

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

October 21, 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, October 21, 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 Marianne Lods
John Garrison Flavia Alaya

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – September 16, 2008

A motion to approve the minutes from September 16, 2008 with corrections was made by Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded by John Garrison and passed unanimously.

2009 Cultural & Heritage Commission Operating Budget Approval

Mr. Pisarski provided a copy of the 2009 proposed budget and the 2008 third quarter budget to the Commission members (attached herein). Mr. Pisarski mentioned that the budget subcommittee met, which is comprised of Suzanne Merighi, Marianne Lods and Roy Kaneshiki.

Mr. Pisarski noted the Commission is doing well, with a little over \$3,000.00 left in the budget line item. The November event expenses will be taken from these line items and will be left with less than \$2,500.00 at the end of the year. Mr. Pisarski noted the budget subcommittee met and they have a 2009 proposed budget. Mr. Pisarski mentioned the newsletter and based on criticism of the newsletter this year, various mistakes and due to the budget cut from the state it was recommended by the budget subcommittee to amend the newsletter from a printed version to an electronic version. An RFP will be done in December for newsletter services. The RFP will not include distribution and printing. Mr.

Pisarski noted there will be a component to print the calendar of events and ^{he} will work in 2009 to make sure the PDF is on the Commission's website, building an e-mail list for distribution and doing it in a pilot fashion in 2009 to report out at year end to see how participation rates were and whether or not the goal was accomplished. In response to the concern that more elderly citizens are less inclined to accept e-mailed newsletters, Mr. Pisarski suggested that the information from the Commission's newsletter could be provided to the "Golden Agenda" for inclusion.

this will be reported out

Patricia Gale asked Mr. Pisarski if the newsletter content to be provided to the Golden Agenda would be a hard copy mailed to the senior citizens. Mr. Pisarski replied that the calendar of events could potentially be provided as its own component in the Golden Agenda. This would depend on the costs and the responses to the RFP. Ms. Gale's concern was that there are a lot of seniors that do not look on the internet. Mr. Pisarski noted there are a lot of newsletters left over at the various sites and the question is how much of the market the newsletter is hitting. With the budget cuts from the state the budget subcommittee thought of trying a different avenue and to save money on that line item of the budget and see what kind of response the Commission receives. Ms. Gale also asked if there would be anyway to track the number of people who go to the website to view the newsletter. The Commission discussed getting the word out to everyone letting them know that the newsletter would now be done electronically, which could be done by e-mail and regular mail. Mr. Pisarski noted a survey could also be done asking if they would prefer the newsletter by mail or e-mail. Another suggestion made was to do a one page teaser flyer which could be left at the drop off locations where the newsletters are distributed.

A motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded by Patricia Gale and passed unanimously.

Grants Review Panel – October 23, 2008

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the Grants Review Panel meeting on Thursday October 23, 2008 at the Luciano Center at Cumberland County College. Mr. Pisarski thanked Flavia Alaya for her assistance with selection of the panel. Mr. Pisarski invited the Commission to attend and mentioned dinner would be provided.

Salem/Cumberland Commissions Interaction Update

Mr. Pisarski mentioned he would be having lunch with Jim Turk on Monday October 27, 2008. Mr. Pisarski handed out a few copies of Salem County's Newsletter which is a newspaper insert. Marianne Lods mentioned she and Patricia Gale spoke and have chosen the first week of December to try and meet with the volunteer's from Salem's Commission. Ms. Lods noted she would be sending out an e-mail with a couple of dates to meet over lunch.

Workshop Conference – Thursday, November 13, 2008 3-7 PM

Mr. Pisarski provided a flyer in everyone's packet for the upcoming joint workshop with Gloucester County on November 13, 2008. Mr. Pisarski noted he invited Salem County to participate but has not heard back from anyone. The workshop is at 3:00 PM at the Cumberland County College. Mr. Pisarski mentioned he has the flyer in PDF format and will e-mail it to all of the Commission members and asked they spread the word as the workshop is open to the public. Mr. Pisarski noted they do need to register with his office so he knows how many to expect.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Pisarski provided a copy of a letter of support to Penny Watson for grant funding for the rehabilitation of the Old Stone School located on Ye Greate Street in Greenwich. Ms. Watson noted the Old Stone School is the oldest school in Cumberland County and has not been used in the past one hundred years except for art exhibits and bake sales. The school has received a grant to do a preservation plan. The Township plans on applying to the Cumberland County Improvement Authority. The Old Stone School will be on the Coastal Heritage Trail and the Scenic Byway.

A motion was made to send a letter of support for the Old Stone School by Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.

Correspondence

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.