

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

July 11, 2000

3:30 P.M.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Present:

Mel Brody Patricia Gale
Marianne Lods Jean Jones
Austin Gould

Freeholder Bob Smith
Freeholder Jeffrey Trout
Kim Wood, Director
Pam Griner, Sr. Planner
Nancy Cannone, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2000, at 3:30 p.m., in the Freeholders Meeting Room, in the County Administration Building, Bridgeton, New Jersey. Austin Gould called the meeting to order and read the opening statement in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act.

Mr. Gould called for approval of the May 9, 2000 Minutes. Jean Jones stated that Fola Bevans name was misspelled in the May Minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes with the correction was made by Austin Gould, seconded by Pat Gale, and passed unanimously.

Director Wood welcomed new Board member Marianne Lods to the Cultural & Heritage Commission and introduced her to members present

OLD BUSINESS:

Pam Griner updated Commission Members on the following:

UPDATE ON ARTS REGRANT PROGRAM: A Workshop was held on June 6th at Cumberland County College. Thirty-three people, representing thirty-five cultural organizations attended. Since the Workshop five organizations have called and requested packets. The deadline for submitting Grants is August 1st. The funding period goes from January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001.

Three new members have been named to the Grant Review Panel. They are Frank Duffy of Millville, and Teri Pickett Berkowitz and Susan Gogan from Vineland.

Packets are due Tuesday August 1st. Two weeks later all the packets will be mailed to members of the Grant Review Panel who will be given two to three weeks to review the information. The Panel will meet the second week in September to discuss and

determine funding. Their recommendations will be presented to the CCC&HC in October. Award letters will be mailed in November, contracts will be mailed in December. In January the new funding program will start.

HISTORICAL AGENCY REGRANT PROGRAM: This is a new grant that the Commission has received for the first time. The total Grant is for \$10,000 and is to be used for staffing operations. The Grant Period is on a fiscal year. The deadline for submitting applications is July 14th. The applications will be reviewed in early August with recommendations made to the CCC&HC at the August meeting. Award letters and contracts will go out in late August. The program ends on June 30, 2001.

A direct mailing was sent out to the history organizations in the County notifying them of this opportunity.

As this is a new grant for the County a Review Panel will have to be appointed.

HISTORIC TRUST UPDATE: On June 21st a site visit was made by Wes Haynes, the project reviewer of New Jersey Historic Trust regarding the grant application for the Court House cupola. Michael Henry and several staff members from Watson & Henry; Rich Lupson, Supervisor of County maintenance; Kim Wood, Pam Griner, and Freeholder Director Fisher accompanied Mr. Haynes on a 1 1/2 hour tour of the cupola including going up inside and around the outside walkway. Hopefully an announcement will be made on September 14th in Trenton of the awarding of the \$300,000 grant to repair the cupola.

CULTURAL FUNDING: The CCC&HC put aside \$15,000 of its annual yearly funding for an Opera slated to be held in the theater at CCC. Due to construction the theater was not open for public use prior to the end of the fiscal year. This created a problem as the Grant period (July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000) would end before the Commission could reschedule the Opera program. Mrs. Wood had to request a Grant extension and then find ways to spend the money.

Listed below are the potential organizations that may receive funds:

1. El Festival Puertorriqueno: Youth Outreach Day. (\$7,000)
2. Urban Network Organization (UNO): Arts outreach - Traveling Theater in low income neighborhoods throughout the County. (\$5,000)
3. Nanticoke Leni Lenape Indians of N.J.: Cultural & Heritage Camp. (Workshops focusing on traditional Lenape, dance, drumming, and regalia design). \$3,500)
4. North Italy Club: Italian Heritage Festival. (\$5,000)
5. Latin Swing Dance - Millville

LATIN SWING DANCE PROGRAM: Mel Brody reported on a proposal to put on a Latin Swing Dance Program on the Waterfront in Millville sometime in September. He is meeting with representatives from Millville tomorrow (July 12th). The program will have a sixteen piece swing band called "Stan the Man and his Big Band". Mr. Brody stated that he has heard this band and they are excellent, adding that they frequently play in Manyunk, Cherry Hill, Atlantic City etc.. The plan is to set the band up on a flatbed near the old Kane property, and then set up tables and chairs in the area. The City will handle liqueur licenses, restaurants, etc. keying everything around Latin Swing Music.

This will be a FREE event. In preliminary discussions between Kim Warker, and Kim Wood, Mrs. Wood committed funding to pay for the music, with the City of Millville funding the balance.

Pat Gale made a motion to fund the five events with money from the 1999 budget, seconded by Marianne Lods and passed unanimously.

ARTIST'S RESIDENCY PROGRAM: Mrs. Wood passed around pictures Pam Griner took at the Artist's Residency Program in the Vineland schools - which was funded by the Cultural Funding Grant.

EAST POINT OPEN HOUSE: This event is scheduled for Saturday, August 5th., from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The "Snake Brothers" will be there starting at noon, along with Steve Byrne a ragtime guitarist. There will be some new artists from the Barn Studio of Art - along with those who have attended in past years. The Maurice River Historical Society will be putting out flyers on this event.

NEWSLETTER: There have been problems with the mailing of this newsletter. The Mail House is no longer doing these mailings and currently we have no replacement. The County Purchasing Director is currently working on finding a new mail house. Mrs. Wood recommended that no new mail house be hired before the first of the year. Then sign a contract (which we have not had in the past) with the Mail House.

For the September Newsletter, Lee Tofanelli will deliver to all the locations, Mrs. Wood will mail the Newsletters to everyone on her mailing list, and the Cumberland News will deliver it along with their weekly paper.

Mrs. Wood asked for suggestions for articles to be featured in the Fall CCC&HC "Newsletter". Austin Gould asked for an article on the Bay Atlantic Symphony scheduled for September 23rd. Other suggestions included the Seafood Festival, Halloween Cemetery Tour, and Arts & Humanities Month.

MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL: This event will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2000 at Cumberland County College from 10:00 until 5:00 p.m.

The campus will be set up in three different sections, the world of the past, the world of the present and the world of the future.

The Hoh Daiko Drummers have been asked to open the event followed by welcoming remarks from the Board of Freeholders and Dr. Ender of Cumberland County College.

Some of the scheduled events will include: over 75 exhibitors, the Minyo Dancers, antique car show using cars from all the different periods, military vehicles, a civil war reenactment, distance learning labs, pony rides, amusements, school sponsored events, and "A Taste of Cumberland County" using restaurants from all over the County;

The Millennium Commission voted at its June meeting that it will start sending "Save the Date" postcards out after July 4th. Glenn Nickerson is in charge of marketing this event.

NEW BUSINESS:

STATE ART COUNCIL GRANT AWARDS: Mrs. Wood reported that the State Arts Council Meeting is on July 25th at which time the Commission will learn how much money it will receive. The breakdown is listed below:

Staffing Grant -- \$30,000
Millennium Concert Grant -- \$15,000
Cultural Funding Grant -- \$45,000
Operations -- \$56,320
Regrant -- \$94,000

The Commission regranted \$143,00 last year over eighteen months to 21 arts organizations; this year there is \$94,000 to regrant in a twelve month period. This represents a \$25,000 increase from last year.

Mrs. Wood stated that she sent the Arts Council a letter telling them that the Commission needed more funding.

DOVIA: Pam Griner reported that DOVIA is the Cumberland County Directors of Volunteers in Agencies of which CCC&HC is a member. The organization has been in existence for four years and is always looking for members. Some of the things they participate in are inmates making floats; and the hospital setting up First Aid Stations; both of which the Commission will need for the Millennium Festival.

SIGNAGE: Mel Brody brought up the subject of signage at all CCC&HC sponsored events. The Commission has a large 3' x 10' banner that has been used only at events that Mrs. Wood has attended - to insure that it doesn't get misplaced. She further stated that it would be impossible to get the banner to all the events unless the Commission had more than one banner. It was decided that the Commission needed

six more banners. Mrs. Wood will look into prices for different sizes and report back to the Commission.

It was agreed by Members that the Commission does not get the recognition it deserves at most events. It was suggested that as a condition of each organization's Grant they be required to pick up and use the CCC&HC banner for all events.

WEB SITE FOR COMMISSION: Mel Brody asked if there was any interest in setting up a web site for the Commission? Members thought it was a good idea because CCC&HC is lost in the County web site. Mrs. Wood replied that she is working on a Department of Planning & Development web site and that Tourism and Cultural Affairs will be a part of this. Mrs. Wood would like to bring in a professional to design it, put it together, and maintain it. The first step would be to find a Grant to pay for this project. Mel Brody commented that there were programs that teach people how to do this in house, and while it is not as good as having it done by a professional, it would get the Commission started. Mr. Brody has a program that he will bring over to show Pam.

The next meeting of the Culture & Heritage Commission is scheduled for August 8th.

There being no further business on motion by Mel Brody, seconded by Marianne Lods, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cannone
Secretary