

# CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

October 20, 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, October 20, 2009 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

|                 |                 |               |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Present:</b> | Roy Kaneshiki   | Patricia Gale |
|                 | Penny Watson    | Flavia Alaya  |
|                 | Suzanne Merighi | Ella Boykin   |
|                 | John Garrison   | Jean Jones    |
|                 | Marianne Lods   |               |

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner  
Jennifer Morgan

## **Approval of Minutes – September 15, 2009**

A motion to approve the minutes from September 15, 2009 was made by Suzanne Merighi. The motion was seconded by Flavia Alaya and passed unanimously.

## **Approval of 2010 Commission Budget**

Mr. Pisarski noted the Budget Sub-Committee met two weeks ago to review the budget figures noting the twenty-five percent cut in State Council on the Arts funding received for 2010. The total grant amount from the State Council on the Arts for 2010 is \$101,472.00 which is a decrease of \$35,000.00 from last year. Mr. Pisarski stated the History Funds for 2010 currently remain at zero because he has not received an answer on the grant application and will not have an answer until late December.

Mr. Pisarski explained the recommendation made by the sub-committee was to have as much funding as possible available to the re-grantees, making the bulk of the cuts in the general operating budget. Mr. Pisarski reviewed the line items of the 2010 proposed budget with the Commission.

A motion to approve the 2010 proposed budget was made by Flavia Alaya. The

motion was seconded by Patricia Gale and passed unanimously.

**Special Request: Bridgeton Main Street Association**

Bill Spence, Member of Bridgeton City Council, presented a request for special funding for the Annual Holiday House Tour. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>. In years past the residents of Bridgeton would open their homes each year at Christmas time to have the annual house tour. Mr. Spence said this year the format has changed a bit and Bridgeton Main Street has taken over as the administrator of this event and is hoping to make it one of the premier events for the organization. Mr. Spence is requesting \$1,000.00 for the program book. He noted in years past they had a basic one-color program with the houses on the tour. This year they would like to have a detailed full color program book that everyone could keep as a souvenir and hold until next year's house tour. Mr. Spence mentioned other attractions like a horse drawn trolley ride this year.

The Commission thanked Mr. Spence for his presentation and Mr. Pisarski stated he would contact him. The Commission discussed the special request. John Garrison made a motion to approve their special request to the amount of \$750.00. Roy Kaneshiki seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Flavia Alaya abstained.

*Condition on grant that Commission be house sponsor*

**Special Request: Bridgeton-Cumberland Tourist Association**

Mr. Pisarski said he received an e-mail from Bob Rose signed by Joseph DeLuca asking for \$1,000.00 to sponsor Vineland Concert Series at the Fuel House. Mr. Pisarski indicated to Mr. Rose that the Commission requires a presentation at the meeting for special requests, but no representatives were present.

Marianne Lods noted there would be no further discussion as there was not any one present to request the special funding.

**East Point Open House & Artists' Day – recap**

Mr. Pisarski said the weather was wonderful. He said he was ill and only stayed a couple hours and then was sent home by Jean Jones. The crowd was very enthusiastic and everyone he spoke to was very pleased with the weather and the date change. TNC and Brent Burke had a good group for the nature walk and the kayak tours. John Diorio had a few guests but the ones who did attend were very enthused. Mr. Pisarski said the Mayor of Maurice River Township attended the event and was very impressed. The sub-committee wants to set the date for the event next year for September 18, 2010. Jean Jones mentioned that Brent Burke would like to be involved with the planning of next year's event because he has ideas on how the Nature Conservancy could participate more. Patricia Gale suggested the possibility of asking Maurice River Township to get

East Point on their calendar and possibly put an insert in the township's tax bill. Suzanne Merighi said it was helpful to have the extra signage to find the event. She mentioned Citizens United has reusable signs and thought this was something the Commission might want to have to cover the different events.

### **Building Arts Participation Monitoring: October 28, 2009**

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the twelve month monitoring event is scheduled for Thursday, October 28, 2009 from 1:00 to 4:00 and he has commitments from all five of the organizations who participated to attend along with the three consultants. He said everyone on the Commission is invited to attend and it will be held at the Luciano Center at the College.

### **Disability Awareness Day - recap**

Mr. Pisarski said there was a great turnout. The Barn Studio of Art provided a display discussing their visually impaired classes they teach. Flavia Alaya asked if anyone recorded the event and Mr. Pisarski replied Dave Grennon from the Office on Aging photographed throughout the day. He said he will try to get some photos of the event.

### **Grants Review Panel – November 12, 2009**

Mr. Pisarski stated he was in the process of scanning all of the applications and the process is coming along well with only a few minor software glitches. He said the applications would be going out by the end of the week. Mr. Pisarski noted the Disabled Advisory Sub-Committee meets on Tuesday November 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00 at the Luciano Center for dinner and to review the applications. Then on Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup> the Grants Review Panel will be meeting to discuss the re-grant applications, which is the week prior to the next Commission meeting so he will have the recommendations for the November meeting. Flavia Alaya would like to have dinner with the panel. The new member this year is Jody Hirata from Colonial Bank. She is taking Celeste Riley's place on the panel. Mr. Pisarski said once all the applications are digitized and put onto discs he will mail them to all of the Commission members.

### **Liaison Reports**

Roy Kaneshiki went to the Millville Army Airfield Museum's Open House Air Show and said they had a very nice crowd.

Penny Watson mentioned that on Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup> the National Register nomination for the airfield is being heard by the State Historic Sites Council.

John Garrison plans on attending the Jewish Federation annual meeting tomorrow night.

*Pat Gatz was in attendance @ Disability Awareness Day*

### **Other Old/New Business**

Mr. Pisarski provided a handout in everyone's packet on Art and its Impact on Health Care Delivery. He included this because it is what he and Mike Cagno will be presenting to administration at the South Jersey Medical Center tomorrow afternoon. Mr. Pisarski said the way this came to be is he approached Gary Simmerman, who is the treasurer of the County and who sits on the South Jersey Healthcare Board, about the work that is being done at AtlantiCare. AtlantiCare purchases art work for their new facilities following evidence-based design research (that is included in everyone's packet) and they also conduct exhibits of art work completed by cancer survivors and a variety of other programs. Mr. Simmerman reached out to the administration at Regional Medical Center and they seemed very interested and have scheduled a lunch tomorrow to begin discussion. Mike Cagno was heavily involved with the AtlantiCare project and that is why we called him for this opportunity. Mr. Pisarski will know more at next month's meeting.

Patricia Gale mentioned that she is currently working on three plays, doing props for one, acting in another and assisting director in the third. The Odd Couple will be presented by the Vineland High School Player Players on the November 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The play Guys and Dolls which Ms. Gale is in is being held at the Vineland Memorial Middle School on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

Matt Pisarski and Flavia Alaya attended a meeting at the Sheppard House with Rutgers University staff last week which was the second of two meetings on a festival celebrating the Cohansey River. Mr. Pisarski said at this stage they are just building interested party members and researching other festivals throughout the nation around rivers.

### **Correspondence**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.