

Penny Watson said the City of Bridgeton is applying for a \$75,000 NJDOT Transportation Enhancement Grant. The grant will restore the windows, doors, roof and an interpretive sign will be installed to the Broad Street Bridge Keeper's House. The building will be open for special events. Ms. Watson said all the original equipment is still inside the building. A motion was made to approve the resolution supporting the Preservation of the Cohansey Bridge Keeper's Building by Mr. Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ella Boykin and passed unanimously.

**Update on West Jersey Time Traveler project – discussion of date for culminating launch event**

Matthew Pisarski applied for a final extension for the Time Traveler project. The project must be complete and a final report sent to the New Jersey Council for the Humanities by December 31, 2012. Currently seven scripts are under review, two podcast are complete and one requires a minor edit. Keith Wasserman is working on the remaining four. Mr. Pisarski stated the podcasts will be done within the next 60 days. The website has to be up and live to meet the requirements for the grant. Mr. Pisarski informed the Commission that a soft opening will be done for the website with the first five podcasts. When all 15 podcasts are done a press release will be sent

out. The passport event that was going to be held on a weekend is not a firm requirement for the grant.

Mr. Pisarski asked Alice Dommert for a contact regarding signage for the sites. Mr. Pisarski spoke to a company in Philadelphia about doing a simple metal aluminum sign on aluminum post; however, Mr. Pisarski feels this signage is an opportunity to think outside the normal run-of-the-mill sign design. It was suggested to bring in a consultant for recommendations regarding the signs. Ms. Merighi asked if the historic sites in Cumberland County or the podcast project had a brand that could be highlighted through the signs. Marianne Lods recommended contacting Garden State Signs. Cloud Gehshan, the design consultants for Millville's wayfinding sign campaign was also mentioned as an option. Ms. Watson suggested informing the sign vendor of what funds are available and see what they can come up with.

In the Commission packets was a template of one of the historic website pages. Images will be to the right that you can scroll through or another option would be to have thumb nails of the images. The podcast would be at the top of the page with options to play the podcast, download it or share it with an option to leave comments. Ms. Watson questioned the cityscape background, recommending something more appropriate for the rural atmosphere of Cumberland County. The Commission likes the clean look of the website and the font size.

### **2013 Re-grant Program Guidelines and Application Discussion and Approval**

Mr. Pisarski added a category to the 2013 application, General Programming Support (GPS). GPS was added because several applicants are not general operating but have more than one project for which they would like to receive funding. As well, the State Council for the Arts has the same category. Another revision to the guidelines is the requirement for non-government non-profits to provide a copy of their IRS form 990. A motion was made to approve the 2012 re-grant program guidelines by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.

### **County on Canvas Artwork Inventory – Update**

In the Commission's packet is a memo from Rebecca Ziefle, who is an unpaid intern in the planning department. Ms. Ziefle is doing an inventory of the County on Canvas artwork. To date 22 paintings have been found that were not on the original list. Some paintings have not been located. Mr. Pisarski suggested applying for funding to get the collection appraised and indicated that a complete report on the inventory would be provided in August.

### **Cohansey RiverFest Plein Air Competition – August 25, 2012**

Mr. Pisarski is waiting to hear back from Gallery 50 that they are still on board with partnering on the plein air competition. When he hears back from Gallery 50, Mr. Pisarski will release the registration from.

**2012 Encore Awards – Thursday, May 17, 2012 – 6 PM – Recap**

John Garrison commented that the event went well, and Mr. Pisarski agreed. Ms. Lods said the cocktail hour was not long enough. Mr. Garrison asked if the Landis Theater will be available next year for the awards. Mr. Pisarski said they have not held a South Jersey Cultural Alliance meeting since the Encore Awards. Ms. Lods said the way the awards were presented was well done and the entertainment was great. Ella Boykin asked if the Encore Awards stayed within the budget. Mr. Pisarski will find out and let the Commission know.

**N.J. State Council on the Arts Meeting & Lunch – Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 11 AM – Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts – Recap**

In last month's mailing was a letter from the executive director of NJSCA thanking everyone for hosting and organizing the meeting and lunch. Ms. Boykin commented that several people said they cannot wait to come back to the area. Mr. Pisarski said we can suggest that NJSCA have another meeting in Cumberland County next year.

**Liaison Reports**

Mr. Garrison met with Friends of Historic Vineland and reported that they had more things going on than in years past. Mr. Garrison also met with Gateway Community Action Partnership, which partners with Clay College. Mr. Pisarski asked how Friends of Historic Vineland used their re-grant funding. Mr. Garrison responded that they used the funding primarily for musical entertainment during their event.

Ms. Watson said Barn Studio had their end of the year exhibit and performance in May. She also attended the Obon Festival. Mr. Pisarski indicated that Seabrook Buddhist Temple seems to be challenged by a dwindling and aging population and has suggested to the Temple they may use a portion of the re-grant funding for administrative expenses.

Ms. Merighi and Mr. Pisarski met with Carolyn Heckman from the South Jersey Healthcare Foundation. The Foundation wants to do a joint project similar to the Colors of Hope/healing arts initiative at the Scarpa Regional Cancer Center. The new project would be for the Pediatric Emergency Room.

Mr. Kaneshiki and Ms. Jones said Second Friday at the Bayshore Discovery Project is doing wonderfully.

Patt Gale said the Greek Festival gave the Commission credit for funding in their program book. Mr. Pisarski said they received funding last year, but not this year. Ms. Gale indicated she would suggest that St. Anthony's re-apply for funding in 2013.

Ms. Jones commented that the City of Vineland started their summer concerts. As well, Mauricetown Historical Society is working on exhibits and the Stackhouse.

Ms. Merighi said the Friends of Bridgeton Library will be having their book sale.

Ms. Lods asked when the Purple Martin Festival will be. The festival will be August 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>.

Patt Gale said the drama club from Malaga Camp will be putting on a play called "Polk County Annual Picnic."

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

Mr. Pisarski has been attending the Tourism Council meetings. The Tourism Council does not want to use Comcast Spotlight next year for advertising events. They are looking into advertising at the Atlantic City Airport. Ms. Lods said there are different levels of advertising. Mr. Pisarski asked Ms. Lods for her results from advertising at the airport.

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

The FRP for the Long Range Plan and the Bylaws has been released. Next month the Commission will have the proposals and can make a decision on who they would like to work with.

Mr. Pisarski said Downe Township Mayor Bob Campbell reached out to him earlier in the month. Mayor Campbell stated the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is putting pressure on communities like Downe Township regarding their bayshore villages. DEP is limiting what can be built and is actively restricting services to the communities. Mayor Campbell is trying to come up with a plan to combat DEP. Mr. Pisarski suggested that if the communities could be identified as historic resources on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, the DEP would have a more difficult task in advocating for their dissolution. Mr. Pisarski said the communities can apply for a Historic Site Management grant application to cover the costs of a comprehensive community historic resources survey. Mr. Pisarski asked if Watson & Henry would be willing to reach out to Mayor Campbell to help assist with the grant application. Ms. Watson said Watson & Henry would offer to help out with the grant application but they do not have the resources to survey all the buildings. Ms. Boykin asked what DEP's issue is with the communities. Mr. Pisarski responded that there are environmental concerns relating to septic fields and rising sea levels.

#### **Correspondence**

The Commission members' packets included a newspaper article regarding lighthouses, which included a story on East Point Lighthouse in Maurice River Township.

The Commission members' packets included a letter from Preservation New Jersey confirming the Commission's membership to the organization.

Mr. Kaneshiki asked for information regarding the Plein Air competition.

Mr. Garrison provided a copy of the "BEN Column," which stated that the Commission received a \$12,000 grant from the N.J. Historical Commission. Mr. Pisarski indicated he was aware of the funds but had not received notice from the N.J. Historical Commission.

Mr. Kaneshiki asked if Mr. Pisarski had heard recently from Jim Turk, who recently resigned from administering the Commission in Salem County. Mr. Pisarski stated that he had not, but that Salem County had hired Triad Associates to manage their Cultural & Heritage Commission temporarily.

**Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Gale. 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, August 28, 2012 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.