

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 12, 1998
3:30 P.M.
CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Present: Penny Watson Joseph Polhamus
Suzanne Merighi Sunako Oye
Austin Gould Mel Brody
Freeholder Chuck Griffiths

Kim Wood, Director
Nancy Cannone, Acting Secretary

The meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was called to order on Tuesday, May 12, 1998 at 3:30 p.m., in the Freeholder Meeting Room, County Administration Building, by Chairperson Penny Watson.

The Chairperson called for approval of the Minutes of April 14, 1998. A motion to accept the Minutes was made by Austin Gould, seconded by Jean Jones, and passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

The meeting was turned over to Director Wood who reported on the following:

OLD BUSINESS:

JUDY COLLINS CONCERT: Mrs. Wood hoped the members enjoyed the concert and thanked everyone for their work and cooperation in putting together the event. She reported that she is already working on a date for next year. The Commission made money on this event and final figures will be available at the June meeting.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH: On May 9th the Commission paid for the tickets to send 100 senior citizens to the concert presented by the Bridgeton Symphony. A picture was in the "Press."

ANNUAL DINNER: The Annual Dinner of the CCC&C is scheduled for Monday, June 8th., 6:00 p.m. at the Vineland Ramada. Commission members and members of the Grants Review Panel will have their meal paid for. The selection will be either broiled flounder or chicken Marsella.

The Director reminded members that the Commission needed to select an "Honoree" for the annual "Cultural & Heritage" award. At a previous meeting Jean Jones had suggested George Luciano, Sr., who she said has been a heavy supporter of the Arts for many years. Mrs. Wood remarked that without Mr. Luciano's assistance we would never have been able to have the Judy Collins concert. He not only donated money himself but spent many hours and was instrumental in raising a large portion of the funds that paid for the concert.

Mel Brody supported Mr. Luciano because over the years he has done many things in support of the Community and the Arts. But he felt it important that we not set a precedent that someone who sponsors a specific event would not automatically be that year's honoree.

Mr. Brody made a motion, seconded by Mr. Polhamus to nominate Mr. Luciano for the annual "Cultural & Heritage" award. There were no further nominations. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Luciano.

Freeholder Griffiths asked about announcing the recipient of this award. Mrs. Wood will contact Mr. Luciano and tell him he is being honored and inviting him and a guest to the dinner. Jean Jones stated that she would write an article announcing the winner of the award.

TEEN ARTS FESTIVAL: The Teen Arts Festival will be held on Friday, May 29th. from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., at the College. The Director had a meeting with Liz O'Brien, one of the Teen Arts Coordinators. They have scheduled a nice variety of workshops and have so many students signed up that they need two instructors for some of the workshops. Jean Jones volunteered to give the event some publicity in the paper and will try to get a photographer to take pictures the day of the event. This event is not open to the general public, but Mrs. Wood urged Commission members to drop in, identify themselves, and observe the different workshops.

Freeholder Griffiths asked if there were Culture & Heritage badges for the Commissioners. He asked Mrs. Wood to look into this and see if some type of identifying badges could be obtained. Mr. Brody suggested they could be something like the ones used for the 250th Anniversary.

EAST POINT LIGHTHOUSE OPEN HOUSE: This event is scheduled for Saturday, August 1st from 10:00 a.m., until 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Wood reported that there will be many events going on at East Point this year. Some of the artists will include, George Perez a new artist will do caricatures, the Snake Brothers, Fusaye Kazaoka is bringing seven artists who paint together, Liz Nicholas, Frances Ono, Joanne Hennessey, and Ann Feinstein. Mrs. Wood is trying to get another singer of some type, and is looking into the possibility of getting some animals from the Bridgeton Zoo, and Carol Ann Platt who does papermaking classes for children.

The 250th year banner will be hanging for this event, and there will be a dedication ceremony for the 250th anniversary and dedication of the lighthouse which will be attended by the County Freeholders.

BARBARA BRUNO: Penny Watson reported that Ms. Bruno is working hard and devoting all of her time to finishing up her book on the history of Cumberland County. No completion date is as yet available.

WORKSHOPS: Director Wood reported on the Media Relations and Mass Mailing Workshops held on April 30th at the Vineland Ramada. There were about 25 people at each Workshop. Mrs. Wood expressed her disappointment that more representatives from Cumberland County did not attend, however, representatives from Cape May County, The Schooner Project, and the City of Bridgeton attended.

ARTS COUNCIL The New Jersey Arts Council will hold there meeting in Cumberland County at the Frank Guaracini Fine & Performing Arts Center at the County College on Wednesday, May 27th. from 10:00 until 11:30. The Commission will be supplying both a continental breakfast and a lunch for the approximately 25 members of the Arts Council, plus the County members who attend. Mel Brody questioned the luncheon menu, saying that he felt this is the group that has appropriated quite a bit of money for the County, and felt they should be treated to a quality lunch. Following the luncheon they will get on CATS buses, no later than 12:30 for a ride to the Schooner. Some of the Arts Council will tour the Schooner and then leave, five members will be boarding the Schooner for the 1:00 sailing.

FRIENDSHIP CONCERT: The Friendship Concert was held Sunday, April 26th. at Millville Library. The two gifted pianists, Della Gamboa Besa and Anamaria Gregorio deGusmand were fantastic reported the Director who attended the concert representing the Commission. Mrs. Wood thanked them for coming and presented them with a 250th Mug. She reported that they are touring the United States in celebration of the Philippines 100th Anniversary of their separation from Spain. They are currently at the Kennedy Center performing. There was a very good crowd and the room was filled.

MEL BRODY EXHIBIT: Mrs. Wood reported that during the month of June, Commission member Mel Brody,s art will be exhibited at the Millville Library, and urged members to stop in and see his work. There will be a reception on June 7th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

ARTIST'S DIRECTORY: Director Wood is in the process of updating the Artist's Directory. She has called Susan Moore who did the artwork on the last Directory and it must all be redone for the printer. Mrs. Wood asked that if members know of anyone who should be added to this new Directory to have them call her so they can be added. This Directory update must be done before the end of the Grant period.

GRIEVANCE PLAN: The Director asked for a motion to accept the Grievance Plan. A motion was made by Joseph Polhamus, seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously to accept the Grievance Plan as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS:

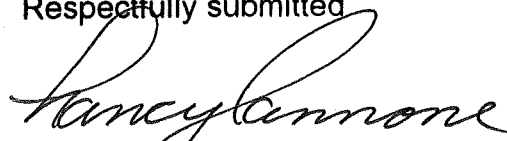
REORGANIZATION OF OFFICERS: Mrs. Wood noted that Reorganization would take place at our Dinner meeting in June. She will contact Austin Gould and ask him to again present the slate of officers at that time. Susan Gogan has requested that we eliminate the Treasurers position as the Budget is now a part of the overall Department of Planning & Development's budget. Jean Jones made a motion to eliminate the Treasurer's position, seconded by Suzanne Merighi, and unanimously approved. Freeholder Griffiths asked Kim to get a print-out of the Commission's part of Planning & Development's budget, and include it in the June packet so that members can review it.

ARTS & HUMANITIES MONTH: October is Arts & Humanities Month. The Director reminded members that the Performing Arts Center at the college will not be available as it will be closed until next February for renovation. Mrs. Wood asked for ideas on where and what events to schedule. Mel Brody suggested the Landis Middle School auditorium which was recently renovated. Last year the Pushcart Players put on a children's show. This is a Free event for young people. Some suggestions included a puppet show, a variety show, an outdoor event at the lighthouse for children, an event at Wheaton Village, ballet, and light opera. Suzanne Merighi mention an organization called "Young Audiences" who list various types of events for children. It was agreed that Mrs. Wood will contact them and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

SINGING AMBASSADORS: Saturday & Sunday, May 16th and 17th, the Singing Ambassadors are presenting a concert at the Landis Middle School. Saturday's concert is at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday's is at 3:00 p.m. Commission members have received tickets to attend.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Nancy Cannone
Acting Secretary