

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

October 09, 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, October 09, 2007 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Penny Watson Roy Kaneshiki
Marianne Lods Patricia Gale
Jean Jones (Conf.Call) Flavia Alaya
Freeholder Douglas Rainear

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

Approval of Minutes –September 19, 2007

A motion to approve the minutes from September 19, 2007 with corrections was made by Patricia Gale. The motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously.

Jean Jones, Roy Kaneshiki and Flavia Alaya abstained from voting on the September 19, 2007 minutes because they were not present at last month's meeting.

Leslie Wright – Department of Records Management

Mr. Pisarski introduced Leslie Wright to the Commission. Ms. Wright is the Director of the Office on Records Management. At the August 14, 2007 meeting Penny Watson asked Mr. Pisarski when the first two minute books would be put on line for public access.

Ms. Wright stated the meeting minutes can be made available on the internet. Ms. Wright noted all that needs to be done is to get approval from Ken Mecouch

and to find out if there are any kind of legal ramifications that need to be detailed. Mr. Mecouch will check with council and if cleared, the first two or three meeting minutes can be placed on line. The dates of these minutes are from 1748 to the early 1800's. Ms. Wright mentioned that she has also spoken with Myron at the County Library. Myron is the person who presently does all of the updates to the county internet page. The county is currently looking into updating and redesigning the county web page. Ms. Wright stated that once Myron has the time available he will add a link on the county web page and Ms. Wright can then download the information into the server. Ms. Wright noted that the files are searchable PDF files.

Mr. Pisarski asked Ms. Wright to keep him informed so he is able to pass the information along to the Commission. He stated it does meet the commitment to the Historical Commission.

Letter from Marc Mappen

Mr. Pisarski noted that in everyone's packet there is a response to Director Rainear's letter to Marc Mappen dated September 14, 2007. In addition, there is a letter from the Third District Legislators who were copied on both Director Rainear's letter and Marc Mappen's response. The Third District Legislators are going to continue questioning the funding based on what they have received as far as correspondence from Marc Mappen.

Mr. Pisarski has contacted Sara Cureton at Mr. Mappen's suggestion and a meeting is going to be scheduled in Trenton in which they will review exemplary examples of grant applications. Mr. Pisarski stated he will be receiving the full notes from the review including the entire minutes from the meeting. Mr. Pisarski will talk to Ms. Curreton about ways in which the Commission can increase their funding in the short term.

Director Rainear did not feel the response from Mr. Mappen was what the Commission was looking for, but stated the Commission would certainly work on following the suggestions he made. A letter from Vic Baker dated October 01, 2007 was included in everyone's packet responding to Mr. Mappen's response and Director Rainear asked that the letter be forwarded to the State Historical Commission.

Advocates for N.J. History Schedule Conflict Discussion

Mr. Pisarski noted that today was the annual meeting by the Advocates for New Jersey. Mr. Pisarski stated the understanding at the time he was asked to serve as trustee there would not be a scheduling conflict. The meetings will be held on the second Tuesday every other month. Mr. Pisarski stated that next month's Cultural & Heritage meeting would be held on Tuesday November 20, 2007 and

there was also the suggested 2008 meeting dates in everyone's packet with some being held on the second Tuesday and others on the third Tuesday.

Penny Watson asked Mr. Pisarski if all of the meetings could be held on the third Tuesday of every month. Mr. Pisarski replied he did not have a problem with the third Tuesday. Mr. Pisarski suggested the Commission vote on the 2008 dates at next month's meeting after everyone has had a chance to review the dates.

ADA Subcommittee Meeting – October 23rd, 2007
Grants Review Panel Meeting – October 24th, 2007

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the Commission has received the applications and they have been forwarded to the Grants Review Panel and the ADA Subcommittee. The ADA Subcommittee meets on October 23, 2007. The meeting will be at the College in the Luciano Center from 6:00 to 9:00 with dinner being served. Mr. Pisarski noted there will be plenty of food and told the Commission members they are all welcome to attend. The following evening, Wednesday October 24, 2007 the Grants Review Panel will meet also at the Luciano Center.

Ms. Alaya asked Mr. Pisarski to describe the ADA Subcommittee. Mr. Pisarski replied it is a subcommittee of this Commission which was established two years ago, they are comprised of four members of the Disabled Advisory Council. The members specifically review the ADA components of the applications looking at the ADA plans which are required for submission, the communications and publicity plan to ensure there is inclusion in the plan and review the narrative. Mr. Pisarski stated this is a proactive attempt to bring accessibility to the forefront.

Mr. Pisarski stated the Grants Review Panel is comprised of six members of the community that are not directly funded through the grant. These members review all the applications with the ADA Subcommittee comments to consider.

Ms. Alaya asked Mr. Pisarski how the panel is chosen. Mr. Pisarski replied the panel serves three year terms and the criteria he looks for are members of the arts and history community that have a familiarity with the programming that goes on in Cumberland County. The members can be either in county or out but most of the time they are in county and are available and have an interest. Mr. Pisarski noted if there is a situation where a members term ends, he would then bring it to the Commission for consideration of someone else to serve. Mr. Pisarski stated there are also occasions where an emergency rises, as for instance this year Carolyn Krull of RRCA was unable to serve, therefore, Mr. Pisarski asked Mike Cagno of the Noyes Museum to step in and Mike offered to serve. This years members are Celeste Riley from the City of Bridgeton, Mike Cagno, Shirley Santos, Karen Adams and Ron Sotak. The sixth person was Sally Vanderwater a folklorist who previously worked at Bayshore but has since

moved to the Nature Conservancy. Mr. Pisarski hopes she will be able to serve.

Mr. Pisarski stated the members whose term will expire this year would be brought before the Commission which would allow several months for replacements to be found.

Long Range Plan Final Version Submission

Mr. Pisarski provided Nancy Moses with the suggested corrections from the Commission and Ms. Moses then incorporated them and printed out final versions of the Long Range Plan. Mr. Pisarski stated all the Commission members have a spiral bound copy of the Long Range Plan and a copy will be forwarded to the Council on the Arts and the Historical Commission. Mr. Pisarski noted copies will also be provided to all of the members of the focus group, therefore allowing the regrantee's to see their efforts in the focus group process resulted in something positive.

Council on the Arts Site Visit – November 1st, 2007

Mr. Pisarski noted the funding the Commission receives from the Council on the Arts is in a three year cycle. This year is the last year of that funding. Mr. Pisarski stated he would be applying in the spring for the next three year cycle of funding. In preparation the Council always conducts site visits with outside experts from the Arts field to visit with Commission members and Regrantee's. This visit will last approximately three hours and is scheduled for November 1, 2007.

Mr. Pisarski stated the person who will be visiting is Martha Strodel from the Adirondack region of New York State who is a rural arts administrator. Ms. Strodel is reviewing Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties for the Council. Mr. Pisarski mentioned Ms. Strodel wants to meet with two to three Commission members and would like to see two to three Regrantee's. Ms. Strodel also wants to meet with Mr. Pisarski and with one of the Freeholder Liaisons. Each meeting will be approximately twenty minutes. Mr. Pisarski noted Ms. Strodel is staying in the Millville area and mentioned that she would like to visit the Millville Arts District.

Mr. Pisarski suggested taking Ms. Strodel to The Clay College, The Millville Army Airfield Museum and the Bayshore Discovery Project. The meetings with the Commission members and the Freeholder Liaison will be scheduled at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts with lunch being served. Mr. Pisarski asked Suzanne Merighi and Marianne Lods if they would be able to attend.

Suzanne can attend, but Marianne has prior commitments. Mr. Pisarski mentioned he would be looking for one or two additional Commission members to meet with Ms. Strodel. Flavia Alaya noted her interest. Mr. Pisarski replied he would mark Flavia as a yes and noted he had to confirm with Freeholder Rainear to see if he would be available. Roy Kaneshiki stated he would be able to attend.

Update on Teen Arts – Jillian Swartz

Ms. Swartz spoke with Nancy Cobb from the Superintendent's office and asked if a presentation could be given by herself at the teachers in-service on October 5, 2007. Ms. Swartz stated she never got a response. Ms. Swartz placed another call to Ms. Cobb and mentioned that she had packets for the teachers and asked if she was to bring them to her office could they be distributed to the teachers. As far as Ms. Swartz knows they were distributed. Mr. Pisarski noted that in the packets were the basic applications, contact information for both himself and Ms. Swartz, the Commission's website information with all the forms available online.

Ms. Gale asked Ms. Swartz how she made out with Vineland and Ms. Swartz replied she did not speak with anyone at Vineland. Mr. Pisarski stated the next step would be working on the initial letters to the different schools. Mr. Pisarski has spoken to Molly Caffrey, she has indicated an interest in being the academic ambassador. Mr. Pisarski has asked Ms. Caffrey to give it some more thought and let him know within the week if she is interested. Mr. Pisarski noted if Ms. Caffrey is interested there would then need to be a discussion for the stipen for that position at the next meeting. The Teen Arts came in under budget for 2007, therefore the money should be budgeted for 2008 to provide compensation for the academic ambassador. Mr. Pisarski mentioned the possibility of having two academic ambassadors if the Commission feels that is something they would like to do, then the Commission could approach both Ms. Caffrey and Ms. Nagao. Mr. Pisarski noted Ms. Caffrey's experience is more with the western side of the county, being a teachers aide at Greenwich. Mr. Kaneshiki was looking at the networking aspect and felt that with all the years of teaching, Ms. Nagao would be a good fit. Mr. Pisarski mentioned he would contact Ms. Nagao to see if she is interested and if so there would be two ambassadors.

Discussion of Eagle Festival Art Contest

Mr. Pisarski mentioned that last year there were some issues with the participation in the Eagle Festival Art Contest. Mr. Pisarski stated Glenn Nickerson typically conducts the Eagle Festival and was asked by Mr. Nickerson if he could facilitate the festival since he would be retiring at the end of the year. Mr. Pisarski replied that based on his workload, he could not take on that responsibility, therefore Mr. Pisarski and Ms. Swartz are collectively working on the Eagle Festival with Mr. Nickerson overseeing the process with the idea of next year Ms. Swartz taking over the majority of the responsibility with Mr. Pisarski overseeing it. Mr. Pisarski has spoken with Leslie Ficaglia to let her

know of the changes and has asked that she talk with her committee to take on a lot of the responsibility.

Mr. Pisarski indicated Sue Slotterback from the Cape May Bird Observatory did receive grant funding to conduct the education days again this year. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission if they wanted to try the art contest again this year. If yes, should it be amended in any way given the fact there was very reduced participation last year. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission if they had any suggestions on how to improve the participation rate.

Mr. Pisarski noted last year there was gallery space set aside at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the display of the art. Mr. Pisarski had to give a definitive yes or no on the art contest due to the commitment of the space. Without having a commitment on the space the Commission could have then conducted a limited art contest with it being displayed at the Eagle Festival. Mr. Pisarski stated he could ask Sue Slotterback of the Cape May Bird Observatory if she could coordinate with the schools and the Commission could provide the necessary forms that could be included with her packages regarding education days. The other suggestion Mr. Pisarski made was to forgo an art contest and think of other ways to bring art into the Eagle Festival.

Penny Watson made the suggestion of giving the art contest a rest and to possibly try something different especially with the transition of new people overseeing the Eagle Festival. Mr. Pisarski noted the Commission has a table at the Eagle Festival and for the past two years they have had clay through the Clay College with Jackie Sandro and Roy Kaneshiki. The participation has been very positive, also allowing the kids to bring home what they made.

The Commission agreed to table the art contest for this year and will revisit it for next year. They also approved Clay College's participation in the children's Activity Table again for this coming year.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski provided the Commission members with a brochure on the Michael Nye Exhibit at the Riverfront Renaissance Center. The Commission provided special funding of \$1,000.00 towards this event.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2007 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.