

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

March 13, 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, March 13, 2007 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Patricia Gale
Marianne Lods
Flavia Alaya
Jean Jones
Roy Kaneshiki

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from February 13, 2007 was made by Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded by Roy Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Mr. Pisarski took a moment to introduce Flavia Alaya to the Cultural and Heritage Commission. Ms. Alaya is a resident of Bridgeton and a member of the Bridgeton Historic District Commission. Ms. Alaya thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

Review of Last Month's Conservation with Nancy Moses

Mr. Pisarski gave a brief review of last month's meeting with Nancy Moses. Mr. Pisarski explained to Flavia Alaya that Nancy Moses was chosen by the Commission as a consultant for the Commission's Long Range Plan. The Commission is using a rubric model similar to the Dodge Foundation. There will be two focus groups, the focus groups will meet in May and Nancy Moses will report to the Commission when they have completed their meetings. The groups will be comprised of the regrantee organizations.

Freeholder Jane Christy mentioned to the Commission that a vacancy does exist for the Council on The Arts in Trenton. Freeholder Director Douglas Rainear stated the Freeholders are going to get names of three people and send those names to the State.

Review and Discussion of Building Arts Participation Grant Application

Mr. Pisarski provided a hand out of the Grant Narrative to the Commission. There is a new grant program through the Council on The Arts called Building Arts Participation; it is a START type of funding. START was a pilot program the Commission participated in two years ago which was partially funded by the Wallace Foundation.

There would be an application process in which eleven of the regrantees that are eligible based on the criteria that is established in the narrative could apply to the Commission to receive funding to work intensively with three consultants who are listed in the narrative. The idea would be that the consultants would work intensively with the five organizations out of the eleven to determine if their programming and activities meet the intentions of the target audience or community in which the organization is determined it wants to serve. It would look if there was an accurate assessment of what the target audience should be for that particular organization and they would look at how the governing board is representing that target population. This effort would be looking at participation at the steward level. The proposal is for \$30,000.00 in grant funds. Of this amount, \$27,000.00 would go towards the fee for the consultants.

Mr. Pisarski is proposing ten hours per consultant, per organization. Mr. Pisarski noted the Commission has worked with Nancy Moses and Margean Gladysz in the past and Marion Marchese who did the networking workshop last year recommended Allison Trimarco. Depending on the level of funding the Commission receives, which will be determined in July, the program may have to be amended. The program would run from July 2007 to June 2008 and result in a report from the consultants on each of the five organizations and their capability in serving their community and recommendations on how to improve their service. The program would implement a monitoring program for each organization so the Commission can determine changes and success rates over a two-year period.

Discussion of N.J. Historical Commission G.O.S. Grant Application

Mr. Pisarski informed the Commission that the grant application is due at the end of March; a notice of intent was required by the end of February. Mr. Pisarski requested \$55,000.00 on the notice of intent from the Historical Commission. In 2006, the Commission received \$13,000.00. Mr. Pisarski mentioned that he

attended an informational meeting at Wheaton Arts three weeks ago. There were four Commission members asked to stay after the regular meeting, which included Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester and Cape May Counties. Both Cumberland and Cape May Counties have received funds in the past and Salem and Gloucester Counties have never received funding. The Historical Commission is expecting to allocate considerable funding to the regrant portion.

Mr. Pisarski felt the Commission would receive more than the \$13,000.00 that it received last year. The maximum amount that the Commission can request for regrants is \$50,000.00 plus \$5,000.00 for administrative costs. Mr. Pisarski stated the Commission would apply for the full amount of \$55,000.00.

Discussion of Intellectual Property in the Arts Workshop – March 21, 2007

The Intellectual Property in the Arts workshop is going to be on Wednesday, March 21, 2007 at Gallery 50 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Mr. Pisarski indicated that Tracy Batt of New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts would be the facilitator.

Update on Teen Arts Festival – Jillian Swartz

Jillian Swartz updated the Commission on this year's Teen Arts Festival. The date has changed from April 13, 2007 to April 20, 2007. The date had to be changed because some schools are closed for Easter break. The Teen Arts Reception is being held that evening, which is the City of Millville's Third Friday celebration.

The event will take place at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts and Clay College, both on High Street, and in tents set up along the riverfront. The venue is the same as last year with the addition of ceramics; Jackie Sandro will be the instructor.

Mr. Pisarski asked Marianne Lods if she would contact Matt Daniels at Millville Public Schools since they have not responded. Ms. Swartz and Mr. Pisarski will be meeting with Mike Cagno and Carolyn Krull on March 14, 2007.

Discussion of Morris County Trip (May 30th)

Mr. Pisarski discussed the bus tour of Morris County's Historic Preservation Grants Program. The implementation team met last week, it was decided they would like to take the tour; the tour is being funded through the South Jersey Economic Development District.

Mr. Pisarski stated that after Nancy Moses completed the Cultural Plan for

Cumberland County in late 2005, one of the recommendations in the plan was to establish a county run grants program for Historic Preservation, which the County's Open Space Tax levy can fund. The funding from the Open Space Tax could then be used towards the grants program according to the statute. Morris County has a very active and successful program, after a brief discussion the Commission decided a familiarization tour in Morris County would be appropriate.

There would be approximately thirty-five people, which would include three Freeholders, Freeholder Christy, Freeholder Director Rainear and Freeholder Trout. The Commission members would also like to invite the Chief Financial Officer and the County Administrator as this will be a tax issue. This in house tour is for the Commission to become familiar with what the staff requirements would be, how the funding works, what the review criteria is for accepting applicants and examples of projects that have been successful in Morris County. The Morris County tour is tentatively scheduled for May 30, 2007.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski mentioned that in everyone's packet there are two articles, an editorial and an article from the Star Ledger regarding the funding of the Council on the Arts. There are also invitations to the March 24, 2007 ceremony commemorating the restoration of the Governor Edward C. Stokes Mausoleum at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Millville.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.