

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

October 19, 2010

Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, NJ 08302

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

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

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2010

A motion to approve the minutes from September 21, 2010 was made by Suzanne Merighi. The motion was seconded by John Garrison and passed unanimously.

Allocation of Supplemental Funding

Commission members were given letters from all the regrantees that applied for supplemental funding. Penny Watson asked how much money was available. Mr. Pisarski informed the commission that \$7,500 was available. Mr. Pisarski asked if the Commission wanted to go through each application one at time and make recommendations. The Commission decided to eliminate those applications which were deemed inadequate first. The following regrantees were eliminated: Bridgeton-Cumberland Tourist Association, Deerfield Township Recreation Committee, Friends of Historic Vineland, Gallery 50, Inc., Maurice River Historical Society and Off Broad Street Players. The following regrantees received \$500: Barn Studio of Art, Boys & Girls Club of Vineland, Cumberland County College, Mauricetown Historical Society, Puertorican Festival of NJ and Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center. The following grantee received \$980: Cumberland County Library. The following regrantees received \$1,000: Jewish Federation, Millville Army Air Field Museum, Vineland African American Community Development Corporation and Vineland Regional Dance Company. A motion to approve supplemental funding request was made by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Patricia Gale, and passed unanimously. Ms Alaya commented on how thoughtful and efficient the process had been in spite of how inherently difficult it was to make such choices, and thanked Mr. Pisarski, who said the Commission had also done their part well. Ms. Merighi stated that the Commission should be very thankful to the Freeholders and Kimberly Wood for their efforts on giving

the commission extra funding. Penny Watson said the commission should send a letter to the freeholders thanking them.

Disability Awareness Day – October 23, 2010

Disability Awareness Day is the main article in the October Cultural & Heritage newsletter. Mr. Pisarski will be in attendance. All are welcome to attend. Mr. Pisarski said Carol Smith did a great job on the article.

Flavia Alaya asked Mr. Pisarski if Mayor Kelly ever responded to the Commission's letter regarding the barrier-free playground. Mr. Pisarski did not get a response from Mayor Kelly. It was suggested Mayor Kelly should receive an invitation to Disability Awareness Day.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Watson met with Ron Magill of Salem County regarding the West Jersey Time Travelers Project. Ms. Watson said Salem County is doing a similar project now. Salem County is still interested in doing a weekend with Cumberland County. Roy Kaneshiki asked Mr. Pisarski how the grant application for this project went. Mr. Pisarski said 15 sites have been selected. Mr. Pisarski broke down cost per site: Podcast: \$1,000, Signage on a post: \$250, Spanish translation: \$150. Website cost would be \$2,500 - \$3,000. The commission will know in December if they received the grant. Ms. Alaya asked if the state will provide signage. Ms. Watson said she believes the signage the state provides is along state highways to inform people which exit to get off. Mr. Pisarski said these 15 sites will be a starting point. Mr. Pisarski will email the commission the application that lists the 15 sites.

Other Old/New Business

There will be a sculpture unveiling at the Cumberland County Library on October 27 at 5:30pm. All are encouraged to attend. The Commission is helping with food cost for the reception. The library is asking for additional funding for musical entertainment for the evening.

Ms. Alaya stated the New Sweden Farmstead group met last week. She had been shocked to learn at the previous meeting of the commission that the only marked African American site in Cumberland County is Bethel AME Church in Springtown. Mr. Pisarski wanted to know if the church is the only confirmed site or are there others and the research just hasn't been done. Ms Alaya thought there was research only it had not been taken to the next step of seeking listing.

Ms. Gale asked if the Freeholders were required to attend the Cultural and Heritage meetings. Mr. Pisarski said they are not required to attend.

The Commission discussed the passing of Michele Nadine Morgen-Hogan and requested their sympathies be conveyed to Marianne Lods.

Correspondence

In Commission member's packets is a letter from Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. regarding construction of a wireless communications tower next to the Bridgeton Fire Department. Ms. Alaya said if this tower is built the skyline would be significantly altered. Ms. Alaya asked if they provided an alternative location. Ms. Merighi asked if they said why they wanted it in that spot. Mr. Pisarski will draft a letter stating the Commission's displeasure with the tower's proposed location. Ms. Alaya will check and see if the Bridgeton Historic District Commission has received a letter.

The Jewish Federation has a new director, Steven Schimmel.

The Cultural and Heritage Commission website has had 1,176 hits for the year. An increase was seen in August and September. Mr. Kaneshiki asked what was the average time spent on the website. The average time is two minutes and 53 seconds.

A template of the new artist directory was in the Commission's packets. Mr. Pisarski will give the go ahead to Loaded Media to start the new directory.

Mr. Pisarski provided the Commission with a copy of the 2011 meeting dates. The meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month. A motion to approve the 2011 meeting dates was made by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gale and passed unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2010, in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.