

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**January 11, 2000**

**3:30 P.M.**

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**Present:**

Mel Brody	Sunkie Oye
Jane Christy	Jean Jones
Penny Watson	Suzanne Merighi

Freeholder Jeffrey Trout  
Kim Wood, Director  
Nancy Cannone, Secretary

*Freeholder*

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, January 11, 2000, at 3:30 p.m., in the Library Meeting 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 November 23, 1999 Minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Jean Jones, and passed unanimously.

Director Wood welcomed new Board member Jane Christy, and Freeholder Jeffrey Trout to the Cultural & Heritage Commission and introduced them to the members present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**EARTH DAY EVENT:** Director Wood reminded members that it had been decided not to hold an "Earth Day Concert" this year, but instead do an "Opera Dinner" in the Spring, and to tie into the "Millennium Festival" which is scheduled to be held on Saturday, October 21, 2000.

The following items were discussed in reference to both the "Millennium Festival" and the Ricky Van Shelton Concert:

- \* Country Artist Ricky Van Shelton who the Commission has been considering for this year's concert, is available on that date.
- \* A \$35.00 ticket price was suggested for the Van Shelton concert.
- \* The concert could be the grand finale of the "Festival."
- \* Local advertising could be a combined effort by both Commissions, but it was

felt that the CCC&HC should also advertise on "Country" radio stations, including WDSB in Delaware.

- \* Commission members asked if it would be possible to get a tape of one of his performances to review.
- \* Mrs. Wood reported that she has applied to the State Arts Council for a \$15,000. special projects grant to help pay for this performance.
- \* Chairperson Watson stated that this concert held in conjunction with the "Millennium Festival" would be a nice contribution by the Cultural and Heritage Commission to the day, and would strengthen the whole event.
- \* Mrs. Wood stated that the County "Millennium Festival" will be a FREE event. There may be other municipal or private organization events that the Commission will help promote, but fees will be up to these organizations.
- \* The official Millennium logo was designed by Julie Fletcher, a student of Judy Scull, art teacher at Bridgeton High School and a member of the Millennium Commission. Mrs. Wood will have this logo next week. The logo is a ribbon tied in a knot and shows the theme which is "Respect the Past, Admire the Present, and Plan for the Future."

Following the general discussion a motion was made by Mel Brody, seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously to sign a contract to have Ricky Van Shelton perform at the "Millennium Festival" on Saturday, October 21, 2000.

DISTANT VOICES PROGRAM: The Director referred members to a copy of the program in their packets and urged members to attend the performance which is being held on Friday, January 14, 2000, at 8:00 p.m. at Cumberland Regional High School. The performance lasts 1:45 minutes. There is also a 1:30 p.m. slightly shortened performance for students.

NEWSLETTER: Jean Jones commented on the many errors in the last Newsletter, Director Wood requested that when members spot an error they mark it and pass the information on to her so that she can go over it with Mr. Toffanelli.

Bids on the new format and numbers of pages of the newsletter are ready to be mailed out, and hopefully this will all be set up for the first 2000 issue.

Mel Brody asked what the current charge for the writing/printing is. Director Wood reported that the current contract is for \$10,620. for four quarterly newsletters and the monthly Cultural Calendar. Mr. Tofanelli had stated at a previous meeting that adding the additional pages would probably cost an additional \$300. to \$400. using the current vendor. Mrs. Wood stated that she had budgeted \$11,000. for the new contract.

The subject of advertising was again discussed, but no final decision was made. Freeholder Trout stated his approval of advertising, but felt it necessary to consult with the County Council to check the legality of advertising. It was suggested that if it is decided to use advertising, the advertisement should be for all four issues.

Freeholder Jeff Trout suggested having guest writers contribute articles, such as teachers, historians etc. Mr. Brody commented that a historical column has already been suggested and is in the works.

Mr. Trout also requested that Kim collect some other areas newsletters so that he can look them over.

VAN GO: Director Wood briefly outlined for Jane Christy and Jeff Trout the idea Pat Witt has of getting an old van, painting it and taking it out to the poorer community's to bring art to the children of the area. There is nothing new on this project as of now.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

OPERA DINNER: Mrs. Wood asked for comments about when this dinner should be held. Friday May 12, 200 was suggested as Mother's Day is May 14th. Mrs. Wood will check to see that no other major events are scheduled for that date. It was the unanimous opinion of the members to hold the affair at the Ramada again as the venue was so ideal for that type of program.

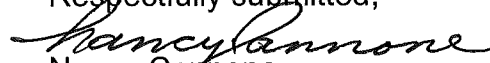
OPERA COMPETITION: Following a general discussion it was the consensus of the Commission that it would be impossible for Mrs. Wood to devote the huge amount of time needed to pull the competition together this year, and it would be extremely hard to raise the \$6,000. prize money again so shortly after last year's competition. All agreed that last years program was very successful and they would like to see it repeated, perhaps sponsoring this kind of event every other year.

ENCORE AWARDS DINNER: The annual "Encore Awards Dinner" is scheduled for March 14, 2000, in Atlantic City. This is sponsored by the South Jersey Cultural Alliance and allows Cultural & Heritage Commissions to honor a person in their area who has contributed to the cultural heritage of the community. Mrs. Wood will again reserve a table for the Commission.

It was agreed by members that this dinner would take the place of the regular March meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Cannone

Secretary