

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

February 9, 1999

3:30 P.M.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Present:

Mel Brody Patricia Gale
Susan Gogan Austin Gould
Jean Jones Joseph Polhamus
Penny Watson Suzanne Merighi
Sunkie Oye
Freeholder Chuck Griffiths

Kim Wood, Director

The meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was called to order on Tuesday, February 9, 1999, at 3:30 p.m., in the Freeholders Meeting Room, of the County Administration Building, by Chairperson Penny Watson.

The Chairperson called for approval of the Minutes of December 8, 1998 and January 12, 1999. A motion to approve the December and January Minutes was made by Joe Polhamus, seconded by Suzanne Merighi, and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

ENCORE AWARDS: Director Wood reported that the Encore Awards are scheduled for Tuesday, March 9th in the Palladium Ballroom of Caesar's Casino in Atlantic City. She has submitted Duke Luciano's name for an Encore Award, and has reserved a table for 10 for the Commission. Mrs. Wood asked if this event could take the place of the Commission's March meeting. Joseph Polhamus made a motion that the Dinner take the place of the March meeting, seconded by Suzanne Merighi, and was unanimously approved by Commission members.

CHILDREN'S BOOK REWRITE: The Director asked members if they had a chance to review the draft rewrite by Penny Watson given to them at the January meeting. Suzanne Merighi stated that she felt it was much clearer and easy to read. Jean Jones suggested that when the rewrite is done it be given to several fourth grade teachers to read over and make suggestions. Commission members agreed this would be a good idea. Freeholder Griffiths asked how the Commission can/should proceed. Mrs. Wood stated that she would have to speak with Richard Geiger, the County Counsel and tell him the Commission has found someone to complete the job. Mel Brody asked if Ms. Watson was using Barbara Bruno's information. Ms. Watson stated that she was using it as a source along with many other sources. A question was asked about the illustrations. It is believed that Ms. Bruno had received a Grant to create the

illustrations, separate from the Commission's agreement for the book. These were questions about whether Ms. Bruno or the Commission had received the Grant. The Director will go back in the Minutes to try to find out who actually received the Grant. When she gets this information clarified, she will meet with Mr. Geiger, then talk to Barbara Bruno, and report back to Commission members - probably in a letter - and then get members comments and suggestions about how to proceed. Mel Brody asked how the Commission was going to handle the compensation? Director Wood stated that she had told Ms. Bruno that the Commission would not authorize any further payment to her until something satisfactory was produced. She was not happy but agreed. She has received \$5,000.00 from the total of \$7,000.00 allocated. Whether or not she will allow us to use her illustrations is not known. Mr. Brody then asked how the Commission would compensate Penny Watson? Freeholder Griffiths felt this was an issue that did not have to be decided at this time, and was something that could be determined at a later date.

EARTH DAY CONCERT FUNDING: The Director passed out a list of last year's Earth Day donors so we do not duplicate asking them again this year. She asked Commission members to ask individuals they know to contribute - even small amounts, as it would be greatly appreciated. Mrs. Wood stated that the budget for this event is about \$25,000.00. There is the 12,500.00 for the artist, plus marketing, program book, limousine services, hotel and travel expenses, etc.. The Director also asked for frequent flyer miles to be donated as seven people would have to be flown here first class from California. Chairman Watson suggested that perhaps this was something that the local business could donate. Mel Brody requested that members be allowed to review the concert budget before it happens. Mrs. Wood stated that she would mail a copy of the budget to Commission members. Mr. Brody suggested that after the Commission members review the budget, each member could do their part in trying to find people that will give us free advertising, etc.. Austin Gould asked how the artist is selected. Mrs. Wood stated that this was done at the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

MEXICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY: Director Wood asked Commission members to refer to a letter in their packets from Ramon Hernandez of the Mexican Association of New Jersey. Mr. Hernandez in the past has received his Grant through the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. He is no longer affiliated with the church and community center so Mr. Hernandez, in conjunction with Tri-County Community Action is requesting funds in the amount of \$2,344.00. Mrs. Wood has a full report on what this group plans to do with the Grant money. This Grant amount is in the CCC&HC's account and can be transferred to him. Mel Brody made a motion to transfer this money to the Mexican Association of New Jersey, seconded by Austin Gould and passed unanimously.

VINELAND CULTURAL PROGRAMMING/SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS: The Director reported that this program is coming along nicely. The program will happen in March. "Young Audiences of New Jersey" will be producing this artists in residency program for all the students. They will be sending Mrs. Wood a letter with all of the dates and times of the programs so that Commission members can pop in and observe the programs. At the end of the residency there is a culminating event such as a festival. In a discussion of what that event should be the question was asked if we wanted this to be a ticketed event and have the proceeds go to the schools art and music departments. After a discussion, Commission members decided that there should be no charge for this event.

A suggestion was made that documentation of this whole project such as slides, number of students and teachers participating etc., be made for support for future Grants. Slides are good because they can be translated into photographs and also scanned into documents. It was also pointed out that the Vineland High 9-10 building has a good program that students are involved in that they actually do videotaping that we also may be able to use to document this project.

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FY 200 APPLICANTS: Mrs. Wood asked members to look at the list of applicants for FY 200. Eighteen organizations were funded this past year. Nanticote Lenni-Lenape is missing this year and they just don't have enough volunteers to do the programming. Hopefully they will be able to apply next year.

NEWSLETTER: The Director commented that the Newsletter had to be re-bid because the year contract was up. This has been done. Tofanelli & Associates was the only bidder so they will be doing it again this year for \$10,400.00. The newsletter will have a new masthead this year to make it a little more colorful.

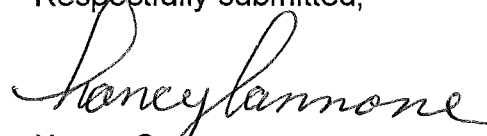
MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Freeholder Griffiths asked about the Monthly Calendar of Events. Mrs. Wood stated that from now on, this Calendar should be delivered by the first week of every month. There is a mailing list of about 2,500 people, plus the calendar is put out in different stores in the area. Mr. Griffiths also asked how groups get into both the newsletter and the calendar. All they have to do is call Mrs. Wood. She also stated that all the regrantees are contacted each month as part of their contract to find out what they are doing. Also, the Director pointed out, any cultural group can publicize their event in this calendar. Mel Brody suggested that we develop a little flyer containing a FAX number and/or phone number groups can call to get onto the mailing list and have their event publicized. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea and Mrs. Wood stated that she could do this in house.

TEEN ARTS: The question was asked about how Teen Arts is coming along. Mrs. Wood reported that everything is going well, but she is having a problem finding a music coordinator. She has one, but needs another. Freeholder Griffiths knew of a person that he will talk to. Jennie Ayres the Teen Arts Coordinator, the coordinators for

each medium of art, and Mrs. Wood will meet at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, in the Freeholders meeting room. Packets have been mailed out to the schools.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Carrone". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Nancy Carrone
Secretary