

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

August 13, 2002
3:30 PM

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BLDG. FREEHOLDER MEETING ROOM

Present: Suzanne Merighi
Penny Watson
Mel Brody
Jane Christy
Jean Jones
Marianne Lods

Pam Griner, Sr. Planner
Kris Lemmonds, Secretary
Steve Kehs, Planning Director

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2002, at 3:30 PM., in the Library of the Cumberland County Complex, Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Penny Watson, called for a motion to vote on the minutes from May 2002. Jane Christy motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

Vineland Cultural Funding - George P. Luciano Memorial Program

Ms. Griner informed the Commission that instead of the performance of the Gilbert & Sullivan production of "Cox & Box" being done, "La Boehme" will be done. A group of 22 performers will be performing a full production of "La Boehme" using two pianos on stage. The theater group will be looking for any Commission members that would like to or know of someone that would like to participate in the production. Leanne Sheetz was suggested by Ms. Merighi. Ms. Christy suggested Carolyn Heckman and Carmen Oldknew. Steve Kehs suggested Cheryl Miller.

East Point Artists' Day - August 3, 2002

Ms. Griner reported about the Commission sponsored events. Music was provided by the snake Brothers and Steve Byrne. About one-third the crowd was drawn to the event this year. The hot weather was ^{to blame} predicted. Also the lighthouse being open more often was mentioned. Ms. Griner asked for the assistance of Ms. Jones and Ms. Christy in planning next year's Artists' Day. Perhaps finding new musicians or setting the music up at different times throughout the day would draw a bigger crowd. Also new marketing for an annual county event.

2/8
at hotel

New Jersey State Council on the Arts

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts met on July 23, 2002 to announce the 2002-2003 funding being awarded. Ms. Griner informed the Commission that Cumberland County was one of three counties whose budgets were cut by \$12,000.00. The other two counties that were cut were Middlesex and Union. The following awards were announced:

County Arts	\$48,581.00
Regrants	\$89,739.00
Cultural Funding	\$45,000.00

Ms. Griner, along with other Cultural & Heritage Agencies, will be meeting with staff from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts on Tuesday, August 20, 2002 to discuss the cuts made. She will report her findings to the Commission at the next meeting.

Contracts from the State have been mailed out. Budgets need to be attached to the contracts. The budget needs to be shown to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts by September 30. The budget will be discussed at the September 10, 2002 meeting. Mr. Brody requested a breakdown of how money was spent last year to be sent out before the next meeting.

Ms. Christy brought before the Commission an idea for a possible spring time event featuring an underwater explorer named Sylvia Earl. Ms. Christy stated Ms. Earl's fee is \$7,500.00. Her specialty is horseshoe crabs. Ms. Christy suggested perhaps obtaining partner support from environmental groups in the county. Mr. Kehs suggested such groups as the Geraldine Dodge Foundation or Citizens United as possible partners. Mr. Brody asked if Ms. Christy could ask if Ms. Earl would consider lowering her fee. Ms. Christy will ask and report back to the Commission.

Old Business

Penny Watson inquired about the status of a Vintage Baseball game. Bob Rose had stated that the game would be played during the Invitational Tournament. Ms. Griner had no information but would contact Mr. Rose and report back to the Commission.

Ms. Watson also inquired about the status of the Historical Survey RFP. Ms. Griner has requested information from the Historical Commission to insure the RFP requests exactly what the Commission needs. Ms. Griner has been working with Catherine Bruno from the Historical Commission to get the RFP written.

The Conservation Center for Art and Historical Artifacts in Philadelphia has not yet come to the County Complex to look at the record book. This meeting will be scheduled this month.

New Business

Ms. Griner informed the Commission of a phone call from Freeholder Donna Pearson. Ms. Pearson was calling Ms. Griner regarding a function being held at 11:00 am on Sept. 29, 2002 by the Department of State. The Department of State will be reenacting the Underground Railroad. It will start in Delaware and travel by boat across the Delaware Bay and land in Greenwich. There will be a five mile walk from Greenwich to the Springtown Church. This will be the first part of a state wide walk.

The Department of State has requested help from the Commission regarding finding resource information. The Department of State is seeking assistance with people to dress up, horses, buggies, etc. Ms. Lods suggested Linda Hruza and her history class at Memorial and perhaps the Vineland Historical Society.

The next meeting of the Cultural and Heritage Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2002 at 3:30 pm in the Freeholder Board Room. A motion to adjourn was made by Mel Brody, seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.