

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

JANUARY 8, 2002
3:30 PM

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMPLEX COUNTY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: Penny Watson, Chairman Suzanne Merighi
 Joseph Polhamus Patricia Gale
 Mel Brody Austin Gould
 Marianne Lods Jane Christy
 Jean Jones

Pam Griner, Sr. Planner
Kris Lemmonds, Temporary Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2002, at 3:30 PM., in the Conference Room of the Cumberland County Library, Bridgeton, New Jersey. Penny Watson called the meeting to order and read the opening statement in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act.

Penny Watson called for approval of the December 11, 2001 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Joe Polhamus. Pam Griner had one correction - correcting the name of Shawn Tomlin to Sean Tomlin. Motion to approve with that correction seconded by Austin Gould and passed unanimously. Jane Christy and Jean Jones both abstained due to their absence at the December meeting.

2002 FALL CONCERT

Michael Tofanelli presented a video of a performance of the New Jersey Mass Choir of Newark as a possible alternative to the Harlem Boys Choir. Mr. Tofanelli also presented the possibility of having Cissy Houston join the New Jersey Mass Choir of Newark and that the cost for them would be around \$30,000.00. The cost for the Harlem Boys Choir will be \$40,000.00 and it could not be broken up to lower the cost.

Penny Watson and Austin Gould both stated that they did not want to give up on trying to get the Harlem Boys Choir. Private sponsorship was brought up as a way to raise money to help pay for the Harlem Boys Choir. Austin Gould suggested perhaps changing the date to January for Martin Luther King Day or in February during Black History Month as possible alternatives to a holiday concert date. Austin Gould further stated that it would be a major event for the County to have the Harlem Boys Choir perform here. Mel Brody inquired about the actual cost for the

Harlem Boys Choir itself. Mr. Tofanelli stated that he would discuss that issue but only in a closed session. A motion for a closed session was made by Marianne Lods and seconded by Mel Brody. Motion was unanimously carried. No motions were made while in closed session. The Commission asked Mr. Tofanelli to pursue an early Winter 2003 concert with the Harlem Boys Choir. Mr. Tofanelli stated that Tofanelli and Associates would do so.

GREG HAMBLETON - DANCE RESIDENCY ASSISTANCE

Greg Hambleton came to the commission members to ask for their help with suggestions to fill the final dance number for the Liz Lerman Residency production. Greg is looking for dancers from the various local cultural communities. The commission members suggested several organizations that he could contact for dancers. Greg also presented the possibility of getting another dance group other than the Ballet Hispanico called the Rennie Harris Puremovement out of Philadelphia, as they had just become eligible for PA Performance Arts on Tour funding. Greg stressed that if the commission wanted to reach the youth of the community this group would be a good way to do that. The cost could also be less with the PA Performance Arts on Tour funding. The commission expressed interest in having more information on this group presented along with information regarding the Ballet Hispanico at the next meeting.

SEAN TOMLIN - CULTURAL & HERITAGE WEBSITE - LOADED MEDIA

Sean Tomlin of Loaded Media presented his proposal for the website to the commission members. Sean stated that the commission can have both the calendar of events and newsletter on this website.

Per Sean the fees for the website are as follows: The Website design and registration of the Domain Name are being offered free of charge. The monthly cost for the website is \$19.95. To have the Calendar of Events on the website ^{as a fee for the CCCAC} would be a one time fee of \$1,000.00. This one time fee would be in lieu of a \$45.00 monthly fee if the client administrator, such as Pam Griner, could make the changes to the site, when necessary, instead of Loaded Media. The cost to have the newsletter on the website would be \$60.00 a month. This monthly cost would also include basic promotion of the website as part of a Search Engine Promotion. Or the Search Engine Promotion could be done without the newsletter at a cost of \$35.00 a month. The total monthly cost for the website would be \$80.00. This cost would be for the web hosting (\$19.95) and monthly web service newsletter and promotion (\$60.00).

Suzanne Merighi commented that the website would fulfill one of the components of the Commission's Long Range Plan goals to become a clearing house for the Arts & Cultural information. A motion to accept the proposal of the \$1,000.00 one-time set up fee for the Calendar of Events, the Service Pak 1 and hosting fee was made by Mel Brody. Marianne Lods seconded the motion and passed unanimously. Marianne Lods made another motion to accept to pay a fee of \$199.00 yearly to have Real Names set up "cumberlandcountycultural&heritage" to default to cross reference back to the website. Jean Jones seconded the motion and passed unanimously. Marianne Lods made another motion to register two domain names:

cculturalheritage.org
cumberlandculturalheritage.org

Suzanne Merighi seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Sean stated that the website could be up and running by mid February. Mel Brody commented that he would like to see a bigger photograph of the lighthouse on the home page.

SOUTH JERSEY CULTURAL ALLIANCE - PAUL AITKEN ENCORE AWARDS

The awards will be held on March 12, 2002 at 5:30 pm at Caesar's Palace in Atlantic City. Mel Brody motioned that Jane Galetto be the Cumberland County Honoree. Jean Jones seconded that motion and passed unanimously. Suzanne Merighi commented that Ms. Galetto is a very deserving recipient. She contributed to the NJN documentary, "Artists of the Bayshore".

LONG RANGE PLAN

The Long Range Plan will not be submitted to the Freeholders until a liaison has been chosen. The Freeholder's next scheduled meeting is February 14, 2002.

The next meeting of the Culture & Heritage Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2002 at 3:30 pm in the County Administration Building.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM. Motion to adjourn was made by Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.