

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

September 24, 2013

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present:	Marianne Lods	Ella Boykin
	Roy Kaneshiki	John Garrison
	Jean Jones	Suzanne Merighi
	Freeholder Kirstein	

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest(s): Steve Schimmel, Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties

Approval of Minutes – August 27, 2013

A motion was made to approve the minutes from August 27th. Jean Jones made two corrections to the minutes, on page two change the spelling of “Peek” to “Peak” and the sentence on page three should read, “Mr. Pisarski asked Mr. Sotnychuk to stay after the meeting to discuss what assistance is available to him.” A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected by Roy Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Salem & Gloucester Counties

Commission members received a copy of the letter from Dr. Michael Sarnoff, President of the Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties. The Commission received back the full \$2,500 from the Federation’s 2012 history regrant. At the Commission’s last meeting it was discussed to ask for a full refund of 2012 funds and based on the response from the Federation it would be determined at the September meeting what conditions would be put in place for final payment of 2013 funds. The funds will not be released until the contracted event is held and completed. Steve Schimmel said he is embarrassed on a personal level and for the Federation regarding the project not being completed in 2012 as the contracted stipulated. Mr. Schimmel showed examples for the 2013 project. Ten to twelve boards will be created telling the history of the Jewish Community. The boards will be shown at the Vineland Historical Society, Bridgeton Library and the Millville Historical Society throughout the month of November. Also, a book will be created outlining Jewish history in Cumberland County. Ms. Merighi asked who will be creating the interpretive statements that will go on the boards. Mr. Schimmel said the Federation works with several individuals that will review all the content before the boards are produced. Information has been gathered over the years from interviews, personal histories and books. Freeholder Kirstein asked about the printing of the book. The book will be around 18 pages, and it will reproduce the information presented on the exhibit panels. The book and panels will be displayed together. Mr. Pisarski asked if there will be an opening reception. The first day at the three venues will be considered a reception. Advertising will be done in the local newspapers. Marianne Lods questioned if it will be on the Federation’s website. Mr. Schimmel said he would like to make it available on the web. Ella Boykin

suggested having the panels displayed at the Vineland Library, and Mr. Schimmel responded that he will see if space is available. Ms. Lods said Cumberland County College has a Holocaust Center at which the display could be exhibited, but Mr. Schimmel indicated he has not heard back from the college. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission needs to set a new due date for the 2013 final report. A motion was made to approve the amended due date of December 15th for the Federation's final report by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by John Garrison and passed unanimously. Mr. Schimmel passed out flyers for the Foreign Film Festival in October. Mr. Pisarski asked if the Levoy did any advertising. Mr. Schimmel said he gave them the information but he did not know if they advertised anything.

Ms. Boykin wanted to discuss 2014 funding for the Federation. Ms. Lods suggested the Federation could submit if they have a project and the Grants Review Panel and Commission could weigh it at that time. Ms. Boykin thinks there should be consequences for blatant noncompliance with the re-grant contract. Mr. Kaneshiki said he did not hear in Steven's presentation any legitimate reason why false documents were submitted. Freeholder Kirstein suggested they do not get history funding for 2014 and could reapply in 2015. Mr. Pisarski said the Federation's art regrant is separate from the history regrant and the funds come from two different sources. Mr. Pisarski spoke to the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) and they said they are fine with whatever consequences the Commission chooses. There is nothing in the Commission bylaws for stating what penalties would be handed down for submitting false documents. Mr. Pisarski said the options would be to do nothing, establish a period of time that the Federation cannot apply or take it into consideration when the Commission receives all the history regrant applications. A motion was made to approve sanctions for the Federation banning it from applying for one year for a history regrant by Mr. Garrison. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

American Assoc. of State & Local History – Award of Merit

Mr. Pisarski went to Alabama to receive the Award of Merit for the podcast project. Mr. Pisarski made a stop in Chattanooga and he said it was very beautiful and used art in much of its redevelopment. At the conference the Garton Road Schul photo was used in the slide show. Mr. Pisarski said he will look at options for framing the award. When Mr. Pisarski receives the official photo from AASLH a press lease will be done. The Commission thanked Mr. Pisarski for a job well done.

The N.J. Historical Commission asked Mr. Pisarski what the Commission would like to do with the \$2,500 that was returned from the Federation. Mr. Pisarski would like to add two more podcast sites. A formal request would have to be made to reallocate the funds, NJHC would have to review the request before a decision was made. There are four sites on the National Register that did not get included in the first round: Vineland High School (Landis Middle School), Trinity AME Church in Gouldtown, Deerfield Presbyterian Church and Fairfield Presbyterian Church. Mr. Pisarski commented that Vineland High School should be one because of the first 15 podcast there are none located in Vineland. Gouldtown has been to the Freeholder board asking for history signage so the podcast might serve that purpose. It was suggested to put the sites in order from oldest to most recent. Mr. Pisarski asked to prioritize them slightly differently with Vineland High School first, Trinity AME Church second and then the final two would go in order of which Presbyterian Church is oldest. Mr. Kaneshiki asked if the same person would be given the contract that did the first 15 podcasts. Mr. Pisarski indicated that since costs would be lowest using the vendors already associated with the project, that the

same consultants would most likely be used again. A motion was made to use the \$2,500 received back from the Federation to install two new podcasts in the above priority order by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

NJ Historical Commission – Special Project Grant

Commission members received in their packet a professional services proposal from Dr. Emily Cooperman for \$18,000 to do an assessment of the interiors of the 15 (potentially 17) podcast sites and professional photography of the interiors. The proposals went over the project budget, so it was broken into two phases with the assessments being the entirety of this phase. Dr. Cooperman and Laura Keim, Co-investigator, are proposing to visit the 17 sites and analyze the furniture, window treatments, floor coverings, wall paper and lighting. Dr. Cooperman and Ms. Keim will determine if everything matches the period of significance of the building itself. A report would be done for each site with recommendations for future period appropriate furnishings for each property. The second part of the project would be to take interior photos of the sites. Mr. Pisarski spoke to the New Jersey Council of the Humanities and asked what phase they would tend to fund, and they would be more interested in the photography. If the grant is received from the Historical Commission for the assessment, in April 2014 the Commission can apply to the NJ Council on the Humanities for the photography.

ADA Accessibility Workshop – Recap

The workshop was a great success, it was held at the Bayshore Center at Bivalve. Several people who attended said they were working on their ADA plan. Ms. Boykin said Mr. Pisarski gave great examples for an ADA plan.

Grant Writing Workshop w/ Rachel Dukeman – Recap

The grant writing workshop was well attended, it was held at Gallery 50.

Artists Day in Mauricetown – Recap

Artists Day was a huge success and the artists would like to have Artists Day in Mauricetown next year. Several artists sold their art and several received commissions to do future paintings. The Mauricetown Historical Society was a pleasure to work with. They had house tours, bake sale and craft vendors.

Mr. Pisarski spoke to several people and exchanged stories regarding the Dallas' Landing project. Several outreach meetings will be held throughout the project with the consultants. Mr. Pisarski suggested that the Commission can include oral history collection during the outreach meetings.

Disability Awareness Day – Saturday, October 26, 2013

Postponed until next meeting.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Merighi said Gallery 50 will be displaying the Plein Air Competition paintings until September 27th. Open reception for John Wernega will be October 4th at Gallery 50. Third Friday in Millville had great weather and the streets were full.

Mr. Kaneshiki commented that 2nd Friday at Bayshore went well.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Not in attendance.

Other Old/New Business

Ms. Boykin questioned the status of Landis Theater. Mr. Pisarski will report on the theater next month.

Ms. Lods said keep in mind when picking a date for the Encore Awards, May 13th the City of Millville will be having a “Mike Trout” event. Mr. Trout will be playing in Philadelphia.

Correspondence

Several pieces of correspondence were in members’ packets.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garrison and passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.