The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 3:30 PM., in the freeholder conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Penny Watson Suzanne Merighi
John Garrison Roy Kaneshiki
Jean Jones Marianne Lods
Ella Boykin

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Kimberly Gauntt, Tourism Advisory Council
Melissa Clifton, County Office on Aging

Approval of Minutes – January 24, 2012
A motion was made to approve the minutes from January 24, 2012 by Roy Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

2012 Winter Eagle Festival – recap
Matthew Pisarski thanked Mr. Kaneshiki for facilitating the kid’s sculpy clay table. Attendance for the festival was between 350-400. Mr. Kaneshiki said the weather was unpleasant but the kids table was busy.

Newsletter Services Contract (April 2012 – March 2013)
Carol Smith submitted a quote for services for the Cultural & Heritage Newsletter. The cost will be $4,000 for 12 issues. Mr. Pisarski said the cost is the same as last year. A motion was made to approve the quote for the newsletter by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

Discussion with Kimberly Gauntt, Tourism Advisory Council
Kimberly Gauntt explained to the Commission what the Tourism Council does. The Council helps promote tourism activities and destinations in and around Cumberland County. When Ms. Gauntt attends an event or conference she takes brochures with her to promote Cumberland County. Ms. Gauntt will be attending the Commission’s meetings and Mr. Pisarski will be
attending the Tourism Council meetings. Ms. Gauntt informed the Commission that the next tourism council meeting will be April 10th at 3pm in the freeholder conference room, if anyone would like to attend.

Mr. Pisarski said Southern Shore DMO would like to provide Cumberland County with $15,000 for advertising purposes. The funding was allocated for the Southern Shore Music Festival that no longer takes place. The money has to be used for advertising and used by December 31, 2012. Mr. Pisarski said it is up to the Commission and the Tourism Council on how the funding will be distributed. Mr. Pisarski and Ms. Gauntt think it should be limited to non-profits and government sources. Mr. Pisarski said a simple contract will be done for organizations that are receiving the funds. Mr. Pisarski said if the Commission can come up with a list today, he will reach out to the organizations and confirm that they can meet the obligations of the funding. Marianne Lods said the timing is critical because projects are coming up. A motion was made to approve funding for the non-profit organizations by Jean Jones. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously. Ms. Lods abstained. The sixth organization to receive a $1,000 has yet to be determined.

$3,000 - Millville, Vineland and Bridgeton Main Street Associations.

$1,000 - Bayshore Discovery Project, Deerfield Harvest Festival, Cohanzick Zoo, Seabrook Obon Festival and East Point Artist Day

County Office on Aging Senior’s Month Art Contest – Special Request
Melissa Clifton from the County Office on Aging has a special funding request. Ms. Clifton approached the Commission last year for funding for the Art Contest. The Commission members received a copy of an email from Ms. Clifton in their packet explaining the contest. Mr. Pisarski said funding is available in the Commission’s general operating account. John Garrison asked if Office on Aging is asking for a specific amount of funding. It was suggested to help fund the contest and let Office on Aging decide how they spend the funds. A motion was made to approve the special request of $500 for the Senior’s Art Contest by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jones and passed unanimously. Mr. Kaneshiki abstained. Mr. Pisarski asked Ms. Clifton to provide a final report on who the winners are and how funding was spent.

2012 Encore Awardee Discussion and Selection
Mr. Pisarski will send out an email with all the past awardees. He would like the Commission to come up with ideas on who they think should receive the award. The Encore Awards will be held at Landis Theater on May 17th.

WWW.CUMBERLANDHISTORICAL.ORG Design Discussion
The Commission members received a template of the web design in their packets. Mr. Pisarski asked for suggestions regarding the colors, font and layout. Ms. Lods would like to see brighter
colors and keep with ADA compliance. Mr. Pisarski does not like the CUMBERLANDHISTORICAL.ORG bubble; he would like to see something different.

**Revised History Guidelines**
Mr. Pisarski said several groups have approached him regarding applying for history funds in 2013. Mr. Pisarski is concerned that these organizations lack adequate historic professionalism. Mr. Pisarski would like to specify what the Cultural & Heritage Commission means in the guidelines as professionally qualified individuals. Commission members have a copy of the National Park Service’s standards for historic preservation in their packet. The Commission would like to revise the wording for their guidelines. The guidelines shall state “the equivalent of at least two years of full time experience.” The Commission requires resumes for participating individuals. In the review process it would be confirmed the resumes match the minimum qualifications. Ms. Merighi questioned if any organizations would get eliminated which the Commission normally funds. For the organizations that would be eliminated from funding they would have to bring someone on their board or into their project who would meet the qualifications. Mr. Pisarski said it may become a burden for some of the smaller groups. Mr. Pisarski does not want to fund organizations that are not qualified to receive history funds. Mr. Pisarski questioned if there are enough people in the Cumberland County area to meet these qualifications. Ms. Merighi asked do the art guidelines need to be revised. Ms. Watson asked if there are equivalent guidelines for the arts. Discussion ensued and it was determined that arts programming does not include the same qualification requirements. Additionally, the Commission came to the conclusion that more stringent standards supports professionalism and history education standards in the county. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission can revisit the guidelines and make changes if necessary. A motion was made to approve the change in language of the history guidelines by Ms. Watson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

**Liaison Reports**
Mr. Kaneshiki informed the Commission that Salem County will hold an internet workshop for artists. The workshop will provide a step-by-step overview of how to take advantage of internet marketing opportunities. The Commission would like to have a similar workshop for Cumberland County artists. Mr. Kaneshiki will contact Bob Sheairs, proprietor of Sheairs Creative Solutions for more information.

**Other Old/New Business**
Ms. Watson asked if Rich Bermudez will be attending the Commission meetings. Mr. Pisarski said Mr. Bermudez works in an after school program. Mr. Pisarski will contact him to see if he is available to attend the meetings.

John Garrison said he was impressed with the breadth of culture in Cumberland County. Mr. Garrison said more needs to be done to promote cultural programming in Cumberland County. Mr. Pisarski said several years ago Cumberland County had the “More to Offer” campaign. Mr.
Pisarski will ask Kimberly Wood to attend the next meeting to get her input on promoting the county.

**Correspondence**
Mr. Pisarski sent a thank you letter to Rev. Scott for the framed Partnership Award certificate the Commission received.

The Commission members are invited to the Jewish Federation’s brunch and ribbon cutting ceremony on Sunday, March 18th at 10:30am at their new office on E. Park Avenue, Vineland.

**Adjourn**
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.