

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

April 13, 2004

3:30 PM

Freeholder Meeting Room
Bridgeton

*1st - Marianne
2nd - Penny*

Present: Suzanne Merighi Marianne Lods
Jean Jones Judy Price
Beverly Hughes Penny Watson
Patricia Gale

Freeholder Douglas Rainear
Pam Weintraub, Sr. Planner
Steve Kehs, Department Director
Kris Lemmonds, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2004 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Penny Watson to approve the minutes from March 9, 2004 with some minor changes. Motion was seconded by Marianne Lods and passed unanimously.

County Cultural Plan Update

Steve Kehs stated that an RFP to hire a consultant for the plan has been prepared. The draft has been sent to Gordon Dahl at the South Jersey Economic Development District. Mr. Dahl will send out the Request for Proposals on the Commission's behalf. Mr. Dahl has been provided a list of 5 or 6 possible firms. It will be sent out in the next week and proposals should start being received by the middle of June. Commission members will be asked to help with the consultant selection.

Newsletter ideas for June issue

The following were some of the suggestions for the June issue of the Cultural and Heritage Newsletter:

Obon Festival
The Riverfront Concert series in Millville. The first concert is on June 26, 2004.
Delaware Bay Day

East Point Artist Day
Aiken Encore Awards
Summer Ace Program & Exhibition
Bridgeton Folk Festival
Multi-Cultural Festival
The Purple Martin Festival

Upcoming Dates

Friday - April 16, 2004 is the Blind Boys of Alabama concert.

Friday - April 23, 2004 is the Teen Arts Festival. It is being held in Downtown Millville. Most of the activities are being held at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts. The theater workshops are going to be held at the Holly City Family Center. The dance portion is being held at the American Legion. The music portion will be at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Next year Teen Arts will be held on March 23, 2005 and will be at Cumberland County College.

Saturday, May 1, 2004 - The Older American's Month concert by the Bay Atlantic Symphony

Friday, May 7, 2004 - Natalie McMaster concert

Thursday, May 13, 2004 - SJ Cultural Alliance - Aiken Encore Awards

Multi-Cultural Festival

Ms. Weintraub is meeting with Iveta Pirgova from the Down Jersey Folklife Center to get contacts for possible participants.

Ms. Weintraub has also contacted the NJ State Council on the Arts for famous New Jersey people to do some of the readings. Ms. Weintraub will report back to the Commission with details and prices at the next meeting.

Kim Wood has reached out to New Jersey Network (NJN). Ms. Wood is trying to obtain a tape of a story featuring NJ Culture. And possibly having someone from NJN to introduce the film. Kim has also reached out to Michael Tofanelli regarding an Atlantic City connection to obtain a famous performer that might be in town on the same date.

Old Business

Address List Update

Ms. Merighi suggested adding area codes to the member contact list.

Beverly Hughes had a correction to her email address. It should be: Beverhg9@aol.com.

Historic Record Book Pricing Update

All the digital photos have been done. Mr. Gray has approved of the digital records. So the first book can be transported to Philadelphia. The Conservation Center in Philadelphia will not be changing the price quoted in September 2002. The scheduled drop off date is April 30, 2004.

Economic Impact Analysis

Mr. Kehs discussed the Economic Impact Analysis of the Arts that was drafted last Spring. Some updates were made about festivals. The analysis is now an official document of the Cultural and Heritage Commission. It will be included when we apply for grant proposals, be part of the Cultural Plan and be used as a reference tool for how art impacts Economic Development in Cumberland County. Fifty million dollars annually is brought into Cumberland County through the arts.

New Business

The Secretary of State will be honoring the contributions of Native Americans to New Jersey. She will be doing this by touring the Delaware River by boat starting on June 3 at High Point by kayak and canoe. The tour goes through June 19, 2004. At Burlington they will be switching from kayak and canoes to the A. J. Meerwald. The Meerwald will be docking twice in Cumberland County. The first time will be on Wednesday, June 16, 2004 in Greenwich and then at the Bivalve on Thursday, June 17, 2004.

Beverly Hughes asked if the County had any Community Outreach programs that took under privileged children and a parent to a basketball game, a baseball game, museum trips to Philadelphia. She would like to have kids that live in Bridgeton, Millville and Vineland exposed to a city like Philadelphia. And vice versa.

Mr. Kehs recalled Sam Serata had mentioned a program sponsored by the Metropolitan in New York. The program provided grant funding to take kids to the Kimmel center and others. All the Commission would have to supply is the money for the bus cost. Marianne Lods stated that the SJ Cultural Alliance has a bus fund that could be utilized.

Patricia Gale asked if any progress had been made on the 4th grade history book. Ms. Watson stated again that she has not had the time to work on that project. Ms. Gale then asked if Ms. Watson couldn't work on it could someone else. Ms. Merighi suggested perhaps putting some general history facts about NJ on the County website rather than a book.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, May 11, 2004 in County Freeholders Conference Room in Bridgeton, NJ. A motion to adjourn was made by Marianne Lods. Motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously.