

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

December 12, 2000

3:30 P.M.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Present:

Austin Gould	Penny Watson
Pat Gale	Mel Brody
Jean Jones	Suzanne Merighi

Freeholder Jeffrey Trout
Pam Griner, Sr. Planner
Nancy Cannone, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2000, at 3:30 p.m., in the Freeholders Meeting Room, of 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 November 14, 2000 Minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Mel Brody, and passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

OPERA DINNER: Pam Griner reported that the Opera Dinner has been scheduled for Friday, May 11, 2001, at the Ramada Inn in Vineland. Mel Brody stated that he had spoken to Marion Stieber and she will arrange for four singers and a pianist for \$500 each, for a total of \$2,500. CCC&HC has budgeted funds for the music. A theme will be selected at a later date. Suzanne Merighi asked if the price of the tickets will be the same. Ms. Griner replied that the cost of the tickets may be a little higher because the expenses will be slightly more this year. However no final decision will be made until a meeting has been held with Ramada.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: Ms. Griner reported that Special Projects, Projects Serving Artists, and Community Arts Collaboration Grants are available to Arts organizations interested in having a special project, or have artists that need special support. Pam has mailed an application to Marianne Lods for the Millville Arts District.

These Grants are due in January 2001 and will be for funding that will start on July 1, 2001 and run through June 30, 2002.

The CCC&HC is also eligible to apply for one of these Grants. In the past the Commission has used this Grant to sponsor the Spring Concert. A new Artist's Directory could be funded through this Grant.

Suzanne Merighi stated that someone from the Millville Army Air Force Museum asked her about funding, and asked if they had ever applied or attended any workshops. Pam said that they have not, but there is another Grant available from the New Jersey Historical Commission that they would be eligible for. Ms Griner has information on this Grant and suggested that the Museum contact her for more information. The Seabrook Cultural and Educational Center is applying for this Grant to do "I Remember Seabrook" where they plan to put together photographs etc., for a video as a traveling museum of their Center.

WINTER RAPTOR FESTIVAL: Freeholder Trout reported that the Raptor Festival will be held on February 24, 2001, in Mauricetown from, 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Audubon Society is Co-sponsoring this event with the County. The Mauricetown Fire House will be used for exhibits, guest speakers on birding and slide shows. There will be tour guides for three different birding sites. One will be along the Maurice River by the bridge, one at the PSE&G pier, and one at Turkey Point. "Birders" will be given a map showing the various sites the County wants to showcase. When people get cold they will be able to come back to the Fire House for hot chocolate and go into the other room where every thirty minutes there will be a guest speaker or slide show. At 5:00 p.m. (sunset) there will be an owl sighting tour at Turkey Point. The marshes of the Maurice River in Mauricetown are a large habitat for birds of prey in the winter. There are tentative plans to hold a Purple Martin Festival in the Fall.

Kim Wood suggested to Pam that the CCC&HC participate in an arts component for children as part of the Festival and asked Ms. Griner (who would do the actual organizing) to bring this matter before the Commission. A "Make & Take" craft such as a bald eagle or owl mask would give the children something to do while the parents listened to the speakers, and give the children something to take home. A motion to participate in this arts component was made by Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMISSION RETREAT - LONG RANGE PLAN: This event is not coming along for January, it might be pushed into February, and with the Raptor Festival might be pushed back to March reported Pam Griner. She will keep the Commission updated.

BOOK UPDATE: Ms. Griner read a report submitted by Kim Wood stating that Tricia Dufford had met with Mr. Bruno about getting the notes from Barbara Bruno's research. Mr. Bruno stated that he would not be willing to turn the notes over to the Commission. Mrs. Wood took the matter to her Supervisor, Steve Kehs for his possible intervention. Mr. Kehs will reach out by phone and mail to Mr. Bruno to try to resolve the matter. If it is not resolved the County Counsel will correspond with Mr. Bruno. Jean Jones noted

that the Commission has already paid Mrs. Bruno \$5,000 for this project. Suzanne Merighi pointed out that the Commission has nothing to show for this money. Ms. Griner stated that hopefully with Mr. Kehs letter Mr. Bruno will realize that his wife signed a contract and that she is legally obligated to turn over these notes. Mrs. Wood will keep the Commission updated.

TEEN ARTS COORDINATOR: To date there is no Teen Arts Coordinator, stated Ms. Griner but she hoped to have that taken care of at the beginning of 2001. The Teen Arts Festival is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11th.

NEW BUSINESS:

EVENTS CALENDAR: Ms. Griner asked members if anyone had an event for January that they wanted listed. Jean Jones suggested an Estonian Workshop tentatively scheduled at Wheaton Village on January 27th. Ms. Griner will check on this.

ADA WORKSHOP: The ADA Workshop canceled in November has now been rescheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. until noon reported Ms. Griner. Flyers have been mailed out to all grantees. The Workshop is being put on by the New Jersey Arts Access Task Force. This Workshop is being held at Wheaton Village. Chairperson Watson asked if grantees are required to attend this Workshop. Pam Griner replied that the Grants contracts this year required that you either have a plan in place at the time you sign your contract, or you must attend a Workshop. Ms. Griner said that this would be a hardship for some people because it is on a workday, but hopefully the six weeks notification would give them a chance to arrange their schedules. Mel Brody suggested we send a couple letters out reminding grantees of the Workshop.

MEETING SCHEDULE 2001: Ms. Griner passed out the meeting schedule for the 2001 year. The June meeting is always the Arts Patron Dinner to be held at a yet-to-be determined site.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Penny Watson stated that in a publication she had received from Philadelphia, it mentioned a newly organized Jewish Historical Society of Southern New Jersey that seems to be based in Cumberland County and she wondered if they were aware of the Historical Grant. "Yes" Pam replied noting that last year they had joined forces with the Jewish Federation and received a small re-grant from this Commission.

Mel Brody brought up Grant funding for the Concert. Pam stated that she would be in touch with Lee Tofanelli to find out the rates of different artists and then come up with an amount to apply for. Suzanne Merighi said that before the Ricky Van Shelton concert she had spoken to Lee Tofanelli about future concerts and he suggested a Jazz type concert with B.B. King. Jackson Brown was another suggestion.

Mel Brody suggested that Pam contact Greg Hambleton from the County College. Using both Tofanelli and the College would give the Commission more options in finding different performers. Commission members felt this would be a good idea and Pam will pursue this. Fall of 2001, possibly October, was suggested as a good time for the Concert.

There being no further business on motion by Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Austin Gould, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cannone
Secretary