

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

November 18, 2008
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, November 18, 2008 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Jean Jones Roy Kaneshiki
Penny Watson Patricia Gale
Suzanne Merighi Flavia Alaya

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary
Freeholder Jane Christy

Approval of Minutes –October 21, 2008

A motion to approve the minutes from October 21, 2008 with corrections was made by Patricia Gale. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

2009 Cultural & Heritage Commission Regrant Award Recommendations

Mr. Pisarski provided to the Commission a copy of the Local Arts Programming Grant Recommendations and mentioned there is \$105,000.00 in Arts and \$10,000.00 in History Grants to distribute this year. Mr. Pisarski noted the panel met and made recommendations which are shown in the last column of the handout under 2009 Award.

Penny Watson noted there were a couple organizations that were not awarded anything. Mr. Pisarski replied that there were three organizations that were not funded at all. The panel was concerned with Casa Prac because there has been no communication by the organization. Casa Prac hired a consultant and the consultant came to the office to hand in the application, but there has been no communication from the Executive Director or Board of Trustees. There was also enough concern based on their previous history to not fund them.

The panel felt the Cumberland Empowerment Zone has sufficient funds within their organization to fund their own programming. There also was some concern that some of the programming they are proposing is curriculum based which would disqualify them for funding. Their outreach program is almost identical to the Boys and Girls Club and the panel felt the Boys and Girls Club would be better as a funded agency.

The Levoy Theatre had a very good application with a good mission but the concern is the organization is not up and running yet without active programming the panel felt it was too early to provide funding to this organization.

A motion was made to approve the Arts and History Funding by Suzanne Merighi. The motion was seconded by Patricia Gale and passed unanimously. Flavia Alaya recused herself from Bridgeton Recreation Department's vote.

National Register Nomination Workshop – December 17, 2008

Mr. Pisarski mentioned Bob Craig from the State Historic Preservation Office contacted him and stated he wants to do a South Jersey Workshop for National Register applications. The workshop would be intensive and run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Craig would cap the class attendance at twenty participants and he would facilitate the class. Mr. Pisarski noted Mr. Craig was looking for a local partner to help him organize the event in order to advertise for the workshop and to help cover some of the other expenses involved. Mr. Pisarski noted there would be the cost of paying for lunch which would be approximately \$300.00.

Mr. Pisarski mentioned Mr. Craig stated the lower eight counties would be invited to the workshop. Mr. Pisarski suggested that rather than advertising the workshop, since the attendee size is so limited the Commission should consider hand selecting participants. Mr. Pisarski indicated he would relay the workshop information to his counterparts in Salem, Gloucester and Cape May Counties.

Salem/Cumberland Commissions Interaction Update

Patricia Gale mentioned that Marianne Lods sent an e-mail to the members of the joint coordinating committee but that no response was received from the Salem County members. Mr. Pisarski stated he met with Jim Turk for lunch and it went well and they will most likely meet again in December or January. They discussed an event that Union County puts on each year called "Four Centuries in a Weekend". Participants can spend a weekend going to a variety of historic sites. Mr. Pisarski noted he mentioned to Mr. Turk the possibility of doing something similar in Salem and Cumberland County. Mr. Turk liked the concept but stated a weekend would probably not be enough time for the two counties,

but the possibility of two weekends might work. Mr. Pisarski noted he has Ken Browne working on a couple designs for the brochures. Mr. Pisarski stated the event could potentially be scheduled for the fall of 2009 and that costs would be minimal. The Commission liked the concept and asked Mr. Pisarski to present further information as it becomes available.

Joint Gloucester/Cumberland Workshop Discussion

Mr. Pisarski stated the workshop was very successful and had a great turn out. Mr. Pisarski noted there were fifty people who had responded to attend. The feed back has been very positive. Mr. Pisarski mentioned when he and Diane Macris were planning this workshop the discussion was to have the workshop in Cumberland County this time and Gloucester County next. After the workshop Ms. Macris was so pleased with the venue and location that she suggested the workshop stay in Cumberland County next year. Jean Jones asked Mr. Pisarski if there was a list of attendees with their affiliation. Mr. Pisarski replied yes there was and he would e-mail the list to the Commission members.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Pisarski mentioned there needs to be a nomination committee for officers for 2009. Suzanne Merighi, Penny Watson and Roy Kaneshiki responded they would serve on the nomination committee. Mr. Pisarski stated he would send an e-mail for recommendations for next month's meeting.

Patricia Gale provided a brochure to everyone for the upcoming play "Fiddler on the Roof" which is put on by the Gabrielle Project. Ms. Gale noted she has three different parts in the play which is a lot of fun.

Jane Christy mentioned the recent Bayshore Project Oyster Dinner. Ms. Christy stated it was fantastic and very well attended.

Flavia Alaya mentioned tickets are on sale for the Christmas Holiday House Tour. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance and \$15.00 the day of and can be purchased at the Canvas Bag or, the Bridgeton Recreation Department.

Correspondence

No correspondence was reported.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.