

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**August 8, 2000
3:30 P.M.**

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Present:

Mel Brody Suzanne Merighi
Marianne Lods Jean Jones
Penny Watson Jane Christy
Joe Polhamus

Freeholder Bob Smith
Freeholder Jeffrey Trout
Kim Wood, Director
Pam Griner, Sr. Planner
Nancy Cannone, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2000, at 3:30 p.m., in the Freeholders Meeting Room, in the County Administration Building, Bridgeton, New Jersey. Chairperson Penny Watson called the meeting to order and read the opening statement in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act.

Chairperson Watson called for approval of the July 11, 2000 Minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Mel Brody, and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

EAST POINT LIGHTHOUSE ARTISTS DAY: Director Wood reported that the East Point open house, held on August 5th had a record attendance. So many people wanted to tour the lighthouse that it had to be kept open an hour and a half past the regular closing time. Everyone was impressed with the artists and the music. Following the event, Mrs. Wood and Gail Robinson, of the Maurice River Historical Society, discussed ways to improve the event next year. They agreed that two food tents and two portopotty's were needed to handle the ever increasing numbers of people.

Freeholder Smith mentioned that Dutch Neck Village's "Peaches & Cream Festival" was held the same day and wondered if we were competing with each other. Jean Jones pointed out that the East Point event has always been held on the first Saturday in August. Suzanne Merighi stated that some people she had spoken with had attended both events, and that perhaps it would be a good idea for both organizations to work

together in promoting these two events. Maybe using the theme "This is what is happening today in Cumberland County."

RIVER SWING: This FREE event is scheduled for Friday September 22nd, from 7:00 til 10:00 p.m., at the Riverfront in Millville reported Mrs. Wood. This is a Latin swing dance project CCC&HC is working on with the City of Millville - and it is going full speed ahead. There will be a mariachi band in addition to "Stan the Man and his Big Band." One vendor from each of the cities will be selling seafood, Mexican food, ribs and chicken. Millville is responsible for all of the details, while the Commission is taking care of the Music. The Millville Arts District is sponsoring an exhibit that day with art being hung on the railings of the new boardwalk.

ARTS & HISTORY ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT & PANEL MEMBERS: Pam Griner reported the following:

- A. The History Grant Panel is scheduled to meet Thursday, August 10th at 10:00 a.m. to review the applications that have been received for this Grant.
- B. Twenty organizations applied for the NJSCA Regrant program. A list of these applicants was passed out to Commission members. Four of the applicants requested an extension.
- C. A list of the members of the Cultural Grant Review Panel 2000 was given to Commission members. This panel will meet September 11th (Monday). The CC&HC will meet on September 12th at which time the panel will report to the Commission.

EL FESTIVAL DE PUERTORRIQUENO: Jane Christy stated that she had attended the "el Festival de Puertorriqueno" and was very impressed when at the Banquet Freeholder Bob Smith presented the Cultural Arts Grant check to Leo Negron on behalf of the Cultural & Heritage Commission.

Freeholder Trout stated that he had been to the festival several times during the week and was impressed on how it was run, including the parade, music, food, etc.. Both Freeholders Trout and Smith were pleased with the huge crowds and the many people from the Philadelphia area who came to the County just for this festival.

Director Wood thanked the members of the Commission who attended this event as it is important that those organizations who receive funding see CCC&HC members at their events because it tells them that they are important.

Freeholder Trout again expressed the need to have CCC&HC banners at all of the funded events. There were many banners from different groups at the Festival, but none from this Commission. Director Wood remarked that a representative from the Festival was supposed to pick up the banner, but did not. During a general discussion

it was again stressed that "no banner, no funding." Freeholder Trout again stressed the necessity of having several banners made. Director Wood noted that a plan of distribution also must be put into effect to carry out this task.

NEW BUSINESS:

BUDGET: This year the art funding from the State Council on the Arts amounted to \$195,000 which is a \$25,000 increase over last year. It is broken down as follows:

- a. \$56,000 - General Operating Support. For programming, technical assistance, workshops, etc. that the Commission sponsors directly. This is an \$11, 000 increase over last year.
- b. \$94,000 - Regrant Program for Regrants.
- c. \$45,000 Cultural Funding Grant, Vineland.

Director Wood remarked that the Commission has the option of taking money from the Operating Budget and putting it toward small arts groups. A portion of this money, not more than \$6,000 or \$7,000 could be used to help a few more arts organizations.

After a discussion a motion was made by Mel Brody, seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously to keep the additional \$11,000 in reserve for special funding requests that come up during the year.

COMMUNITY ARTS COLLABORATION PROJECT: Director Wood handed out an overview of a project the CC&HC is participating in with the International Institute of New Jersey. The part of the program this Commission is involved with is called MASCARA which stands for Mexican-American Songs, Crafts, Artists, and Regional Associations.

A field worker has been visiting migrant labor camps and homes in Cumberland County to find out about their cultures, ancestors, etc., and found many authentic artists, mostly basket makers and painters. The biggest problem he found was that the artists can't afford to buy the supplies they need to work on their crafts.

The goal of this program in South Jersey is to identify the artists, provide them with materials for their specific crafts, and then exhibit their work at a Mexican Art Show either at the County College and/or Wheaton Village.

Director Wood and Susan Gogan of Wheaton Village discussed creating a "Mexican-American Association of Artists Initiative" in which the CCC&HC and Wheaton Village each could supply \$1,000 to buy the supplies and distribute them so these artists can make the samples to exhibit at the art show. An inventory of the kind of supplies that are needed is currently underway.

Director Wood has checked with NJSCA and they have indicated that this would be an allowable expenditure under the grant guidelines. This money could come from the General Operating support of the 2001 budget, or it could come from the Cultural Funding Grant for Vineland. However, if it comes from the Cultural Funding Grant it would have to be spent on the exhibit in Vineland. Mel Brody expressed the concern that \$1,000 does not buy a lot of art supplies.

Suzanne Merighi made a motion, seconded by Jane Christie and passed unanimously to support the MASCARA program for a minimum of \$1,000 with the possibility of increasing this amount if the need occurs.

CULTURAL FUNDING GRANT FOR VINELAND - \$45,000: Director Wood reported that she had drafted the following suggested projects for the grant contract. The only restrictions on this Grant is that it must be used in Vineland.

World Culture in Vineland Schools	\$15,000
Opera at Cumberland County College	\$20,000
Jewish Federation of Cumberland County	\$ 6,000
Opera Dinner	<u>\$ 4,000</u>
	\$45,000

A motion was made by Mel Brody, seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously to approve the proposed funding breakdown for the Vineland Cultural Funding Grant.

LONG RANGE PLANNING PROCESS: Mrs. Wood stressed the importance of the CCC&HC having a long range planning process. This organization is continuing to take on more and more projects, and at some time the Commission will have to decide what is its focus - what are they going to do - here are the projects CCC&HC is going to do to augment the plan. Mel Brody suggested setting aside a day for such a meeting. Mrs. Wood noted that to do this would cost between \$5,000 to \$6,000 and should be put into the funding contract. A Facilitator would be brought in to facilitate the meeting and then write the plan. Jennie Ayars would be an excellent facilitator.

The Commission will be doing an ADA (American's with Disabilities Act) Workshop. This will be held in September for small arts groups because the Commission is not permitted to provide State funding to organizations who are not fully accessible.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CLASS: Jane Christy stated that following the death of Joe Pierce and the problem of who was going to continue the Levoy Theater project, Ms. Christy called Dr. Ender at CCC to ask if it would be possible to set up a Historic Preservation class at the College to give those who are interested a chance to learn what Mr. Pearce already knew about historic preservation. Dr. Ender indicated that this could be done. Ms. Christy urged Commission members to talk to Dr. Ender about this and to urge him to go ahead with this class.

There being no further business on motion by Penny Watson, seconded by Mel Brody, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cannone
Secretary