

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

April 11, 2000 3:30 P.M.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Present:

Jane Christy	Jean Jones	Pat Gale
Penny Watson	Suzanne Merighi	Joe Polhamus

Freeholder Bob Smith
Freeholder Jeff Trout
Kim Wood, Director
Sherry Riendeau, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, April 11, 2000 at 3:30 p.m., in the Freeholder Conference Room, of the County Complex, Bridgeton, New Jersey. Chairperson Penny Watson called the meeting to order, however, the opening statement in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act was not read.

The Chairperson called for approval of the February 8, 2000 Minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Mr. Polhamus, seconded by Freeholder Trout, and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

RESIDENCY PROGRAM IN VINELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mrs. Wood informed the Commission that the residency programs for the Vineland Public Schools begin in May. Any member interested in observing the Chinese folklore program, Write a River, Paint a River, Dance a River, may visit the schools during this time. Dates and times for this program will be made available. The program will be provided for all of the sixth grades, totaling nearly 800 students. The representative from the Audiences of New Jersey has expressed an interest in viewing the presentation. Fairfield Township school system will be contacting Mrs. Wood regarding available cultural programming for that school system.

TEEN ARTS FESTIVAL

The Teen Arts Festival was held March 15, with over 500 students participating. Freeholder Smith commented on the wonderful variety of art represented. The event was well run and impressive. Freeholder Smith and Freeholder Trout will be honoring some of the participating students with proclamations at the Cumberland County Freeholder Meeting to be held 7:00 p.m. April 13, 2000. Mrs. Wood noted that Watson & Henry was not contacted for a contribution for the Teen Arts Festival because funding was available in the budget. Some of the exhibits have been selected to be displayed at the Millennium Festival held at the Cumberland County College on October 21, 2000. So far fifty exhibitors are registered to participate in the Millennium Festival.

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Nearly three thousand newsletters were mailed out on March 29, 2000. Several Commission members noted that they had not yet received their copy. Copies of the newsletter are also available at various public locations. Suggestions to insure better delivery of the newsletters included a utilizing a different postage rate, as well as undeliverable return requested. This topic will be discussed at the May Cultural and Heritage Commission meeting, noting exactly when the newsletters were received by Commission members. Although one mistake was found in the newsletter, it was agreed that the quality of the publication has greatly improved.

Freeholder Trout encouraged the Commission members to attend the unveiling of the statue Captain Buck on May 13, 2000 in Millville. Security cameras will be on the statue 24 hours a day, monitored by the Millville Police Department. The statue will be located along the Maurice River behind the Millville Public Library. No lithographs of Captain Buck are available, so pictures brothers and uncles were utilized to create a likeness. Invitations to the dedication were distributed.

Freeholder Trout commented on The Hidden Children Exhibit at the Cumberland County College, noting that the exhibit is worth visiting. A fifteen string musical ensemble from Israel performed at the opening reception, which was attended by over 150 people. Mrs. Wood noted the need for better communication with presenting organizations regarding guidelines for gifts and contributions from the Special Cultural Funding from the Cultural and Heritage Commission. Occasionally the Commission is not recognized for its contributions and the members are not notified.

A section of the newsletter has been dedicated to the Millennium Festival.

OPERA DINNER

Mrs. Wood distributed a draft of the invitation to the Opera Dinner, scheduled to be held May 12, 2000 at the Ramada Inn in Vineland. The dinner will have an Italian theme entitled "I Remember Mama" honoring mothers worldwide. Entertainment will be presented by new singers and Mrs. Wood requested assistance in locating a clavinova, which is a state-of-the-art electric piano manufactured by Yamaha. Mike Tofanelli is attempting to locate this instrument through his connections at the Atlantic City casinos. Sir Speedy will be producing the program and posters. Attendance is limited to one hundred and twenty five people. Letters will be sent to last year's attendees to give them the first opportunity to reserve tickets. Mrs. Wood can be contacted for ticket information and reservations.

MILLENNIUM CONCERT

The Commission was informed by Mrs. Wood that three definite sponsors have been secured for the Millennium concert, namely PSE&G, the DRBA, and Bell Atlantic. Letters will be sent out seeking additional contributions. Tickets for the concert are priced at \$35.00 each. Mrs. Wood noted that Cumberland County College has already received many requests for the concert tickets, however, the tickets will not be made available until after a press conference takes place.

Mrs. Wood took the opportunity to extend the Commission's appreciation to many previous sponsors who attended a reception honoring Duke Luciano's contribution to Cumberland County College.

DELAWARE ESTUARY PROJECT

Jean Jones, Mel Brody, Mrs. Wood were asked to participate as judges for Jean Doremus' Delaware Estuary Project, which is part of the curriculum for Vineland Senior High School seniors. The students were taken for a sail on the A.J. Meerwald and then required to submit a project. The students were given several months to dedicate to the projects. A rubric system was used for grading the projects. Unfortunately, some of the projects were not of the quality expected, however, there were some projects that were very impressive. Mrs. Wood noted the importance of the Commission being asked to participate in this project, as well as promotion of the schooner project, eco-tourism, agriculture, history and all other aspects of Cumberland County.

NEW BUSINESS:

JUNE AWARDS DINNER

Mrs. Wood asked the Commission members for suggestions for the recipient of the Cultural and Heritage Award for contributions to the arts and/or heritage in Cumberland County to be presented at the June Awards Dinner. Past recipients of the award include Duke Luciano, Frank Wheaton, Trish Dufford, Meghan Wren and Dorthea Lewis. Suggestions included Pat Witt, Maxine Chapman, ~~Molva~~ Beven, Gay Taylor, Clem Sutton, ~~Whitney~~ Garrison, Samuel Donovan, Gwen ~~Rudarew~~ ^{Rudarew}, and the Singing Ambassadors. On the motion of Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Jane Christy, the Commission approved the nomination of Pat Witt as recipient of the Cultural and Heritage Award. Recommendations for the location of the June Awards Dinner were the Millville Motor Inn, Heritage House, the Maplewood and the Ramada Inn. On the motion of Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Jane Christy, the Commission approved the Maplewood as the first choice, and the Ramada Inn as the second choice as the location for the June Awards Dinner. The dinner is scheduled for June 13, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. and replaces the June 3:30 p.m. Cultural and Heritage meeting. A letter will be sent to Pat Witt from Freeholder Smith and Freeholder Trout informing her of the award. Mrs. Wood will follow-up with a phone call to Ms. Witt.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next Cultural and Heritage meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2000 at 3:30 p.m. to be held in the Freeholder Conference Room.

OTHER BUSINESS

Pat Gale noted that Mrs. Wood will be narrating the Carnival of Animals for the Bridgeton Symphony at the Bridgeton High School on Saturday, April 15, 2000 at 1:00 p.m. A petting zoo will be provided. This event is sponsored by the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Elmer Burl, who is a relative of Ricky Van Shelton, has been contacted and invited to the concert for the Millennium Festival in October.

The Commission was reminded that May is Older Americans Month. Mrs. Wood has purchased 100 tickets for the May Symphony to be given to older citizens of Cumberland County, compliments of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Transportation will be provided by the Cumberland Area Transit System (CATS). Misono I. Miller will distribute the tickets through the Office on Aging.

There being no further business, on the motion of Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Pat Gale, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Riendeau, Secretary