

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

May 28, 2013

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, May 28, 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 Merle Silver
 Freeholder Kirstein

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest(s): James Watson, Economic Development Director
 Flavia Alaya

Approval of Minutes – April 23, 2013

A motion was made to approve the minutes from April 23, 2013 by Merle Silver. The motion was seconded by Roy Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Senior's Month Bay-Atlantic Symphony Concert Recap – Saturday, May 4, 2013

Mr. Pisarski said the Commission funded 50 tickets through Bay Atlantic Symphony which were distributed by the Cumberland County Office. The Commission received a list of recipients in their packet. Mr. Pisarski said the Symphony called and thanked the Commission for their support. Ms. Silver asked how the seniors get the tickets. Mr. Pisarski said they usually are mailed.

2013 Encore Awards Recap – Wednesday, May 22, 2013 – 6pm

Mr. Pisarski said the Encore Awards went very well. Mark Melamed received the Encore Award from the Commission, but due to his illness Patt Gale accepted on his behalf. Mr. Pisarski does not have the numbers but there were less attendees than last year. Cindy Lambert, Executive Director of the South Jersey Cultural Alliance, thought that costs and repercussions associated with Super Storm Sandy kept some people away. Flavia Alaya asked how people get invited, and Mr. Pisarski explained that members of the South Jersey Cultural Alliance are invited to the event.

Long Range Plan Focus Groups – Thursday, June 13, 2013

The Commission members received in their packets a draft letter and the list of invitees to the focus groups. There will be two focus groups, with the breakfast donor forum being held in the morning and the luncheon for cultural leaders being held in the afternoon at Cumberland County College. Mr. Pisarski informed the Commission that 25 – 28 people have been invited to each session. The letters have been sent out and Mr. Pisarski is getting back a positive response. The donor forum is trying to capture entities and individuals that are major donors in the area or have interest in fundraising for cultural organizations. The cultural leaders are the anchor

organizations throughout the county specializing in arts and history. Mr. Pisarski would like to have 20 attendees for each group. If either of the groups is low on response for attendance Mr. Pisarski will email the Commission and ask for additional names. The Commission members and Freeholders are invited to both sessions.

West Jersey Time Traveler Update – AASLH Award of Merit

The West Jersey Time Traveler project received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. The award will be presented in Birmingham, Alabama on September 20th. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission's dedicated website has all 15 podcasts up and running. Three signs need to be installed East Point Light House, Millville Bank and Cumberland Bank. Mr. Pisarski will be working with Keith Wasserman regarding a press release.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Kaneshiki received a letter from Mr. Pisarski regarding Seabrook Buddhist Temple submitting their 2012 final report. Mr. Kaneshiki said it has been taken care of. Mr. Kaneshiki attended Arts in Bloom in Salem County and it was very nice.

Ms. Silver said the Boys & Girls Club move has been put on hold and Chris Volker asked if there grant will be affected. Mr. Pisarski said it will be okay to amend their scope of work.

Ms. Boykin went to the Broad Street Memorial Day Celebration and she said it was well attended.

Ms. Merighi emailed her liaisons.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Postponed until July.

Other Old/New Business

Commission members received in their packets a letter and email regarding New Sweden Farmstead located in Bridgeton. Flavia Alaya said some members of the New Sweden Farmstead is looking to relocate the Farmstead to Delaware and become part of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation. Ms. Alaya said there are only three local members on a 12 member board. Ms. Alaya said the local members of the Farmstead are currently speaking to the City of Bridgeton Council. The City of Bridgeton would have the final word as owners of the property. Mr. Pisarski asked if the city has any interest or benefit in relocating the Farmstead. Ms. Alaya commented she has not spoken to all city council members but dialogue between City Council and the Farmstead board continues. Ms. Alaya indicated that all parties involved would like to see the City of Bridgeton make a commitment to supporting the Farmstead. Ms. Boykin asked what the Commission can do to help. Ms. Alaya would just like to stay in communication with the Commission as this issue moved forward.

Mr. Pisarski has received several phone calls regarding East Point Artists Day. It was discussed last year to move the event to another historic venue. There are pros and cons in moving the event. Mr. Pisarski said the day was originally established to help raise funds for the restoration of the Lighthouse. The Maurice River Historical Society does very little to assist in the event. Mr. Pisarski commented the date would be September 14th and there are no conflicts for that day

on the Cultural & Heritage calendar. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission if they want to relocate the event. Maurice River Historical Society has not been notified of a possible change in venue. Penny Watson suggested contacting Mauricetown and see if they have any interest in hosting. Mr. Pisarski will contact them and inform the Commission of their interest.

Bridgeton Main Street wants to get the flyers out for Cohansey RiverFest, the event will be held August 24th. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission has a draft copy for the Plein Air Competition in their packets. Mr. Pisarski asked for the Commission's approval to proceed with the flyer. Mr. Pisarski will be speaking to Gallery 50 regarding judging the Plein Air art. Mr. Pisarski said the crab fest will be held the same day.

Ms. Alaya wanted to say the Commission has been very supportive of CHABA. They held their first workshop and around 20 people attended. The workshop was on how to improve your house in the historic district.

Ms. Watson said the City of Bridgeton applied to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for an enhancement grant for the Bridge Keepers building and they were successful in getting the grant. Mr. Pisarski asked Ms. Watson if she has spoken to Kevin Rabago regarding the signage issue. Ms. Watson said nothing was being done until the city heard from the state.

Tony Stanzione from the Cumberland Development Corporation reached out to Ms. Watson and Mr. Pisarski concerning creating a tour of the historic sites of Bridgeton. Mr. Pisarski suggested Mr. Stanzione look at cumberlandhistorical.org and consider creating additional podcasts or creating a tour app. Ms. Alaya said CHABA would like to be involved. Ms. Boykin suggested incorporating the Indian display at the Bridgeton Library. Ms. Watson would like to stay consistent with the podcast format in whatever eventually happens.

Mr. Kaneshiki asked if there was any updated information on Dallas Landing. Mr. Pisarski said there is no new information.

Correspondence

There is a letter from Richard Grubb & Associates regarding a gas pipeline extension that will run through Maurice River Township. Mr. Pisarski does not see any impact.

The Wood Mansion House in Millville is being considered for nomination to the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

Adjourn

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.