

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

December 11, 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, December 11, 2007 at 3:30 PM., in the Library conference meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Patricia Gale
Marianne Lods
Jean Jones
Flavia Alaya
Freeholder Jane Christy

Roy Kaneshiki
Penny Watson
Suzanne Merighi
Freeholder Director Rainear

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary
Jill Swartz, Project Specialist

Approval of Minutes – November 20, 2007

A motion to approve the minutes from November 20, 2007 with corrections was made by Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

Election of Officers for 2008 Calendar Year

Suzanne Merighi reported the recommendations for Officers on behalf of the subcommittee.

Suzanne Merighi made a motion to accept the proposed slate of Officers for 2008. Those officers would be Chairperson – Penny Watson, Vice-Chairperson – Marianne Lods, Treasurer – Roy Kaneshiki, and Secretary – Flavia Alaya. The motion was seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.

End of Year Budget Report

Mr. Pisarski provided a copy of the 2007 end of year budget to the Commission members (attached herein). Mr. Pisarski discussed the year-end budget. The funds were spent as close to zero as possible. The yearly goal is to utilize the budget line item the Freeholders provide.

Freeholder Christy asked Mr. Pisarski what the amount under web hosting involves. Mr. Pisarski replied the web hosting costs are the server fee and the web page name fee, which is \$381.00. The \$864.00 is the maintenance contract throughout the year. Freeholder Christy mentioned the County is working on its own website and wondered if the Cultural and Heritage Commission could possibly link into the County website and possibly cut back on some of the costs incurred. Mr. Pisarski responded that there would be a link on the County website to the Cultural and Heritage website. Mr. Pisarski noted he likes the ability to edit the Cultural and Heritage website independently.

Shared Services Grant Update

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the Cultural and Heritage Commission was awarded \$20,000.00 for shared services. The next step would be to formalize the contract with Nancy Moses. Mr. Pisarski noted he is scheduled to meet with Ms. Moses on December 19, 2007. Ms. Moses will begin her work after that date. Mr. Pisarski stated the time lines need to be amended due to the fact it took a little longer than anticipated to receive the grant money. Mr. Pisarski is looking at the feasibility study to be completed by mid March.

Newsletter RFP for 2008

Mr. Pisarski stated the RFP has to go out every year. This year's RFP was for three editions with the last edition being December, January and February. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission if there are any alterations they would like to make other than just replicating the RFP from this past year.

Jean Jones asked Mr. Pisarski if it worked well. Mr. Pisarski replied it worked very well and the cost was reduced below \$10,000.00. Mr. Pisarski noted he would e-mail the RFP to all the members and asked that they give him any comments to any changes they would like to make to the RFP.

BAP Grant Update

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the BAP Grant is for \$30,000.00. The proposal with the Council is that the money be re-granted to up to five organizations for a pre-selected group of consultants to work with those administrative boards to look at

stewardship level participation in the Arts. The consultants were pre-selected by the Commission and they are Nancy Moses for Planning, Allison Trimarco for Programming and Margean Gladysz for Board Maintenance. The applications for the special grant were released via a workshop that was held in October. There were eleven eligible regrantee's based on the application criteria. The applicants had to have a consistent and positive history with the Commission, which limited the pool to eleven. The due date was last week and there were five applications received for five openings. Mr. Pisarski stated the applications were being passed around the table for everyone to review. The five applicants are the Jewish Federation, The Boys and Girls Club, Off Broad Street Players, Bayshore Discovery Project, and The Vineland Regional Dance Company.

A motion to approve the five applications to participate in the BAP was made by Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Marianne Lods and passed unanimously.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Pisarski mentioned he has spoken with Carol Nagao. Ms. Nagao has agreed to be the academic ambassador for the Teen Arts Program. Ms. Nagao felt it was a great idea and stated how effective it would be in getting increased participation in the Teen Arts Program. Mr. Pisarski stated he tried to reach Molly Caffrey, but never connected. Mr. Pisarski noted there would need to be a discussion on the amount of the stipend that would be provided to Ms. Nagao. Mr. Pisarski stated there has been \$12,000.00 budgeted for Teen Arts for 2008 and of that \$12,000.00, \$2,500.00 is for the coordinators, \$4,275.00 for the Artists/Critiquers and \$4,000.00 for tents. This would leave \$1,225.00 still available.

Pat Gale mentioned that in the school districts the teachers are paid \$25.00 per hour for any extra curricular activities.

A motion to approve a stipend of \$1,000.00 for Carol Nagao as Ambassador was made by Pat Gale, the motion was seconded by Roy Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Freeholder Christy mentioned how successful Michael Nye's exhibit at the RRCA was. They received a total of ninety essays and they have to narrow that total to ten. There will be cash awards given for the top three.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski provided a flyer in everyone's packet for the AIE Workshop that will be held on December 12, 2007 at the Riverfront Renaissance Center.

Mr. Pisarski provided a save the date card for the Yokohama International School. The concert will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 25, 2008.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.