

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

June 16, 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, June 16, 2009 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present:

Roy Kaneshiki
Patricia Gale
Suzanne Merighi
John Garrison

Penny Watson
Jean Jones
Flavia Alaya
Marianne Lods
Ella Boykin

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2009

A motion to approve the minutes from May 19, 2009 was made by Suzanne Merighi. The motion was seconded by Patricia Gale and passed unanimously.

Southern Shore Music Festival – June 20, 2009

Mr. Pisarski mentioned this years Southern Shore Music Festival will take place on Saturday June 20, 2009 at the Cumberland County Fairgrounds. Bob Rose will provide tickets free of charge for any member and guest who wish to attend the event. Mr. Pisarski will send out an e-mail with a list of the day's line up to all of the Commission members.

Commission Group Photo

Mr. Browne of the Planning Department took a group photo of the Commission in the lobby of the Administration Building.

Update on Wharton Social Impact Corps

Mr. Pisarski said the students started on Monday June 15, 2009. He and Meghan Wren went to the breakfast at the University of Pennsylvania and met with the facilitators at Wharton. Mr. Pisarski noted he and Ms. Wren were very pleased with the two students, Sarah Walsh of Washington, D.C. and Mengna (Jenner) Wu of Shanghai, China. Jenner is a first year MBA student and Sarah has finished her two years and this is her capstone internship. For the first two weeks they are residing Monday through Thursday at the Crew Cabins on shore with the crew of the Meerwald and love it. Mr. Pisarski noted in two weeks one of the Board members has a private apartment in their home that will come available to them. They were both in attendance on Friday evening, June 12, 2009 at the reception. Nancy Moses also attended the reception

Mr. Pisarski said both Ms. Walsh and Ms. Wu are already very committed to the Bayshore and they would be meeting this week with Matt Milam. Freeholder Director Magazzu met them both and would like to host a luncheon for them at the end of their eight week internship. Suzanne Merighi asked exactly what they are doing at the Bayshore. Mr. Pisarski replied they are doing a business plan for the facility once it is restored. Bayshore made the decision to restore the shipping sheds and they will have a certain square footage that they will have when it is all done but are not sure what they are going to do with it or how they are going to generate income and how they are going to be able to maintain the debt obligations they have created for themselves. Ms. Walsh and Ms. Wu are working on finding out what opportunities they can use the space for, what the debt obligations will be and then come up with a system. Ms. Wren has pointed out since the organization's inception it has jumped from opportunity to opportunity with no real set plan. They are hoping this document will put them in a better position to maintain economic stability for the long term. Ms. Gale asked Mr. Pisarski if the Press would be invited to the luncheon. Mr. Pisarski replied that they would be invited along with the Freeholder Board, the Commission, the Board of the Bayshore Discovery Project as well as the First and Third District Legislatures. Mr. Pisarski noted he would work with Martha Rojas, the County Public Information Officer, to do a mid-term (update) press release.

East Point Artists' Day Discussion

Mr. Pisarski said everyone received notes via e-mail from the East Point Committee meeting that was held a few weeks ago. The event will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2009; although he does not have a formal committed answer from Maurice River Historical Society via Gail Robinson as to if they are ok with the date of September 26th. Ms. Alaya said she recently spoke to Ms. Robinson and she was ok with the date of the 26th of September. The Committee has decided they want to keep the Snake Brothers and would like to

keep the music performances unchanged and Steve Eisenhower is available from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to do seining which is with the netting at the boat ramp. They want to send a Press Release out to attract ten artists that will receive the stipend and they will be approved competitively and will have to submit some type of art work as an example. Other artists will also be invited to attend and there will be areas for the ten artists receiving the stipend which will keep them close to the lighthouse because they like the interaction with the audience. Ms. Lods asked Mr. Pisarski to forward the Press Release to her via e-mail as she has a contact list for artists and would like to circulate it to them as well. Mr. Pisarski noted the Committee is planning an event afterwards at the Bull on the Barn for the artists and the Commission and the other people who participated. They are trying to stay within the \$3,000.00 budget but Mr. Pisarski said he may come to the Commission next month to possibly ask for another \$500.00. There is the thought of possibly having kites at the event. Originally back in the day there were kites at East Point Artist Day and they said that would be something that would work really well that time of year. Mr. Pisarski said the last week of September and the first week of October is typically the Monarch migration period and they want to try to bring that in to some capacity and the thought is to designate a trail. The Committee is going to do a tri-fold map like the one that is done for the Eagle Festival. The next meeting is July 9, 2009 and Mr. Pisarski told the Commission members they are all welcome to attend.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Merighi said she has made some phone calls but has not gotten any response.

Ms. Alaya got to attend the Bay Days Reception and it was a beautiful elegant event.

Mr. Garrison attended the third film; Turn Left at the End of the World for the Jewish Federation. All three films were wonderful.

Ms. Watson has made some phone calls but has not heard back from anyone.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the ADA Workshop. He stated it is usually held in the spring. At the Bay Days reception he was speaking the Jesse, the Captain of the Meerwald, and they were discussing the ADA Workshop. Jesse asked Mr. Pisarski if they could host it at the Wharfs and the Bivalve Center because they are currently in construction and making that facility ADA accessible, plus they have the boat and a policy for ADA accessibility onto the boat and said it brings to light some different issues. Mr. Pisarski said he is always looking to try to keep this workshop fresh each year and thought this would be a nice change.

Ms. Gale asked if it was to be held in the fall would there be the possibility of sharing the workshop with Gloucester and Salem Counties. Mr. Pisarski said the ADA Workshop is mandatory so the Commission has to do one every year but he would invite both Gloucester and Salem.

Ms. Watson asked about the Bridge Keeper's House associated with the Broad Street bridge in Bridgeton. She noted this project is supposed to be done in a month and they have cut the building loose and she has not seen it since. Ms. Alaya was told that the Keeper's House has been spared and she would find out where it is being stored.

Ms. Alaya mentioned that today is Design Day in the City of Bridgeton. Margaret Westfield and Walt Ziegler are walking the downtown today and observing the buildings and doing a presentation this evening at the Sheppard House.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski provided in everyone's packet a copy of a newspaper article on Shirley Santos for being named Cumberland County Teacher of the Year. Ms. Santos has served on the Grants Review Panel for the Commission in year's past.

Ms. Gale made a motion to send a letter accommodating Ms. Santos with a copy to be sent to Vineland Board of Education for her personnel file. The motion was seconded by Ms. Alaya and unanimously carried.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.