

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY
CULTURAL & HERITAGE
MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2001
CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

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

Greg Hambleton, Cumberland County College
Freeholder Douglas Fisher
Freeholder Harold Johnson, Jr.
Pam Griner, Sr. Planner
Stephen Kehs, Executive Director
Debbie Duffield, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on March 13, 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. There will be minutes for two meetings next month.

INTRODUCTION OF FREEHOLDER LIAISONS: Pam Griner welcomed Freeholder Harold Johnson and Freeholder Douglas Fisher as our Freeholder Liaisons for the Cultural and Heritage Commission. Pam Griner thanked the freeholders for attending today.

TEEN ARTS: Pam Griner reminded everybody of the Teen Arts Festival on Wednesday, April 11, 2001 at the Cumberland County College. It will be an all day event starting at 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Jennie Ayres is our coordinator who has several, very energetic coordinators this year for the event. Most of you probably already know that our Visual Arts Coordinator is going to be Andrea Workman this year. Pam invited everybody for this event. Greg Hambleton said that usually 300 to 450 people attend the event.

ENCORE AWARDS: Pam Griner handed out invitations for the Encore Award which is being held on Tuesday evening, March 27th at 6:00 p.m. in Atlantic City. Just a reminder that it is being held on March 27th and we should have a good time.

ARTS PATRON AWARD DINNER: Pam Griner said at the last meeting we had a discussion who should be nominated this year. The nominees nominated were Gaye Taylor and Judy Scull. Pam Griner said that instead of the June meeting being held here, we will have it at a dinner meeting and celebrate the person that we will honor. Pam Griner asked if there were any additional nominees. Pamela Griner said that Judy Scull is a Bridgeton High School teacher. Judy Scull is very involved with arts at the high school level. Judy used to be the Visual Arts Coordinator for the Teen Arts Festival. Patricia Dufford said that Judy is now the coordinator for the entire Bridgeton school system, kindergarten through twelfth grade. Jane Christy asked if there is any written criteria. Pam said that she did not believe so.

Gaye Taylor - Jean Jones said that Wheaton Village sponsors a lot of things having to do with the arts. They do the "Kids Participate" program every year. There are Arts and Crafts activities for kids. The kids can blow glass bubbles, participate in flame working and working with marbles. Suzanne Merighi said that the museum was just accredited and Gaye Taylor has worked many years to get it to that point.

Judy Scull - Penny Watson said that Judy Scull has done a terrific job introducing art to the different school systems. Patricia Dufford said that Judy Scull is the strongest Art Department Chairman in the County. Mel Brody said Judy Scull is involved in Teen Arts. Patricia Dufford said that Judy Scull honors architecture. At least every art teacher does one architecture lesson each year. By the time the students graduate from Bridgeton High School, they have had 13 sessions that was focused on architecture of the area. Patricia Dufford reported that Judy Scull has helped numerous people into art schools. She is a perfect art teacher. If you were to ask an art teacher, which I am one, to nominate one of the strongest art teacher in the County, Judy would get the vote. Austin Gould echoed that. Patricia Dufford said that she works for anybody and she is just an "angel".

Pam Griner asked if anybody would like to make a motion for the nominee for this year. A motion to nominate Judy Scull for the Arts Patron Award was made by Mel Brody, seconded by Austin Gould, and passed unanimously.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOOK: Steve Kehs reported that the Commission is probably familiar with the history and we won't have to get into the history of the book. Steve Kehs said that, because our author and artist has "passed away", and because we had a product that this Commission was not satisfied with, we need to bring this product to the Commission in a way that you feel comfortable. At the request of both Pam Griner and Kim Wood, I contacted Mr. Bruno. We had a good conversation and he was certainly willing to talk to me and pursue some possible options. Based on my conversation with Mr. Bruno, I don't think that he is going to be able to provide anything at this stage. Steve Kehs said that he knows that there is some dissatisfaction on the Commission that we don't have a "finished product". Steve Kehs explained that the County has recently hired a young man by the name of Matt Pisarski from

Greenwich Township. He is a Penn Graduate and he has a great interest in Cumberland County history. Matt Pisarski is willing to help us with this project. Steve Kehs said that he thinks it may be possible through our staff to take the information we have to date, to mold it into a product where you will be comfortable with. There will be a good narration. Steve Kehs said we can probably make arrangements to have some draft sketches done. Essentially we will get you the product that was contracted. Steve Kehs said then we would give you this "DRAFT" and ask Penny Watson or anybody on this Commission, to have another chance to polish it up or provide the final shape that you want it to have. Steve Kehs said that we understand the dilemma and we have a way to remedy the situation for the Commission. Jean Jones asked if the basis of what Mrs. Bruno already produced would be used. Steve Kehs said they would. Penny Watson said there is a lot of information that was bad about that book. Penny Watson offered to work on writing the book, if Matt Pisarski would do the research. Steve Kehs said that Matt Pisarski is aware that in terms of research and verifying the dates, that we will have to start at square one. Steve Kehs said we will produce something that you will be proud of. Penny Watson asked if we will be working with the Vineland and Millville Historical societies. Steve Kehs said the authorship will have to be looked into. Steve Kehs said we will have to look at the authenticity of the book. Suzanne Merighi suggested the County web site may have some history too. A motion was made to authorize the Cumberland County Planning Board to work on the book by Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Joe Polhamus, and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

VAN GO (ART ON WHEELS, WHEELISM) PILOT PROGRAM:

Pam Griner said Patricia Dufford is here to talk about the "Van Go" project. Hand out information was distributed. Patricia Dufford said the original idea is by Pat Witt. The "van" will be furnished with art supplies and it will go out to different events in the county to serve the communities. Patricia Dufford said Pat Witt calls it "Art on Wheels, Wheelism". The van will be stocked for 24 people, because it is easy to buy art supplies in dozens. The van will need to have some shelves built in with edges and places for the easels. Patricia Dufford said the van would cost \$26,000, salaries and wages would cost \$15,000, and \$6,500 to stock the van with supplies, plus the insurance and gasoline costs. Patricia Dufford said this will be a \$50,000 project. Pam Griner said we can apply for the grant next year. Pam Griner said we have ten months to work on the program. Patricia Dufford offered to send a letter to all of the school teacher to see who is interested in teaching art. She asked everybody to write down the different festivals that we attend and this will give us an idea of different events where to go. Freeholder Harold Johnson, Jr. said the "Van Go" could go to Bay Day, the Deerfield Harvest Festival, Cumberland County Fair, East Point Lighthouse. Mel Brody asked how many visits this van will be used. It was decided that in the future a schedule will be available. Discussion followed. A motion to take this project on and develop a grant was made by Penny Watson, seconded by Mel Brody, and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS: Freeholder Douglas Fisher presented the original two books of the County which covers the first fifty years. The first book is dated "1748 - 1797", and the second book is dated "1798 - 1844". These books are not in a preserved condition which you can tell that by just looking at the delicate books. Freeholder Douglas Fisher said that everyone is welcome to

look at them. Freeholder Douglas Fisher said he called a conservator that Sally Watson recommended. Estimates were approximately from \$3,000 to \$6,000 for a book. Penny Watson said that the work is very time consuming. She also said that the books need to be conserved first, before they are microfilmed. Freeholder Director Fisher asked the blessing of the Commission to do this work. He wanted to know if you value enough that you feel these books should be taken care of. The Commission felt that this is what it is all about. Freeholder Douglas Fisher said there are many volumes, but these are the two earliest. He said that these books are in the worst shape, and if the books are not taken care of in the next few years that they will not be around. Mel Brody asked if they are restored, where would they be stored. Freeholder Douglas Fisher said they are now being stored in a storage closet, and that is not the proper place for them. Penny Watson said that sometimes when they conserve them, the pages are laminated and then you can touch them. Mel Brody asked Pam Griner to look up and see if there are any grants available for this project. In the meantime, Freeholder Douglas Fisher will check into the County budget. A motion was made to accept looking into the funding to accomplish that goal by Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Jean Jones, and passed unanimously.

PARTNER WITH A PIONEER: Pam Griner introduced Greg Hambleton from Cumberland County College. Papers were distributed. He said he would like to enter into a dialogue with the Cultural & Heritage Commission about partnering on some cultural events. Depending on funding, the NJ State Council for the Arts holds back some funding for "special" projects. These projects do not have to go through a grant process, but are determined through an informal process to be important to the Commission through either geographical location or perhaps admission. About a month ago, we were contacted by one of the NJ State Council for the Arts' Program Directors and asked if they could forward the college's name and facility as doing something in Southern New Jersey involving dance. This is very exciting. Greg Hambleton received a call a few days ago asking for a proposal that would be funded to do a fairly extensive residency program involving connecting communities to the arts through dance. Greg Hambleton said he was already talking to the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange. The inter generational dance company has dancers in their teens and sixties. Their whole methodology of doing dances that you create your own movement, you create your own dance through your experience of story telling. There is not a lot of information for you at this point, because it is very much fast tracked. The budget will be approximately \$40,000. The State Council will fund, if funded, the majority of that amount. At this point, funding may not be needed. Greg Hambleton is asking if we would like to become a partner and said he thinks it will enhance his ability to get funding for the County if the Commission is interested in the partnership. Discussion followed. A motion was made to get involved in this project by Penny Watson, seconded by Mel Brody, and passed unanimously. Pam Griner said that if financial assistance is needed, it would not be available until the 2002 budget.

Jane Christy said the WaWa tree has been saved!

The next meeting will be scheduled on Tuesday, April 10, 2001 - 3:30 p.m.

There being no further business on motion made by Mel Brody, seconded by Penny Watson, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.