

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**JANUARY 9, 2000 |
3:30 P.M.**

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Present:

Austin Gould	Penny Watson
Jane Christie	Joe Polhamus
Jean Jones	Suzanne Merighi
Marianne Lods	

Freeholder Robert Smith
Freeholder Jeffrey Trout
Pam Griner, Sr. Planner
Nancy Cannone, Secretary
Debbie Duffield

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2001 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 December 12, 2000 Minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Jean Jones, seconded by Suzanne Merighi, and passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

GRANT REVIEW PANEL: Pam Griner reported that the five year term of Panel members Mel Brody and Greg Hambleton is expiring. Ms. Griner stated that it was important that the Commission look at the diversity of the County and the Grant Review Panel, which at this time is not a very diverse group. She asked Commission members for their input of people who might be interested, and are qualified to do the Grant Review Panel work. Being a member would entail one or two meetings in the late summer/early fall. They would get a packet of all the Grant applications two weeks before the meeting to review at home, and then discuss them at the Panel meeting.

Freeholder Smith expressed his concern about the lack of diversity and stated that he felt it was necessary to have both a Hispanic and an African-American on this Board. Mr. Smith suggested reaching out to leaders of these communities and ask them who they would recommend.

Coordinator Griner commented that if the new member is connected to one of the applicants, all they would have to do is recuse themselves from discussion on that particular project. Ms. Griner asked members to think of possible replacements and report back to her in April as it is hoped they would be able to attend the Grant Workshop in June.

ADDRESS LIST UPDATES: Ms. Griner asked members to refer to the address list for CCC&HC members to make sure that the address and phone number of each member is correct. She also suggested that if a member has an E-mail address to add that so she can reach them easily.

FALL CONCERT UPDATE: The Coordinator reported that she had met with Lee and Michael Tofanelli at the end of December regarding the Concert. They agreed that it could be held in the fall. They are looking into types of entertainment for the Commission, someone like Jackson Brown or B.B. King (both of whom would be too expensive unless the Commission wants to have a major fund-raiser). Their usual fees are excess of \$40,000. Mr. Tofanelli will report back with some suggestions.

OLD BUSINESS:

LONG RANGE BOARD RETREAT: Ms. Griner RFP's have gone out to two possible facilitators and are due back the week of January 15th.

TEEN ARTS UPDATE: Only one RFP was sent out and Ms. Griner should have a decision shortly.

BOOK UPDATE: Jean Jones asked for an update on the "Book." Kim Wood reported that Steven Kehs, Director of the Department of Planning & Development spoke to Mr. Bruno and he indicated he would "think it over" and get back to Steve.

NEW BUSINESS:

WAWA CONSTRUCTION - HISTORIC TREE: Jane Christie updated Commission members on the fight to save the 200 year old white oak tree on the Wawa property - which Wawa plans to chop down for the expansion of their services, including a gas station. The problem is that the tree would be in the 12 foot buffer zone set by the State Department of Transportation. Assemblyman Nick Asselta is talking to DOT to see if this restriction could be lifted. Mrs. Christie asked the Commission to write a letter to Wawa stating concern about the tree. Suzanne Merighi made a motion, seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously, to send a letter from the Commission stating these concerns.

MILLVILLE ARTS CENTER: Marianne Lods reported that the grand opening of the Arts Center is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 21st. This event will feature a


large Art Show and evening Gala. The renovations will be finished by the end of January. Studio space will be available by March 1st., with about half the spaces already spoken for.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW SECRETARY: Coordinator Griner introduced Debbie Duffield who will be taking over the secretarial duties when the current secretary Nancy Cannone retires on January 31st. Each Commission member introduced themselves to Ms. Duffield and welcomed her aboard. Ms. Duffield will begin her duties as Secretary at the February 2001 meeting.

RECOGNITION OF NANCY CANNONE'S RETIREMENT: Freeholder Bob Smith presented a Proclamation to Nancy from the Board of Chosen Freeholders in recognition of her service to the Cumberland County Culture and Heritage Commission. Freeholder Trout presented her with a large bouquet of flowers from the members of the Commission, followed by Pam Griner who presented a cake. Mrs. Cannone thanked the Board of Freeholders and Commission members, and remarked that while she was looking forward to retirement, she would miss working for the CCC&HC and stated that she had enjoyed seeing all the changes and accomplishments it had made during the last four years, and to getting to know all the members.

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