

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES****March 26, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 3:30 PM., in the freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Suzanne Merighi Ella Boykin
Roy Kaneshiki Penny Watson
Jean Jones John Garrison

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Kim Gauntt, Cumberland County Recreation & Tourism
Juan Rodriguez, New Life Alliance Association of NJ
Jean Edwards, Cumberland County Library

Approval of Minutes – February 26, 2013

A motion was made to approve the minutes from February 26, 2013. Jean Jones made a correction to change her comment under liaison reports to say a porcelainized doily exhibit. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected by Suzanne Merighi. The motion was seconded by Roy Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Special Request – New Life Alliance Association NJ – Juan Rodriguez

Mr. Rodriguez passed out a letter and budget summary regarding his request. Mr. Pisarski asked Mr. Rodriguez to describe his project and what he would like funding for. The project is to have a photographer take pictures of the youth of Vineland doing positive things in the community. New Life Alliance Association is a new nonprofit so Mr. Pisarski suggested Mr. Rodriguez partner with an established nonprofit for this project. Mr. Rodriguez spoke to Boys & Girls Club of Vineland and they are on board. Ms. Watson asked who will take the photos, and Mr. Rodriguez responded that Filmaciones Juarez, a local photographer, will be doing the photos. Ms. Watson suggested that the youth take the photos. Mr. Rodriguez said they do not have the funding. Mr. Pisarski asked for a better understanding of the project. Mr. Rodriguez wants to hire a photographer to take photos of children in the community doing positive things and have them enlarged and put on display at churches. Mr. Pisarski asked what would be the Boys & Girls Club roll. Mr. Rodriguez said the Boys & Girls Club has several children that he would like to take photos of doing positive things in the community. Ms. Watson asked how many photos would be taken, and Mr. Rodriguez responded 50 photos will be taken with many more added from the whuzzupquepasa.com website. The size of the photos will be 18" x 36". Ms. Boykin said the letter states he is asking for support with New Life Alliance Association fund raising campaign, and asked what other funding raising will the organization be doing. Mr. Rodriguez said this is the first project they are doing and the special funding would be the funding raising. Mr. Pisarski asked what is the mission of New Life Alliance Association. The mission is to bring out the positive in the community. Mr. Garrison questioned if the project would cover Cumberland County or just Vineland. Mr. Rodriguez commented that they will

only cover Vineland and maybe in the future they can cover Cumberland County. Mr. Kaneshiki asked when the project will take place. Mr. Rodriguez said the photos will be displayed the month of July. Ms. Merighi asked what will happen to the project if it is not fully funded and what are the travel expenses. Mr. Rodriguez said he would find sponsors to complete the project and the travel expenses will be for gas so the photographer can get to the events to take the pictures.

Mr. Pisarski spoke by phone with Chris Volker from the Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Volker said the way Mr. Rodriguez explained the project to him was that a photographer would be brought in to teach the children how to take photos and the children's photos would be in an exhibit at a public facility. Ms. Jones said the photographer seemed to be the one benefiting, not the children. Mr. Pisarski asked how the Commission would like to respond to Mr. Rodriguez. Ms. Watson suggested a better idea would be to have the children take the photos. Mr. Pisarski also will suggest if Mr. Rodriguez applies for a regrant in the fall his application needs to be collaborative with an entity that has already received regrant funds.

Mr. Pisarski introduced Jean Edwards from the Cumberland County Library. Ms. Edwards is asking for special funding for the libraries 50th anniversary celebration this summer. Ms. Edwards thanked the Commission for all the past funding they have received. The celebration will take place July 13th starting at 10am with opening ceremonies. Other events throughout the day will take place including a magic show, entertainment, dancers and refreshments etc. Mr. Kaneshiki asked if the entertainment, dancers etc. will receive a stipend, and Ms. Edwards responded that yes, some people will be paid. Ms. Edwards said the library has done some fundraising. Ms. Edwards said the event will take place outside on the front lawn of the county library. Ms. Boykin asked what roll the Freeholders will be playing in the celebration, and Mr. Pisarski said the Freeholders had not budgeted for the event.

Mr. Pisarski said \$1,000 was set aside for special request, and \$500 was given to the City of Vineland with an additional \$500 given to the Office on Aging. If the Commission wanted to fund anything else from the Council on the Arts funding other budget line items would have to be cut or reduced. Ms. Merighi said she did not feel a strong need to fund either project and the library already has received two re-grants. Mr. Pisarski said that Ms. Edwards can write a letter to amend their grant funding so it can be used for the 50th anniversary celebration.

A motion was made to deny both special requests by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garrison and passed unanimously.

Senior's Month – Bay – Atlantic Concert Tickets

The Commission will get 50 tickets at a reduced price for \$1,000 for Senior Month. The Commission will give the tickets to Office on Aging for distribution.

2013 Encore Awardee Discussion and Selection

Patt Gale and Jed Gaylin were the two suggestions for the Encore Award. A concern was raised that Ms. Gale may not be able to attend the event given her schedule. Ms. Jones said Dr. Isekenegbe from Cumberland County College could also be considered. Ms. Watson suggested the individual that was responsible for making Bridgeton High School a state recognized art school. Mr. Pisarski wondered if Bay Atlantic Symphony would be offended if the Commission honored Mr. Gaylin. Mr. Pisarski said that based on the consensus of the Commission that Ms.

Gale will be the first choice and if Ms. Gale does not want to participate he will send out an email asking for another choice.

Commission Retreat Recap

Mr. Pisarski said the retreat was an informative day. He is working on a newsletter article that will recap the day and will have images and quotes from Commission members. Mr. Pisarski said the information he has gathered from the retreat will have an impact on the strategic plan. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission to consider how it wants to proceed with the two focus groups. Ms. Merighi said she realized that a collaborative effort from other organizations is very important. Mr. Garrison commented that data, collaboration and marketing are vital. Mr. Pisarski said a recommendation from the 2005 Cultural Plan was to have a quarterly meeting with cultural organizations. Mr. Kaneshiki suggested moving the meetings around for different organizations to host. Ms. Boykin was surprised to learn that Mayor Nutter in Philadelphia was a driving force behind the arts. Mr. Pisarski said the mayors of Cumberland County meet quarterly and maybe the Commission could ask to give a presentation when the proper data gets collected. Ms. Boykin asked about Mr. Pisarski changing his title from Coordinator to Executive Director. Mr. Pisarski responded that the revised by-laws should include such a clause. Ms. Merighi thanked Mr. Kaneshiki for the photos of the retreat.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Merighi and Mr. Garrison reached out to their liaison groups.

Mr. Pisarski needs signatures from Buddhist Temple for their 2012 final report.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Ms. Gauntt thanked Mr. Pisarski for inviting her to the retreat. A Familiarization Tour will be held in September in the Millville and Vineland area. Ms. Watson asked who goes on the tour, and Ms. Gauntt responded that media, Tourism Advisory Council members and the Commission would all be invited. The kids fishing derby will be May 5th. Cumberland County will do their tourism promotion at the Atlantic City Airport. The next tourism meeting will be April 2nd at the Cumberland Mall.

Other Old/New Business

Correspondence

There were two newspaper articles regarding Dallas' Landing. Mr. Pisarski indicated that we should hear by July if we received the grant. Mr. Kaneshiki found an article where Dallas' Landing was called Peek of the Moon.

Mr. Pisarski passed around the newsletter from The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey.

Adjourn

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.