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**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**December 13, 2005
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, December 13, 2005 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: *Suzanne McElbain*
~~Penny Watson~~ Marianne Lods
Jean Jones Patricia Gale
Polhanus, JOL
Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kris Lemmonds, Project Assistant *GUEST: MIKE CAGRO*
Kim Wood, Marketing Director

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from November 15, 2005 was made by Pat Gale. The motion was seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.

Minutes Book Grant

The Historical Commission has completed its review of project proposals submitted in September and is pleased to inform the Commission of its grant award of \$3,250.00 to complete the restoration of the second County Records book.

The panel review liked the project and awarded it the highest score of the group reviewed. The request was fully funded.

The Commission would like to have the book available on the website. It will be placed on either the Cultural and Heritage Commission website or the Cumberland County Historical Society's website. Mr. Pisarski in

concerned that the Historical Society's website has been down but he will check on the status of the website. He will meet with the Lummis Library staff who maintain the website.

Marianne also suggested having a visible link on the Cultural and Heritage Commission website for even better exposure.

Nomination of Officers

The nominating committee comprised of Joe Polhamus and Roy Kaneshiki have suggested that the co-chair positions be set aside and only one Chairperson be selected along with the established position of vice-chair. The following are the recommendations of the committee for 2006 Slate of Officers:

Jean Jones, Chairperson
Patricia Gale, Vice-chairperson
Penny Watson, Treasurer
Marianne Lods, Secretary

A motion to approve the slate of officers for 2006 was made by Pat Gale. The motion was seconded by Marianne Lods and passed unanimously.

Retreat – Date and Location

The idea had been to try and include the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission in the retreat because they were a partner in the START project. Mr. Pisarski has spoken with Ruth Bogutz, Cultural and Heritage Commission Coordinator in Camden regarding their member participation. Ms. Bogutz indicated there will only be limited participation from the Camden Commission, primarily due to the fact that they only meet quarterly. She however, would love to participate in the retreat.

Due to the limited involvement by Camden County the location of the retreat will be held in Cumberland County. The retreat will be in the Executive Board room of the George P. Luciano Family Center for Public Service & Leadership at Cumberland County College on January 7, 2006 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Margean V. Gladysz, Mag Net II Principal Consultant, will be formulating a few interview questions. Each member will be assigned a Cultural and Heritage Commission member from Camden to call and ask questions pertaining to cultural participation that were raised in the START project. Each member of the Commission will be matched with a Camden County Commission member to contact so Camden County issues will be dealt with at the retreat.

PSA (Projects Serving Artists) Grant

Mike Cagno, Executive Director of the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts, and Mr. Pisarski attended a workshop hosted by the NJ Council on the Arts regarding organizational grants beyond the G.O.S. and re-grant funding that is received. One of those grants is referred to as the Projects Serving Artists grant.

Mr. Cagno proposed a concept to develop resources countywide for both visual and performance artists that are currently not available. Some of the same workshop ideas are:

1. Portfolio Design
2. How to Present to a Gallery
3. Marketing Yourself as an Artist
4. How to use Technology for Presentations
5. Copyright issues
6. Conservation Issues
7. Networking with Galleries and Museums
8. Alternative Exhibition Spaces

These workshops could be developed working unilaterally with the other two non-profits in the County (Gallery 50 in Bridgeton and the Art Alliance in Vineland). This partnership would connect the three organizations and provide support to all artists in the County.

Mr. Pisarski added that the Cultural and Heritage Commission would serve as the umbrella organization for the initiative. The Commission would submit the grant and administer the funds.

The workshop series that is currently being expanded is primarily geared towards the non-profit organizations and not to the artists themselves. If the

Commission establishes a workshop series related specifically to artists and the administration of an art business it would be providing a new service in Cumberland County and throughout the region.

The PSA Grant is on a three-year funding cycle. The letter of intent has to be in by Friday, December 16, 2005. The application is due in February 2006.

Marianne Lods made a motion to go forward and apply to the NJ State Council on the Arts for the PSA Grant. The motion was seconded by Joe Polhamus and passed unanimously.

Oberlin Smith discussion

Arthur Cox, who wrote the book on Ferracute, has been working with a collection of documents that relate to Oberlin Smith, the founder of Ferracute.

Oberlin Smith was an inventor and involved in the Women's Suffrage movement. Mr. Cox has raised a series of issues that Mr. Pisarski thought the Commission would be interested in pursuing. Jean Jones is working with Mr. Cox on an article that will be appearing in the near future. Mr. Cox would like to have someone write a biography about Oberlin Smith. Very little research would need to be done because the documentary research has been compiled. There are over 600 letters, drawings, more than 500 patents for things from an egg ^{blower}, keyless locks, parts for looms for textile mills and a ^{traveling} walking sidewalk at the Columbian exposition.

Oberlin Smith was the first inventor of magnetic recording. The prototype for that first invention was made in Bridgeton. He was also ^{invented the} the forerunner of the jukebox. He invented a steam car before Henry Ford started producing his cars. His main value in the industry was the Ferracute Company which made the presses and dies to make the parts for the Ford automobiles, without which there could not have been a production line.

Some of Mr. Cox's concerns are that the collections of documents are being housed in Jay Gandy's basement. The collection includes original material and reproductions from the Patent Office. The collection has suffered gasoline spills and will require some conservation. Perhaps through a collaborative effort that the Commission can participate if Jay Gandy would

like to relocate the documents. If the Commission were to assist in the relocation and conservation of the collection, it would then need to do publicity and find someone to author a book on Oberlin Smith.

Mr. Pisarski has looked into the Council for the Humanities and they have limited grant programming. They have grants for conservation but nothing on authors. The Commission would have to find the author and pay for the research. There are awards related to the book once it's published but nothing to get it published.

Jay Gandy has allowed Arthur Cox to use the collection. Mr. Pisarski would like to collaborate with the Lummis Library, the Historical Society and make a proposal to Jay Gandy giving him perhaps name recognition (such as The Jay Gandy collection).

If Jay Gandy were willing to relocate the collection, the Commission would need to locate grant funding quickly to begin the work of relocating the collection, housing it and conserving it.

Marianne Lods made a motion that the Commission authorizes Matt Pisarski to speak with Jay Gandy and the Historical Commission to negotiate an agreement to relocate the Oberlin Smith collection. The motion was seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.

Other Items

Jane Christy thanked the Cultural and Heritage Commission for their participation in the Disability Awareness Day. The event was very well attended. Mr. Pisarski had a very impressive display on hand for the day.

Marianne Lods asked to Commission if it could send a letter of support to oppose the proposed development of the Super Wawa on the site of the Elwyn Campus on Main and Landis in Vineland.

Mr. Pisarski informed the Commission that as an advisory board the Commission could submit a letter to the Freeholder Board. The letter would state the position of the Commission to be that the existing buildings have historical significance and are eligible to be listed on the State and National Registers. It would also state that any development on that site as proposed would be detrimental and would negatively impact the historic structures.

Marianne Lods made a motion to send correspondence to the Freeholder Board, the City of Vineland Planning Board and Cumberland County Site Review Committee indicating that the buildings are historic, eligible for listing and that the proposed development creates a negative impact. The motion was seconded by Pat Gale and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting Marianne Lods made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 3:30 pm at the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, NJ.