

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**May 9, 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, May 9, 2006 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Marianne Lods Penny Watson
Roy Kaneshiki Jean Jones

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kris Lemmonds, Project Assistant
Special Guests: Margaret Custodio & Maria Avilas
Of Accion Social Puertorriquena, Inc.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from April 11, 2006 was made by Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded by Penny Watson.

Accion Social Puertorriquena, Inc. special request

Margaret Custodio and Maria Avilas were special guests from the Accion Social Puertorriquena, Inc. Ms. Custodio provided background and history regarding the Accion Social Puertorriquena, Inc.

Accion Social Puertorriquena, Inc. has been in existence since April 1, 1956 when it was incorporated. The organization was created to assist newcomers to the area. They provided assistance with employment, housing, legal issues and any other issues within the community.

In 1962 a group of members spoke before Governor Richard Hughes to have a day to recognize the association of Puerto Rico with the United States. The day would celebrate Puerto Rican culture and heritage within the community. That day has come to be known as the Puerto Rican Festival.

Accion Social Puertorriquena, Inc. celebrated their 50th Anniversary on April 1, 2006. A banquet was held to honor the organization's pioneers and to celebrate their culture and history.

The organization is requesting assistance with funding in the amount of \$1,000.00 to pay for the music that was provided for their 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance.

Marianne Lods made a motion to approve the special request of \$1,000.00 to the Accion Social Puertorriquena, Inc. to assist in paying for the music provided for the dance. Penny Watson seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

ADA Plan

Mr. Pisarski emailed the proposed ADA Plan incorporating the required changes from the NJ State Council on the Arts. Upon approval from the NJ State Council on the Arts the 2005 final and 2006 initial funding will be released.

This issue will be tabled until June when there will be a formal discussion and vote on a resolution approving the proposed ADA Plan.

Encore Awards – Wednesday, May 10

The Encore Awards will be held Wednesday, May 10 at Bally's in Atlantic City. John Fuyume is the recipient of the 2006 Encore Award.

Teen Arts Festival

The Teen Arts Festival is Friday, May 12 in Millville from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Press packets containing press releases and a CD with images from last year have been mailed. Letters were also mailed to the Legislators from the 1st & 3rd Districts. There will be 15 schools and about 300 to 350 students attending this year's festival.

The festival will be over budget by about \$1,000.00. The budget will be analyzed after the festival. Additional workshops were added and more space in the tents was needed. The county caterer along with providing breakfast and lunch on the day of the festival will be catering the reception as well.

The Teen Arts Reception will follow on May 19, 2006 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts.

Cultural Plan Implementation Team Updates

Team 1 – Cultural Institutions, Programs & Events

Jean Jones reported that the proposal for a Fall Harvest event for Fall of 2007 may be too soon. It has been proposed to have it postponed until the Fall of 2008.

Team 2 – Infrastructure and Visitor Amenities

No Report

Team 3 – Marketing & Outreach

No Report

Team 4 – Partnership

No Report

Team 5 – Resources & Fundraising

No Report

Team 6 – Board Growth & Participation

Roy Kaneshiki reported that the team has joined with the Commission and are having Margean Gladysz present a Board Development Workshop in September.

Mr. Pisarski met with Steve Wymbs regarding the proposal from Nancy Moses to provide retainer services to help with the administration of the implementation of the Cultural Plan.

Mr. Wymbs indicated that the Improvement Authority was very interested in the project and would be willing to fund the proposal provided the Commission commits to an interlocal services agreement.

The agreement will need to be reviewed carefully before a decision is made to move forward.

4th of July Event

Freeholder Jeff Trout has approached Mr. Pisarski for assistance to the Cumberland County Historical Society with a 4th of July event at Potters Tavern. The Historical Society has arranged to have Judge Stanger read the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Pisarski suggested decorating the front of Potter's Tavern in 1876 centennial style. Perhaps with a brass band and connect it with the Court House in some way. However, parking and security would both be an issue in the planning of an event at the Tavern.

Marianne Lods suggested having Judge Stanger read the Declaration of Independence on the radio or at one of the other locations in the county holding

their 4th of July celebration. Jean Jones suggested decorating Potters Tavern and having an Open House for a few hours that day.

New Business

My Part-Time Controller Workshop Concept

Mr. Pisarski has received a proposal from Your Part-Time Controller. The corporation specializes in providing financial services to small non-profits. Eric Frait, CEO, would be conducting the workshop and it would provide guidance in identifying problems within county organization's financial management. Participants will complete their own financial self-assessments. The cost of the workshop would be \$1,500.00.

A motion to approve the proposal was made by Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded made by Roy Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Other Items

Italian Festival – Friday, May 12

The Down Jersey Folklife Center at Wheaton Village is hosting an Italian Festival on May 12 from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. There will be food, music, wine and art celebrating Italian culture.

The Freeholders have approved making Joe Polhamus an emeritus member of the Cultural & Heritage Commission. A luncheon will be planned for July at Marciano's in Vineland.

ADA Sensitivity/Disability Training workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 17 at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts.

Adjournment

There being no further business Marianne Lods made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Roy Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2006 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.