

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

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

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**Present:**

Mel Brody	Sunkie Oye	Joe Polhamus
Jane Christy	Jean Jones	Pat Gale
Penny Watson	Suzanne Merighi	Austin Gould

Freeholder Bob Smith  
Freeholder Jeff Trout  
Kim Wood, Director  
Sherry Riendeau, Secretary

**Guests:**

Tricia Dufford  
Pam Griner

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, February 8, 2000 at 3:30 p.m., in the Freeholder Conference Room, of the County Complex, 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.

The Chairperson called for approval of the January 11, 2000 Minutes. It was noted that the location of the meeting was incorrectly reported as the Library Meeting Room, when in fact, the meeting took place in the Freeholder Conference Room. A motion to approve the Minutes, with the stated correction, was made and passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**ARTS OUTREACH PROJECT**

Mrs. Wood introduced Tricia Dufford to the Commission. Ms. Dufford provided the Commission with an overview of an idea created by Pat Witt of the Barn Studio of Art. This project involves outfitting a van with art supplies and bringing the joy of art to schools and areas in Cumberland County not equipped with art teachers. Suggested names for this concept are Wheelism, Art on Wheels or the VanGo, as described in a handout distributed to the Commission. Ms. Dufford voiced her desire to take charge of this project. The Cumberland County Guidance Center sells their old vans at a minimum bid of \$200.00, making this a possible source of obtaining a vehicle. A donated van was another possibility. It was suggested that the Teen Arts Center may be utilized to design and paint the van. Ms. Dufford offered to donate easels for this project. The van could be available to schools during the school day, as well as an art presence at folk festivals, Bay Day, summer programs, etc. Mrs. Wood stated that in order to present this idea as a Cumberland County funded project, a proposal is needed providing specifics such as a breakdown of costs, amount of time (hours per day/days per month) the van would be available, etc. A suggestion was made to contact area school districts for input. The overall concept of the project was unanimously endorsed by the Commission.

**RECAP OF DISTANT VOICES PROGRAM**

Mrs. Wood reported on the Distant Voices Program presented Friday, January 14, 2000. The program was wonderful and received positive feedback. The same program is being presented in

England as a workshop in schools. Mrs. Wood noted that this concept might be considered here next year. Three hundred students attended the afternoon session and the evening session was attended by 250 area residents. Bad weather conditions contributed to the less than expected turn-out. A suggestion was made to videotape the program in order to show the presentation in other schools. Comments were made regarding the fine performance of the accompanying pianist, Julie Nishamura. Mrs. Wood noted that photos and sketches of Tule Lake and Seabrook created by Ms. Nishamura's father were donated to the Upper Deerfield museum.

#### NEWSLETTER BIDS

Three bids for the newsletter have been submitted and are as follows: (1) \$14,000 submitted by Jasperdyne Communications; (2) \$10,600 submitted by The Cumberland News; and (3) \$8,300 submitted by Lee Tofanelli and Associates, who has printed the newsletter in the past. Since Tofanelli and Associates was the lowest bidder, it will be recommended to the Board of Chosen Freeholders that this firm be awarded the contract. This year's bid from Tofanelli and Associates was lower than last year's bid and includes an increased number of copies, an extra page, assistance with advertising, and drop off points. Ms. Wood noted that although the newsletter has not been error-free in the past, she has experienced a positive working experience with Tofanelli and Associates. The firm will be advised that the Commission expects fewer errors in the future. Mrs. Wood suggested that a representative from the firm attend several Cultural and Heritage Commission meetings to gain a better understanding of the Board.

#### OPERA DINNER

The opera dinner has been scheduled for Friday, May 12, 2000. The Commission agreed to continue holding the event at the Ramada Inn, Vineland. The same artists as last year will perform again this year, with a different program. The cost of tickets are \$50 each. Mrs. Wood reported that a \$100 check has been received from Drs. Nemore and Mortensen as a donation and will be deposited in the trust account.

#### ENCORE AWARDS NOMINEE

The Encore Awards will be presented on Tuesday, March 14, 2000. A table has been reserved for the Commission, and members are asked to confirm attendance and indicate whether spouses will be attending. The suggestion was made to nominate Jennifer Lookabaugh as recipient of the Encore Award. On motion of Pat Gale, seconded by Freeholder Jeff Trout and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the nomination of Jennifer Lookabaugh as recipient of the Encore Award.

#### YOUNG AUDIENCES OF NJ/VINELAND-MAY PROGRAMMING

Mrs. Wood informed the Commission that the Vineland School Cultural Program is scheduled to begin in May. The program is entitled Write a River, Paint a River, Dance a River. The Vineland school system has made a financial contribution to this program. Fairfield Township school system is looking into incorporating the program in that school system. The contact person for Fairfield Township school system is Frank Knauss.

## NEW BUSINESS

### NEW JERSEY HISTORIC COMMISSION GRANT/\$10,000

As a result of the Bagger Bill, \$4.5 million have been appropriated for historical societies in New Jersey. Cultural and Heritage Commissions can take advantage of a \$10,000 grant program to regrant to local historical societies to help pay salaries of staff of museums and historical structures allowing these facilities to be open on a consistent basis, which would encourage tourism. Mrs. Wood informed the Commission that she is nearly finished writing the grant applying for these funds. Mrs. Wood has sent a grant package to the Cumberland County Historical Society so they may also apply for grant funds.

### REGRANT PROGRAM AND FUNDS

In the past, grant-writing workshops have been held in January, but because the Commission is in a different grant cycle this year (18 month cycle, which will eventually be a three year cycle), the workshop will not be necessary this year. Instead, the Arts Council will refer to the log submitted in 1999 for \$343,000 and base the request for funds for the year 2001 on that information. The advantages of this process are (1) knowing ahead of time how much money will be allotted before going through the regrant process; (2) knowing how much money can be expected and to which project it will be designated before holding the Panel Meeting; and (3) allowing additional time for Mrs. Wood to devote to other activities. A grant workshop may be scheduled for August or September, with panel meetings held afterward.

### HUMANITIES GRANT/HISTORIC CEMETERY TOUR

Mrs. Wood reported that she has received the mini-grant application for the Historic Cemetery Tour. The historic cemetery tour is a partnership with the Cumberland County Historical Society and the Cultural and Heritage Commission, with the tour being hosted by the Society and funded by the Commission. The tour is scheduled to coincide with Halloween and has been successful.

### HISTORIC TRUST GRANT/\$250,000

A meeting was held with the consulting firm of Watson and Henry to discuss the Historic Trust Grant. One of the projects of the Millennium Commission is the restoration of the cupola on the Cumberland County Courthouse. In 1998 Watson and Henry had completed a study of the cupola, which details what repairs are necessary and the estimated cost of this project. The damages to the cupola are not limited cosmetically, there is considerable structural damage as well. Since the cupola is the focal point of the downtown area, an application will be submitted for this \$300,000 grant for its restoration.

### COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN/VINELAND COMMUNITY MEETING

The State Arts Council awarded a \$45,000 grant to the City of Vineland for a Community Cultural Plan. The Cultural and Heritage Commission, the State Arts Council and the City of Vineland are partnering on this effort to identify the different cultures in the City of Vineland. In addition to Vineland, this grant was awarded to the cities of Camden and Atlantic City. The City of Vineland has hired a consultant, who has been meeting with various focus groups in Cumberland County. A community meeting has been scheduled for Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at Vineland City Hall to discuss the results of the focus groups.

## THE BOOK

The Commission had hired a local author/artist, Barbara Bruno, to write a children's book about the history of Cumberland County. A first draft of the book was received, which was not acceptable. Mrs. Bruno died several months ago before completing the book. According to the contract, in the event the author dies before the completion of the book, all works must be turned over to the Commission. A few weeks prior to her death, a letter had been sent to Mrs. Bruno outlining in detail the dissatisfaction with the book, however no response was received. Another person has agreed to finish the book, however, an illustrator is needed. Mrs. Wood will contact Richard Geiger, Cumberland County Counsel, to write a letter to Mrs. Bruno's estate enforcing the contract. A copy of the first draft will be supplied to any Commission member not already having a copy. The book is approximately 35 to 40 pages, including the pen and ink illustrations. Although the illustrations were well done, the scenes were very generic and not specific to Cumberland County. The contract was for a total of \$7,000, of which \$5,000 was already paid to Mrs. Bruno. The book is intended for distribution to various libraries.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Wood took this opportunity to introduce Pam Griner to the Commission. Pam will be assisting Mrs. Wood with grants management, as well as transportation issues in the Planning Department.

Jane Christy noted that on May 13, 2000 the City of Millville is planning to recognize its founder, Captain Buck. A statue is being erected, as well as a celebration and events along the riverfront. Further information will be made available at a later date.

The Commission was informed that Jane Christy will be inducted into the Distinguished Alumni Gallery of Cumberland County College on June 8, 2000.

Mrs. Wood and Dr. DeMaio were interviewed by Vineland High School students on Channel 13 February 7, 2000 regarding the Millennium celebration for Cumberland County.

The Commission members were reminded that the Encore Awards dinner will replace the regularly scheduled March Cultural and Heritage Commission meeting. The dinner will be held at Caesar's Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Riendeau, Secretary