

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

July 20, 2010

Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, NJ 08302

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present:	Penny Watson	Jean Jones
	Roy Kaneshiki	John Garrison
	Flavia Alaya	Ella Boykin

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary
Kim McCann

Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2010

A motion to approve the minutes from July 20, 2010 was made by Ella Boykin. The motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously.

Encore Award Reception – Recap

Matthew Pisarski discussed the fact that Carola Hartley, Todd Noone and Marianne Lods were the recipients of the 2010 Encore Awards. He mentioned that one of the issues which seems to be recurring with the event is that once again none of the Cultural and Heritages slides were shown at the awards. Mr. Pisarski asked the staff of the South Jersey Cultural Alliance why the slides he submitted were not used. They said every year a theme is picked and the slides did not match the theme. Mr. Pisarski was not aware that a different theme was picked every year. They assured Mr. Pisarski that next year the images he submits will be included in the presentation. Flavia Alaya asked Mr. Pisarski what he meant by images. Mr. Pisarski's gets photos from different county events and receives photos from the regrantees. When the notice for next year's Encore Awards gets sent out again Mr. Pisarski will contact Cindy Lambert and remind her that none of the images that Mr. Pisarski sent the two years before were shown. Roy Kaneshiki informed the commission that the Bridgeton paper did not give publicity to Bridgeton Main Street for receiving an award. Mr. Pisarski indicated a photo of the award recipients is on the Cultural and Heritage website.

East Point Artists' Day Update

Mr. Pisarski informed the commission that he had a meeting with the East Point Artists' Day Committee. He said they are challenged by a reduced budget. Last year's budget was \$3,000, while this year's budget was reduced by \$500 to \$2,500. The two performers, Steve Byrne and the Snake Brothers agreed to reduce their cost by 20%. Citizens United, who manages the Paint the Lighthouse tent, reduced their rate by \$75. The number of artists who receive stipends also will be reduced from 10 to 8. No savings has been found regarding port-o-pots. Mr. Kaneshiki asked what is involved with the Citizens United tent. Mr. Pisarski said a tent is set up so children can render the lighthouse in watercolor. Jean Jones said last year Brent Burke, who was with the Nature Conservancy, told her he would like to be more involved with East Point. Mr. Pisarski said Mr. Burke is no longer with the Nature Conservancy. The new contact is Alyssa Jones. Mr. Pisarski said she has been contacted to participate this year. Steve Eisenhauer who is with the Natural Lands Trust, would like the Nature Conservancy to take the lead because he has an event the next day.

NJHC Special Project Grant Application

Mr. Pisarski said this grant is due in September. The commission applied last year, but did not receive any funds. There were a lot of applicants and only a small percentage received grant money. The commission received good feed back from the review panel with a few minor suggestions for improvements. Mr. Pisarski said he will be doing a grant application for special project funding again this year. He asked the commission for ideas. Ms. Alaya inquired about the grant. Mr. Pisarski said it has to be history related. He will email everyone the panel comments and application from last year. Ella Boykin asked about the date. Mr. Pisarski said the due date is the end of September.

Teen Arts Subcommittee Meeting Update

Ms. Jones gave an update on Teen Arts. Ms. Jones said the Teens Arts Subcommittee is working on a totally new concept. The new idea is to put teen arts instructors in the schools. This would eliminate the need for buses. Teachers would be selected on different topics and students would sign up for the topic they were interested in. Mike Cagno, with the Noyes Museum, had a lot of input. Mr. Pisarski said the Noyes Museum runs a similar program. Ms. Jones said they want to go for quality not quantity for the teen arts program. By having the program at the school you can eliminate the cost of tent rental and schools paying for busing. Penny Watson asked how many schools it would reach. Mr. Pisarski said it would be for 9th and 10th grade so only the high schools would participate. Mr. Pisarski will keep the commission updated.

Cohansey RiverFest – August 28, 2010

Mr. Pisarski said the RiverFest will be held August 28th. Mr. Pisarski emailed out information on the Plein Air Competition, which is being sponsored by the commission. Ms. Alaya asked if Mr. Pisarski had seen her updated version of the plein air registration form, which he responded he had not. Ms. Alaya indicated that if you go to www.cohanseyriverfest.org you will see it in two different places. There is a clickable

PDF and also on the pictures page you will find the information. Ms. Alaya named some of the activities planned for the day: boating, hiking, biking and crab fest. Most of the planned activities are free. Mr. Pisarski will write to the county sheriff regarding a tour of the Liberty Bell. Live music and dancing will be on the Riverfront. The hours of the RiverFest will be 10am – 8pm.

ADA Workshop – Bayshore Discovery Project

Mr. Pisarski is working out details with Megan Wren to have the ADA workshop at the shipping sheds in September or October. A tour of the shipping sheds will be included in the workshop. The reason the shipping sheds are being considered for the venue of the workshop is that they are undergoing renovation including various accessibility improvements. The architect for the project could be invited along with John McEwen of the Arts Access Task Force. Liability issues regarding the active construction site still need to be worked out.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Kaneshiki gave a report on the Obon Festival. It was well attended with some food vendors selling out. Mr. Pisarski commented that the Diako Drummers from New York did a particularly excellent job including a kabuki style performance to the music. Mr. Pisarski spoke to Bruce Peterson, chair of the Seabrook Education and Cultural Center, about potentially planning a kabuki performance next year. Mr. Kaneshiki asked if Mr. Pisarski was satisfied with the seating arrangements. He said there was not a problem. Mr. Kaneshiki said he attended the Southern Shore Music Festival, and this event too went very well with good attendance.

John Garrison attended the Vineland Boys and Girls Club dance recital. Mr. Garrison was very impressed. He is pleased that we support the Boys and Girls Club.

Penny Watson said the reception for the Bay Days was very nice, as usual.

Ms. Boykin mentioned that the summer series in Vineland is going well and is well attended.

Ms. Ayala has an appointment with Bonnie Eggenberg of Tri-County and would like to meet with the new Mayor of Bridgeton Albert Kelly as well.

Other Old/New Business

Ms. Alaya gave an update on the Nail House Museum fund raiser. She said it was a success, raising about \$3,000. Watson & Henry are the consultants on the project. Ms. Watson said they are in the beginning stages. Lack of records from the City of Bridgeton is a problem. Ms. Alaya asked Ms. Watson if anything was found in the basement. She said items were found but nothing of value. Ms. Alaya was informed by the city that items were moved to the parks department. Ms. Alaya has not seen what was moved to

the parks department. Ms. Alaya wants to meet with Mayor Kelley and discuss how the items that were moved should be treated. She would like to get a group together to work with Mayor Kelly on receiving future grants.

Mr. Kaneshiki spent time at the Bay Atlantic Symphony office (Bank of America) and noticed a lot of records of unknown origin. Ms. Watson said the historical society looked at the records and took some of the earliest ones. Ms. Alaya said the bank will restore the original Cumberland National Bank plaques to the building.

Ms. Alaya wants the commission to resend the handicap program letter again to the City of Bridgeton. Ms. Alaya said a committee has been formed to revive the New Sweden Farmstead. She said maybe the Farmstead can become a regrantee.

Ms. Watson asked about the Four Century's in a Weekend program. Mr. Pisarski said Ms. Alaya had a recommendation for a potential committee member for the event. She will get the information to Mr. Pisarski.

Correspondence

Mr. Kaneshiki mentioned an article that was in the paper regarding Salem passing Cumberland County in tourism.

Mr. Pisarski provided everyone with a copy of the picture that was in the paper regarding the Cumberland County library trip to the AJ Meerwald. He also provided an article from the Newark Public Library on their program entitled, "Unkuf the Mind." It is a program to foster reading among parolees and their families. Two articles about NJ Council on the Arts were in everyone's packet. Mr. Pisarski said the articles discuss an ethics probe of the Council. He will keep the commission informed as the story progresses.

Mr. Kaneshiki thanked Kim McCann for all her work on behalf of the commission, and presented her with a ceramic bowl of his own design. Ms. McCann thanked the commission.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 21, 2010, in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.