

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

November 17, 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, November 17, 2009 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Marianne Lods Patricia Gale
Roy Kaneshiki Jean Jones
Suzanne Merighi

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes –October 20, 2009

A motion to approve the minutes from October 20, 2009 with corrections was made by Roy Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Marianne Lods and passed unanimously.

2010 Cultural & Heritage Commission Regrant Award Recommendations

Mr. Pisarski noted the grants review panel met on Thursday November 12, 2009. He said it was a difficult decision with the reduction in state funding and asked the Commission for another month to review the recommendations before bringing them back to the December meeting for approval. He said some of the organizations were cut to zero funding this year.

Marianne Lods asked which organizations got zero funding. Mr. Pisarski replied the panel felt municipal requests were secondary to non-profit requests, therefore drastically reducing some and zeroing out others, except for Deerfield Harvest Festival which it felt was beyond a municipal event. The panel also recommended a rather severe cut for the Southern Shore Music Festival because there was no strategic plan and audience figures are not meeting expectations so the panel felt there was a need to redefine this event. Mr. Pisarski said the panel provided a little extra funding to organizations like Off Broad Street Players and Vineland Regional Dance Company because it felt that

those organizations are the real core of cultural programming in the county.

The Commission agreed to allow Mr. Pisarski time to prepare the recommendations to appear before their December 15, 2009 meeting.

Building Arts Participation Monitoring Results

Mr. Pisarski provided everyone with a copy of the Building Arts Participation Monitoring Results. He said each organization responded to their questionnaire and felt their responses were very good. Mr. Pisarski noted the results include notes from the three consultants. The consultants note that during a downturn in an economy, programming demand often subsides. During these times, cultural non-profits would do well to spend extra time working on internal management and efficiency analysis. Mr. Pisarski noted that all five participating cultural organizations seem to be proactively working on these internal considerations, which will place the organizations in a good position once the programming demand returns.

Patricia Gale pointed out the remarks made by Nancy Moses for Off Broad Street Players regarding the possibility of some performances being held at the Millville Senior High School. Ms. Gale mentioned that Lake Side School in Millville has a very nice stage and since it is a Middle School it may be less expensive than the high school. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission if they could do some introductions on behalf of Off Broad Street Players as they will need to do some programming in Millville to build an audience base before moving their venue to the Levoy Theatre.

2010 Meeting Dates

Mr. Pisarski provided the Commission with a copy of the 2010 meeting dates. The meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month.

A motion was made to approve the 2010 meeting dates by Patricia Gale. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

Liaison Reports

Roy Kaneshiki attended the Veterans Day event at the Millville Army Airfield Museum. He said it was very nice and very well attended.

Marianne Lods mentioned she was with Carola Hartley from Bridgeton Main Street last week and Ms. Hartley gave her some handouts for the upcoming House Tour. Mr. Pisarski passed around the rough draft of the House Tour Program which has not been distributed yet. The Commission's photo is in the program and the Commission is listed as a house tour sponsor.

Other Old/New Business

Roy Kaneshiki mentioned Clay College will be having a celebration of oysters at Third Friday, November 20, 2009. He said he would be shucking oysters and hopes to see everyone there.

Patricia Gale mentioned the Guys & Dolls Play that she is performing in. The dates are Friday November 20th, Saturday November 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Memorial School in Vineland and then on Sunday November 22nd at 2:00 p.m.

Suzanne Merighi mentioned the nomination committee for officers for 2010. Patricia Gale, Jean Jones and Suzanne Merighi responded they would serve on the nomination committee.

Correspondence

No correspondence was reported.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Suzanne Merighi. 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 15, 2009, in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.