

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

August 08, 2006
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, July 08, 2006 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Suzanne Merighi Patricia Gale
Jean Jones Marianne Lods

Freeholder Director Douglas Rainear
Freeholder Jane Christy
Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from July 12, 2006 was made by Patricia Gale. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

New Assistant

Kim McCann was introduced as the new assistant for the Cultural & Heritage Commission.

Jillian Swartz

Ms. Swartz was introduced as the new Project Specialist for Kim Wood; although concentrating on Economic Development, she can be called on for special projects conducted by the Commission such as Teen Arts & the Raptor Festival.

State Approval of ADA Plan

Mr. Pisarski received a phone call from Don Ehman informing him that our ADA Plan was accepted and approved. They are in the process of releasing the money held due to lack of an acceptable ADA plan. A review report of the plan will also be forthcoming.

N.J. Historical Commission 06-07 Funding

A letter from the N.J. Historical Commission was received informing the county that our Historical Commission funding will remain level in 2007 at \$13,000.00. The funds to the Historical Commission were cut by 10 percent in the state budget; however, grantees receiving under \$25,000.00 were not impacted. Mr. Pisarski reminded them that it is a pilot program. In previous years, applications to the Historical Commission were completed annually, but this past year they created a 2 year cycle. Cumberland County will have to re-apply next year at which time a larger amount will be requested.

N.J. State Council on the Arts 06-07 Funding

Mr. Pisarski informed the Commission that Local Arts Programming funds were cut by 15% this year. This year the Commission received \$134,193.00 compared to last year's funding of \$157,874.00.

Mr. Pisarski suggested the formation of a budget sub-committee to meet prior to the next regular meeting. After discussion it was determined that the sub-committee would be comprised of Marianne Lods, Suzanne Merighi and Roy Kaneshiki.

Proposed New Commission Member

Mr. Pisarski handed out a biographical sketch of Nathan Farbman, for consideration of the Commission as a new member. Mr. Farbman would serve the unexpired term of Joseph Polhamus.

Marianne Lods made a motion to recommend Nathan Farbman as a new commission member to the Freeholders. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

Other Items

East Point Artist Day:

Mr. Pisarski reported on the results of East Point Artists Day, held on August 5th. Although the event was well advertised, it did not produce a large crowd. After some discussion it was suggested that perhaps the date of the even could be moved to September, which would avoid the heat and bugs of August. Mr. Pisarski said he would discuss the idea with Gail Robinson.

Art & Music Festival

Marianne Lods informed the Commission that the Millville Arts of Music Festival, scheduled for September 23, 2006 had been cancelled. She said that it is not anticipated to be revived due to the large number of other events occurring that weekend.

Due Date for our Regrant Applications

Mr. Pisarski stated that the 2007 re-grant applications have been released and are available for download on the Commission's website. The grant writing workshop, to be led by Pat Bohse, is scheduled for August 16th from 6-9 p.m. at the Vineland Community Art Alliance. Mr. Pisarski stated that the Grants Review Panel this year will be comprised of Carolyne Krull, Ronald Sotak, Sally Van de Water, Shirley Santos and someone from Wheaton Arts & Cultural Center to fill the seat vacated by Gregory Coin.

Special Request

Mr. Pisarski described a special request from Gale Robinson of the Bridgeton Public Library. The library is hosting a performance by the Herb Moore Trio, a jazz trio on Friday, August 11, 2006. They have asked for \$200.00 from the Commission, with the remaining amount to be covered by the Friends of the Library.

Suzanne Merighi made a motion to approve the funding, seconded by Marianne Lods, and passed unanimously.

Mr. Pisarski provided complimentary tickets to the jazz event to any interested Commission member. He also provided tickets to the Off Broad Street Player's performance of "Big River".

Marianne Lods invited everyone to say "farewell" to Michael Cagno on Sunday August 13th from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts.

Adjournment

There being no further business Suzanne Merighi made a motion to adjourn.
The motion was seconded by Patricia Gale and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission
will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2006 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in
Bridgeton, New Jersey.