

# CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

**February 10, 2004**  
**RIVER RENAISSANCE CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
**MILLVILLE**

**Present:** Suzanne Merighi Marianne Lods  
Jean Jones Mel Brody  
Patricia Gale Joseph Polhamus  
Judy Price Penny Watson

Freeholder Douglas Rainear  
Freeholder Jane Yetman Christy  
Pam Weintraub, Sr. Planner  
Steve Kehs, Planning Director  
Kris Lemmonds, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2004 at 3:30 PM., in the River Renaissance Center for the Arts in Millville, New Jersey.

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Joe Polhamus to approve the minutes from January 9, 2003. Motion was seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.

## **Commission Newsletter Update**

Two issues were raised at the January meeting regarding the December 2003 newsletter. One issue was that the newsletter was late. The second issue was that some of the newsletters were not mailed until January 2004.

Ms. Weintraub reported that the newsletter was not delivered to the office until Dec. 5. The newsletters have to be mailed in envelopes and the office was out of envelopes due to how supplies are ordered at the end of the year. Personnel changes in both the Planning Department and the mailroom during the month of December made mail pick-up sporadic.

Ms. Weintraub also informed the Commission that Tofanelli had been awarded the contract for the 2004 newsletter. Ms. Weintraub spoke with Tofanelli and proofs are to be to her on Monday, February 23 so they can be reviewed, will then be printed and delivered to the County office well before the 1st of March. Also, the newsletter in March will have more items spread over the 3 month period.

Ms. Weintraub then asked for suggestions for the newsletter. Ms. Weintraub informed the Commission members that some of the items due to be in the newsletter were the following:

- Blind Boys of Alabama which the Commission is cosponsoring with the College on April 16, 2004.
- The Natalie MacMaster which the Commission is also cosponsoring with the College on May 7, 2004.
- The Race About the Bay activity with the Bay Shore Discovery.
- The Vineland Regional Dance Company is having an anniversary performance.
- May concert with the Bay Atlantic Symphony which the Commission sponsors tickets for the Older Americans Month.
- Cinco de Mayo
- Wrap up of Raptor Festival Art Contest
- Teen Arts
- The Historical Society's Farm Day

### **Raptor Festival**

The Raptor Festival was held on Saturday, February 7, 2004 at the Mauricetown Firehall and was a huge success. The Cultural & Heritage Commission sponsored a kids' activity table. About 80 kids made foam raptors that were glued to clothespins with magnets. The art contest during the Raptor Festival had 90 participants from grade K-8th from two age divisions 3-5 grades and 6,7, & 8 grades old in the second division. Leanne Boswell was the Grand Prize winner from Downe Township. The NJ Audobon Society sponsored the prizes with the Commission for the winners.

### **Cultural Plan Update**

The outline of potential goals for the Cumberland County Cultural Plan is attached. The outline is a collaborative effort of those who were at the first plan meeting. This outline will be forwarded to Gordan Dahl at the SJ Economic Development Office.

### **Paul Aiken Awards**

The South Jersey Cultural Alliance Aiken Awards will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at Caesar's. Ms. Weintraub asked for nominee suggestions for this year's award.

Nominees will be discussed at the March meeting. Nominees are needed by March 19. Ms. Weintraub asked the Commission members would like to have a full page ad in the program book at a cost of \$500.00. Marianne Lods made a motion to submit a full page ad in support of the C&H Aiken's award winner. Seconded by Joe Polhamus and passed unanimously.

### **Multicultural Festival**

The Commission has been approached to do a multicultural festival similar to the Millennium and County 250th festivals. Freeholder Director Douglas Rainear addressed the Commission. He would like to celebrate the various cultures in the county.

Mel Brody suggested a possible time for the festival would be in the Fall of 2004. But word would have to be put on now to groups that might be interested in participating to begin submitting audition tapes.

Marianne Lods sited several activities and holidays scheduled for the Fall of 2004 that may make it difficult to have the festival. September has Labor Day weekend, September 11th and Millville's Fine Arts Festival. In the month of October Wheaton Village has their Festival of Fine Crafts and Columbus Day weekend. Jean Jones suggested perhaps discussing long range plans for the Spring of 2005.

Cumberland County College will be approached for possible dates available in the middle of October. However, the festival would not have to necessarily be held at the college. It could be held at Wheaton Village or the City of Millville. Mr. Brody believed the college offered a better venue to properly showcase the acts involved.

Ms. Weintraub will contact the college for dates available after mid October or possible the Spring of 2005.

### **Meeting Place**

Ms. Weintraub asked the Commission members if they would like to rotate the meeting place for the Commission meetings. After some discussion the general consensus was that rotating on occasion would be fine but the main meeting place should still be Bridgeton. Ms. Merighi stated that the By-laws state the meeting place would be Bridgeton but on occasion it could be changed to a different location.

### **County Record Book Update**

Mr. Kehs hoped to have the digital photos of the county record book done but as of yet it has not been completed.

Mr. Brody inquired if the price first quoted two years ago would be still valid. Mr. Kehs informed the board that since some of the work is being done in house now, the cost for restoration could still be brought in within the budget.

## **Old Business**

Ms. Weintraub gave Joe Polhamus a count of 80 for the civil war county history book. Copies would be given to each commission member, Freeholders, all public schools and the four county libraries.

Penny Watson informed the commission that she has not been in a position to review the children's history book at this time.

Ms. Weintraub gave each member a new address listing for the commission members. However, the listing will only be good for one month. A new member to the Commission will be added next month.

The new member is temporarily replacing Austin Gould while he is fulfilling his duties to the college as their Board of Trustees President. The new member will be confirmed on February 19, 2004. The new member is Beverly Hughes. She works in the Vineland Public Schools Art Department and is involved with Teen Arts.

Pat Gale wanted clarification regarding her attendance. Ms. Gale stated that she finds it difficult to attend meetings due to her new teaching schedule.

Ms. Watson inquired about the Historical Survey. Ms. Weintraub stated that Arch 2 would be conducting the survey. Nancy Zerbie is the consultant gathering the information for the survey.

## **New Business**

The National Conference for Community Justice (NCCJ) formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews is putting on a performance at Cumberland County College on February 19, 2004. The performance portion of the program has been paid. The NCCJ is approaching the Commission for support in sponsoring the performance refreshment hour. The refreshment would be for 500 people at a cost of \$800.00.

Ms. Merighi didn't feel it would be a wise way to spend the Commission's money. The general consensus among the Commission members was the same. Particularly, due to the fact that the NCCJ had not followed the same procedures other groups have when asking for financial assistance.

Ms. Weintraub informed the Commission that she did tell the group she didn't feel obtaining assistance from the Commission would be a problem. But Ms. Weintraub added that she made them aware that she is not allowed to make decisions on behalf of the Commission.

Mr. Kehs suggested that since financial support has been implied perhaps accommodating something other refreshments. Also, inform the NCCJ that in the future requests have to be made through proper channels.

Mr. Brody agreed with Mr. Kehs. However, in the future wanted it made clear that all future decisions should be left solely to the Commission.

Based on the discussion, Joe Polhamus made a motion to offer the NCCJ \$500.00 for programming and to put the NCCJ on notice to follow the grant process next year. Jean Jones seconded that motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weintraub has been approached by the City of Millville for a letter of support for their Maurice River Pedestrian Bridge Proposal.

Mr. Brody made a motion to offer a letter of support from the Commission. The motion was seconded by Pat Gale and the motion passed unanimously. Jean Jones and Marianne Lods abstained.

Ms. Weintraub asked the Commission it was interested in having an ad in the Courier Post's March 19, 2004 supplement. The Courier Post is doing a Discover Jersey Art ad supplement. A quarter page would cost \$846.00. The ad could be used to advertise the Blind Boys of Alabama, Natalie MacMaster and the East Point Artist Day open house in August.

Pat Gale motioned to have an ad in the Courier Post - Discover Jersey Art supplement. Motion was seconded by Marianne Lods and motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, March 9, 2004 in County Freeholders Conference Room in Bridgeton, NJ. A motion to adjourn was made by Mel Brody. Motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously.

## **Cumberland County Cultural Plan Outline of Potential Goals**

- I. Arts for everyone and everywhere
  - A. Performing Arts
    - 1. Indoor venues
    - 2. Outdoor venues
  - B. Visual Arts
  - C. Intimate gathering places that can be art venues
    - 1. Restaurants
    - 2. Clubs
    - 3. Libraries
  - D. Outdoor Festivals
  - E. Eco-tourism
  - F. Geographic Distribution throughout County
  
- II. Arts Education - Adults and Children
  - A. Cultural education programming
    - 1. Art and Art History
    - 2. Music
    - 3. Literature
    - 4. Folk life
  - B. Control costs
    - 1. Sliding scale costs for arts
    - 2. Scholarships
  - C. Exhibition space for students
  - D. Learning for the sake of knowledge
  - E. Resident Programs
  - F. School Collaboration
  
- III. Arts as an economic development engine
  - A. Improve quality of life for potential employers
  - B. Increase the number of auxiliary businesses
  - C. Increase property values
  - D. Revitalization of downtown areas
  
- IV. The role of Individual Artists
  - A. Space for artists
    - 1. Studio
    - 2. Gallery or performance
    - 3. Living
  - B. Recognize art

1. Traditional art
  2. Folk arts
  3. Emerging art
  - C. Provide technical assistance for artists
  - D. Promote local artists
- V. The role of arts groups
- A. Cultural and Heritage Commission
  - B. Large arts presenters
    1. Bay Atlantic Symphony
    2. Cumberland County College
    3. Wheaton Village
    4. RRCA
  - C. Medium and small arts presenters
    1. Receiving local arts grant
    2. Not receiving local arts grant