

# CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

March 16, 2010

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, March 16, 2010, at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

**Present:** Marianne Lods  
Roy Kaneshiki  
Suzanne Merighi  
Jean Jones  
Patricia Gale  
Flavia Alaya  
Penny Watson  
John Garrison

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner  
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary

## Approval of Minutes – February 16, 2010

A motion to approve the minutes from February 16, 2010 was made by Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded by Flavia Alaya and passed unanimously. Jean Jones and Patricia Gale abstained.

## Cumberland County Library Special Request – tabled from previous meeting

Mr. Pisarski said Meghan Wren was present from the Bayshore Discovery Project and asked her to talk about the viability of the Library's previous special request to include a visit on the Meerwald. He noted that after last month's meeting he did some research to find ways to save money for the Library program, proposed to run from June 26, 2010, to August 14, 2010. Ms Wren indicated that the Meerwald is in North Jersey starting on June 26<sup>th</sup> and running through to August, when they are mainly in Cape May with a stretch in Atlantic City. Mr. Pisarski noted with the Meerwald's schedule, participating children would have to take a bus to Cape May or Atlantic City. One next step would be to check with the South Jersey Cultural Alliance to see if they could offer any bus funding support to help pay for the bus. He noted that Ms. Wren indicated that the \$725.00 quoted was the lowest and most affordable education sail they typically provide. Mr. Pisarski asked Ms. Wren if there are other ways money could be saved. Ms. Wren replied they offer a scholarship opportunity that they would qualify for.

Ms. Lods asked Mr. Pisarski how many kids this program would serve. Mr. Pisarski replied he believes there would be thirty kids.

Mr. Pisarski mentioned also that although the budget does not have money set aside for Special Requests, there was \$900.00 previously budgeted for the newsletter that could be assigned. Ms. Lods noted the library is fortunate to be able to keep the summer reading program going in these tough economic times and children do need something to do over the summer, but since it was the Commission's policy when the new budget was passed not to accept special requests, she feels it would not be prudent at this time. Roy Kaneshiki said he would like to here more specifics. He said if the Commission was to allocate so much money towards this project and it falls through, would the Commission get the money back. He is not against allocating some money but wants to be sure it will be spent.

Ms. Wren noted if the library group can not come for a sail, they do offer activities throughout Bivalve. They offer the wetlands walk and other educational activities that would not cost as much for travel. There are different stations, such as the watershed model. Ms. Merighi asked what the cost would be for this type of activity. Ms. Wren responded the cost normally would be \$200.00 to \$250.00, but with the difficulty this group is experiencing with funding, she feels they could get volunteers to help with the program and charge \$100.00. Mr. Pisarski mentioned that Courtney did reach out to Lisa Calvo and they are planning something at the Rutgers Sheppard House as well.

Ms. Alaya suggested the possibility of doing a challenge grant for the program with the Commission putting up so much money if the library could match the funds between now and June. Mr. Pisarski said one option would be a challenge grant with a 1:1 ratio match requirement up to an amount the Commission sets to be used exclusively for Bayshore Discovery Project activities and related transportation.

Flavia Alaya made a motion to award a challenge grant as explained by Mr. Pisarski not to exceed \$250.00. The motion was seconded by Marianne Lods and after some brief discussion passed unanimously.

### **Encore Award Recipient discussion**

Mr. Pisarski said last year the award went to Millville Army Airfield Museum and it was a very nice event with multiple members of the board attending. Flavia Alaya asked Mr. Pisarski what is the range of possibilities, and what is appropriate to fit into this category. Mr. Pisarski replied it would be an individual or organization that has played a role in promoting cultural programming in Cumberland County. The award has been given to individuals, groups, and one

year the award was given to Jane Christy as Freeholder Liaison. Ms. Alaya noted because the Main Street programs in our major communities are under such funding threat right now, it seems a chance to highlight the contribution they make. Ms. Alaya said she would be delighted because she has worked with Bridgeton Main Street and believes that an award for all Main Streets of Cumberland County could be a bouquet of appreciation. Mr. Pisarski noted they could identify the award recipient as the Main Streets of Cumberland County, who would get a single award to be shared amongst the three recipients. He did not see any reason why they could not be so identified and the three entities described in short descriptions, and all three invited to the event. Mr. Pisarski said in the past the Commission typically covers the cost of the attendance to the Encore Award for two individuals from the awarding organization. The Commission could allow covering the cost for one individual from each of the Main Streets with tickets available for purchase for others.

Flavia Alaya made a motion to award the Main Streets of Cumberland County as this year's Encore Award recipient. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously. Marianne Lods abstained.

#### **Teen Arts Reception – April 16, 2010**

Mr. Pisarski noted that the Teen Arts Festival was cut from this year's budget, but we did keep \$1,000.00 set aside to provide some funding to Carol Nagao and the other coordinators. Carol Nagao has sent out several e-mails to the schools and he noted there is a copy of one in everyone's packet.

Mr. Pisarski said Ms. Nagao did a great job with the e-mails and letting everyone know there would be no formal Teen Arts this year; however, there would be a reception at Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts and there would be the arts show component and he wanted to discuss assigning some sort of stipend for Carol to put it together. Mr. Pisarski noted last year she was given \$1,000.00 and certainly does not need that amount this year, as her scope of work is much less, however he does want to give her something for the work she is doing. Mr. Pisarski said also last year there was Amy Sullivan and Mike Cagno as coordinators and they received \$1250.00 each. Mike Cagno will be reaching out to Mo Pagano to judge the art work, so he would get \$200.00 for doing that. The Commission will help sponsor April's Third Friday event and Amy Sullivan is getting an invoice together for that event, as they will have the Teen Arts art work in the Patt Witt Gallery. Ms. Merighi asked Mr. Pisarski what Mike Cagno's responsibilities would be. He replied that Mr. Cagno would coordinate with Mo Pagano and to have him work on the 2011 venue.

The Commission agreed to the following amounts to be given for the ambassador and coordinators:

- Carol Nagao - \$400.00
- Amy Sullivan - \$150.00
- Mike Cagno - \$250.00

Patricia Gale asked Mr. Pisarski if they could ask Mr. Cagno to do a certain list of things for the stipend. Mr. Pisarski replied yes they could.

Mr. Pisarski recommends assigning a sub-committee to discuss the future of Teen Arts. The following Commission members volunteered to serve: Marianne Lods, Jean Jones and Patricia Gale.

A motion was made by Patricia Gale to award the amounts agreed on as mentioned above. The motion was seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously with Roy Kaneshiki abstaining.

### **Rutgers Public History Internships – Jewish Historical Society**

Mr. Pisarski said that a few months ago the Commission discussed the Rutgers Public History Internships. He spoke with the coordinator in New Brunswick who was a little vague, but asked him to send what the Commission is interested in and he would see if they had a student they could match. Mr. Pisarski noted the Commission would spearhead the project and select a re-grantee group that might not have full ability for oversight of the intern, so the Commission would partner with that re-grantee and share oversight responsibilities—that is, the internship would go to the re-grantee, but the Commission would make sure that all Rutgers's requirements and standards would be met. Mr. Pisarski noted there is no cost involved but the intern has to be graded and assignments set.

Kirk Wisemayer from the Jewish Historical Society mentioned he was very interested in a particular project, and Mr. Pisarski noted the copy of a letter from Mr. Wisemayer in everyone's packet, outlining the project, a research study involving Jewish community history. This project is in the County, in Vineland. Mr. Pisarski said this would be a pilot, using one student with a History background from Rutgers New Brunswick, working over the summer or during a semester for a certain number of hours which would be something for Rutgers to determine. He suggested we give this a try as a pilot program and see how it works out. He said, if approved by the Commission, he would submit the letter from Mr. Wisemayer with a letter from the Commission to the coordinator at Rutgers and then see what kind of response we get.

A motion to approve the pilot project for the Rutgers Internship was made by John Garrison. The motion was seconded by Flavia Alaya and passed unanimously.

Mr. Pisarski wanted to add that there was discussion of the Commission

potentially participating in the social impact program at Wharton again this year for Millville Army Airfield Museum. He said he reached out to Nancy Moses to find out and she responded that her instructions from Wharton was they were very pleased with last year but wanted to keep the internships in the city this year. However, he said there are a couple of options: one, the Commission could approach Wharton to see if there are other avenues to internships: the other, we could approach another business school and discuss what the Commission did with Wharton last summer. Mr. Pisarski stated he would do some research and would report back at next month's meeting.

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

Mr. Kaneshiki mentioned how wonderful the Airforce Jazz Band was. Ms. Lods said on March 5, 2010 they had the US Airforce Jazz Band concert and there was a great turnout.

Ms. Watson mentioned the Bridgekeeper's House. She contacted NJDOT and said they expect the next round of grants to be announced in the next month or two. She said they should encourage a grant application, possibly with the city of Bridgeton.

Mr. Pisarski noted he has not gotten a response from the City of Bridgeton for the letter the Commission sent regarding the barrier-free playground.

### **Correspondence**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.