

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

August 14, 2007
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, August 14, 2007 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Penny Watson Jean Jones
 Marianne Lods Flavia Alaya
 Suzanne Merighi Roy Kaneshiki

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary
Jill Swartz, Project Specialist
Freeholder Director Douglas Rainear

Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2007 & June 19, 2007

A motion to approve the minutes from May 08, 2007 and June 19, 2007 with corrections was made by Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

Penny Watson abstained from voting on the May 08, 2007 and June 19, 2007 minutes because she was not present at last month's meeting.

LAP Grant Award Announcement from N.J. State Council on the Arts

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the Commission has received a twelve percent increase making the LAP grant award \$150,276.00 for the coming year. Mr. Pisarski stated that the allocation of funds would be discussed after the Budget Subcommittee is formed.

Building Arts Participation Grant Award Announcement

Mr. Pisarski provided to the Commission a review comment sheet from the Grant Panel informing everyone the Commission has received the full award of \$30,000.00 for the Building Arts Participation Program.

Mr. Pisarski noted these funds are being regranted to five cultural organizations within the county. A selection will then be made from a pool of pre-selected consultants to work with those five organizations intensively looking at programming, planning and implementation at the governing board level. Mr. Pisarski stated this would be a one on one growth initiative for these organizations and will be very competitive. The selection of the organizations eligible to participate was determined by a two-year participation criteria in the regrating program.

Grant Award Announcement from N.J. Historical Commission

Mr. Pisarski stated he was disappointed with the grant award this year. The amount was reduced by \$1,000.00, from \$13,000.00 last year to \$12,000.00 this year. Mr. Pisarski noted there were proven requests from last year of over \$46,000.00. The argument made in the application was that by providing such a reduced amount of funding, it is difficult for Historical Organizations to find the cost benefit ratio in doing the application process and the Historical Commission's response was the Commission should then make the process easier.

Mr. Pisarski mentioned that Seabrook Education and Cultural Center applied for a staffing grant and they were turned down. Some of the comments made by the NJ Historical Commission were bizarre. The Commission felt a letter should be written in response to the denial for Seabrook Education and Cultural Center. Mr. Pisarski stated he would draft a letter and e-mail it to everyone for approval.

2007 Budget Update for Second Quarter

Mr. Pisarski provided a hand out of the second quarter budget report. Mr. Pisarski noted the print out does not include all of the expenses related to East Point, but when the remaining expenses are figured into the budget, all of the Promo of the Arts is spent.

Mr. Pisarski stated that at the end of June there was a little more than \$11,000.00 left. Jean Jones asked Mr. Pisarski why does Steve Byrne get paid less than The Snake Brothers for East Point. Mr. Pisarski's response was that the price that was set years ago has never changed.

2008 Budget Subcommittee

Mr. Pisarski noted the subcommittee last year was Marianne Lods, Suzanne Merighi and Roy Kaneshiki. A committee needs to be formed and meet over lunch before the next meeting. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission for any volunteers. Marianne Lods, Suzanne Merighi and Roy Kaneshiki volunteered again for this year. Marianne asked Mr. Pisarski to please e-mail them with a few dates to choose from.

Recap of East Point Artists' Day

Mr. Pisarski provided the Commission with a variety of articles. The day was very successful, although extremely hot with a lot of bugs. Mr. Pisarski had asked Gale Robinson if she was ready to move the event to September and her response was that it would conflict with Labor Day and she is not sure if she wants to change the date.

Jean Jones commented that the event has been losing public interest and there was only one vendor at this year's event and two organizations who were selling t-shirts.

Mr. Pisarski mentioned if the event was moved to September, potentially the event could possibly be coordinated with the monarch butterfly migration. Mr. Pisarski noted the Commission funds the majority of East Point Artists Day and asked the Commission how the date change should be presented to Gale Robinson. The Commission gave permission to Mr. Pisarski to speak to Gale Robinson regarding changing the date of the event. Mr. Pisarski noted he would urge Gale Robinson to move the event to September.

Special Project Grant Application to N.J. Historical Commission

Mr. Pisarski stated this is the next grant that is due, in this case, mid September. Mr. Pisarski mentioned the possibility of collaborating with the County Historical Society to fund the archiving of the Harvey Porch Collection. Suzanne Merighi asked what the Harvey Porch Collection was and Mr. Pisarski replied it is a collection of photographs of Cumberland County mostly from the nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

Mr. Pisarski's only concern is the condition of the collection and noted he would schedule a day to visit the Lummis Library and assess where they are with the archiving process and review the grant application to see if it is worth doing and will e-mail everyone. Mr. Pisarski stated if this does not work out, there is still the option of a special project grant and asked the Commission to e-mail him with any ideas they may have.

Penny Watson asked Mr. Pisarski what the status is of putting the minute books on line. Mr. Pisarski said he would have to check with Office of Records Management to find out and would report back at the next meeting.

SHARE Grant Update

Mr. Pisarski stated the request for proposals went out for the feasibility study. As of this morning, only one proposal has been received and that is from Nancy Moses. The official opening is August 15, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Pisarski mentioned Cathleen Cavanaugh may submit a proposal as well. The next step would be to meet with a review committee comprised of Dave Mulford, Suzanne Merighi, Robin Weinstein from Salem and one other person from the Salem Commission and Mr. Pisarski. Mr. Pisarski said it should be known by the next meeting whether the Commission would be funded for this particular project.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski mentioned to the Commission that he e-mailed everyone a copy of the Long Range Plan. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission if they had any comments on the draft plan submitted by Nancy Moses. Suzanne Merighi said she thought Nancy did a great job. Mr. Pisarski noted that he would like everyone's comments within the next two weeks via e-mail.

Mr. Pisarski provided to the Commission an article from the Daily Journal regarding Jeff Trout's request for Historic Preservation Funding.

Mr. Pisarski provided an article on the Bell at the Courthouse. The reporter asked Mr. Pisarski if the Commission would be willing to pay for a new bronze plaque citing the correct information. Mr. Pisarski said that he would definitely consider it. Mr. Pisarski mentioned that the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) originally did the bronze plaque and felt that maybe he should contact Sheila McCann to see if she read the article and to see if she may be interested in sharing the cost of doing the new bronze plaque.

Mr. Pisarski announced to the Commission that he has joined the Philadelphia Union League and provided a hand out to the Commission. Mr. Pisarski stated it was a personal decision on his part but felt that it could have some benefits to the Commission. It is located right on Broad Street and was founded in 1862 to support Abraham Lincoln. It is now a private social club comprised of approximately 3,000 men and women and it is a gorgeous facility.

Flavia Alaya wanted to thank the Commission for the tickets to the Zoe Concert. It was well attended with terrific music.

Mr. Pisarski wanted to remind the Commission that the Grant Writing Workshop is being held this evening from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Wheaton Arts.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Suzanne Merighi. The motion was seconded by Flavia Alaya and passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.