

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

September 19, 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, September 19, 2007 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Penny Watson
Marianne Lods
Suzanne Merighi

Roy Kaneshiki - *Correction*
Patricia Gale - *yo*

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

Approval of Minutes –August 14, 2007

A motion to approve the minutes from August 14, 2007 was made by Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

Director Rainear Correspondence Regarding NJHC Grant Awards

Mr. Pisarski provided to the Commission a copy of the letter from Doug Rainear to Marc Mappen at the New Jersey Historical Commission.

The Commission felt it was a very well written letter and asked Mr. Pisarski if he had received a response. Mr. Pisarski stated he has not yet received a response, but would forward it to everyone via e-mail once he did receive one.

Proposed 2008 Commission Budget

Mr. Pisarski provided a copy of the 2008 proposed budget to the Commission members (attached herein). Mr. Pisarski mentioned that the budget sub-committee met last week, which is comprised of Suzanne Merighi, Marianne Lods and Roy Kaneshiki.

Mr. Pisarski noted if the Commission resolve to follow the proposed, there would be \$115,000.00 to give out in the arts regrant rather than \$100,000.00, which would be a nice increase to the regrantee's.

A motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Penny Watson. The motion was seconded by Marianne Lods and passed unanimously.

Re-Grant Applications Discussion – Grants Review Panel Schedule

Mr. Pisarski mentioned that Friday September 14, 2007 was the due date for the regrants and he has just finished reviewing them and stated they are in good shape this year. Several of the organizations submitted DVD's which will be shown to both the ADA Sub-Committee and the Grants Review Panel.

Mr. Pisarski mentioned that there has been nothing submitted by the Bridgeton Library. Mr. Pisarski stated he has put a call into Gale Robinson to find out if they will be submitting an application. The Clay College will not be submitting an application this year. Jackie Sandro stated she is planning something big for 2009.

Mr. Pisarski stated that there were two applications received this year, one from Bridgeton Recreation and the other from Bridgeton-Cumberland Tourism. This is an addition to what the Commission has received in the past and this is due to Bob Rose now being with Bridgeton-Cumberland Tourism exclusively.

Suzanne Merighi asked Mr. Pisarski how Festival Puertorriqueuno did with their application this year. Mr. Pisarski replied there was much improvement over last year.

Mr. Pisarski mentioned to the Commission that he had a guest stop by last week, Sonal Joshi who is from the Indian Community and she lives in Millville. Sonal was inquiring about what services the Commission could provide her and her community. Sonal is a member of BAPS (a religious-Hindu organization) and indicated to Mr. Pisarski she is just getting started with community non-profit work. They do not have a local presence in Cumberland County and they would like to build a temple in Cumberland County. The closest temple is located in

Cherry Hill. Mr. Pisarski let Sonal know that should BAPS establish a local presence she could potentially receive regrant funding. Sonal indicated they have started a local non-profit called Friends of India Society Incorporated which is located in Vineland. They have just received their paperwork and presently they do not have an active board. Sonal mentioned to Mr. Pisarski that she would potentially be interested in a special request. Mr. Pisarski stated the Commission would be willing to consider her special request. Suzanne Merighi asked Mr. Pisarski if he would keep them informed of any workshops. Mr. Pisarski replied that yes he would.

Mr. Pisarski informed the Commission that the ADA Sub-Committee will be first to meet in mid October and then the Grants Review Panel will be at the end of October. Mr. Pisarski stated that both would be held at the College this year.

Building Arts Participation Update – Initial Consultant Meeting

Mr. Pisarski mentioned that the Commission received the full grant amount of \$30,000.00. The three consultants, Nancy Moses, Margean Gladysz and Allison Trimarco were all still interested. There was a meeting last week with the consultants where they reviewed the scope of the project and the eleven grantee's who are eligible to participate.

The next step will be to send a letter to the eleven organizations inviting them to an evening workshop where the grant will be explained and hand out a short application. Mr. Pisarski stated this would be very competitive, as they have to bring the applicants down to five.

Mr. Pisarski noted he would set early November as the due date for the applications and a sub-committee can be formed or they can be reviewed by the Commission and select the five they want to concentrate on. After the five have been chosen, there would be another meeting with the consultants, and then the organizations would meet with the consultants present. The consultants would then work independently with the five organizations on building stewardship participation throughout the rest of the year and into 2008.

Salem County Emergency Interlocal Services Agreement

Mr. Pisarski mentioned to the Commission that Robin Weinstein contacted him last week. Salem County had hired an Arts Director to serve in the interim while Cumberland County did the feasibility analysis for shared services. That person then was suppose to be the full time staff person at Salem should we arrive at some sort of shared services agreement. Mr. Weinstein indicated to Mr. Pisarski

that the person lasted three weeks and then quit via e-mail. Mr. Weinstein asked Mr. Pisarski if the Commission could possibly help them on an emergency basis. Mr. Pisarski replied that it would be very limited and asked what they needed. Mr. Weinstein stated they are in their regrant process and have no expertise in the re-grant program. Mr. Pisarski indicated that provided the Freeholders agreed, the Commission could potentially provide some emergency assistance, limited to the basic process of getting the re-grant program through in Salem between now and December. This would entail doing one workshop, facilitating the grants review panel, attending the Commission meetings and then processing the applications.

Mr. Pisarski spoke to the Freeholders in closed session last week, they indicated that the most appropriate arrangement would be for Mr. Pisarski to offer private consulting services to them on a project oriented basis and the Freeholders indicated they would allow that. Mr. Pisarski provided Mr. Weinstein with a proposal for services just to maintain their regrant program through the end of the year.

County Disability Awareness Day – Saturday October 20, 2007

Mr. Pisarski informed the Commission that the County Disability Awareness Day is scheduled for Saturday October 20, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the college. Mr. Pisarski stated he would contact all of the regrantee's to get brochures for the event and encouraged the Commission to stop by.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski provided the Commission with the schedule for the Yokohama International School tour. The Commission will be paying for their overnight stay on Tuesday March 26, 2007. The event in Cumberland County will be an all day event starting in Seabrook and finishing at the college.

Ms. Swartz provided the Commission with an update on Teen Arts. Ms. Swartz stated she and Mr. Pisarski met with Carolyn Krull and Mike Cagno to discuss important dates for the 2008 event.

The dates that will be put on the forms for a deadline for submitting the applications will be March 28, 2008. Staff will consider the cut off date as April 4, 2008 as this will allow the staff to be less stressed over the schools not submitting applications on or before March 28, 2008. Ms. Swartz stressed however, if schools have not submitted applications by 9:00 a.m. on April 7, 2008, they will not be allowed to participate. The week of April 14, 2008, students will drop off artwork at the RRCA between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for judging. Judging will be held from Monday April 14, 2008 through Friday April 18, 2008.

The Teen Arts Reception will be held on Friday April 18, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., which will also coincide with Millville's Third Friday. The 2008 Teen Arts event will be held on Friday May 2, 2008 at the Riverfront and RRCA building. The date was changed to try and avoid testing, Easter/Spring break, dreary weather and proms.

Mr. Pisarski mentioned to the Commission that Ms. Swartz is waiting on a reply from the schools regarding the teacher in-service for October. The art teachers will be out of town on a field trip. The music teachers and performing art teachers may be available but they have not heard if they will be. Mr. Pisarski stated they could at least get the packets to the superintendent to hand out to the teachers.

Mr. Pisarski mentioned that there has been discussion regarding the Academic Ambassador . Mr. Pisarski spoke to Jackie Sandro of the Clay College and she was going to check to see if Molly Caffry would be interested. Molly works at the Clay College and teaches at Greenwich Elementary School. If Molly cannot or is not interested, Mr. Pisarski thought of Carolyn Nagao. Mr. Pisarski is hoping to have someone chosen by next meeting. (Carol)

Mr. Pisarski responded to Penny Watson's question from last month's meeting regarding placing the transcripts of the historic Freeholders minutes online. Mr. Pisarski stated the county just started with a minute track program. Current meeting minutes are now available online through the county website. Mr. Pisarski asked Leslie Wright who is the director of Office of Records Management what they had planned for the historic records. Ms. Wright's reply was that they are purchasing software to have previous meeting minutes online. They are going back in time chronologically, so the two most historic minute books will be the last two to be put online. The project is a Paris funded project. In the meantime, Ms. Wright provided Mr. Pisarski with a transcript of the first meeting minutes, which could be put on the Commission's website. The county's software would be searchable. Mr. Pisarski stated he would ask Ms. Wright to attend next month's meeting so she can discuss the software with the Commission.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Suzanne Merighi. 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, October 09, 2007 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.