

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**May 11, 1999**

**3:30 P.M.**

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**Present:**

Mel Brody	Patricia Gale
Austin Gould	Suzanne Merighi
Jean Jones	Sunkie Oye
Penny Watson	

Freeholder Chuck Griffiths  
Kim Wood, Director  
Nancy Cannone, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, May 11, 1999 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 Law.

The Chairperson called for approval of the April 13, 1999 Minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Auston Gould, and passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE GUIDE:** Chairperson Penny Watson read to Commission members a letter she had signed as Commission Chairperson to send to the NJ Commerce & Economic Growth Commission & the New Jersey Historical Commission strongly objecting to the omission of Springtown and Othello in this publication and requesting that they print an insert for this Guide until a reprinting with the corrected information is completed.

Freeholder Griffiths reported that the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders had written a strongly worded letter to the same group also demanding corrections be made as soon as possible and until then an insert be put into the Guide.

**BAGGER BILL:** Freeholder Griffiths reported that the "Bagger Bill" which released funds for operating expenses for Historic Preservation in the amount of \$4.5 million has been sent to the Governor.

YOUNG AUDIENCES OF NEW JERSEY: FINAL PERFORMANCE: Director Kim Wood reported on this organization which has been conducting the cultural programming in the Vineland Schools under CCC&HC sponsorship. The culminating performance from this workshop will be held on May 18th at the Landis Middle School, at 7:00 p.m. The performance is free and open to the public and Director Wood urged Commission members to attend to see what the children learned. A full evaluation of the program will be sent to the CCC&HC for our records. This evaluation will also be sent to the State Arts Council.

EARTH DAY CONCERT: This was a very well attended event, with 90% of the seats sold stated the Director, and she has received nothing but "rave" reviews. The only complaint received was that it was too loud, especially toward the back of the auditorium, and this is something that the Commission will have to address for future events. There is however, still a shortage of \$5,600. Chairperson Watson asked how much money had been raised. Mrs. Wood reported that between the Trust Fund and the Block Grant line items, \$15,000 was used to pay for the concert. Mrs. Wood raised an additional \$9,000. from private sources. Ticket sales brought in approximately \$5,000. The grand total is \$29,000. This figure includes the 15% fee that the producer charged to present the show. Mrs. Wood further reported that CCC&HC is completely out of money, and that she went to her department head, Stephen Kehs, Director of the Department of Planning and Development, who has found money so that the Commission can continue to mail the newsletter, and do the Artist Day at East Point.

Mrs. Wood stated that the Commission must decide whether it wants to continue this event, and if it does, then as suggested at the last meeting, a fund raising committee should be formed. Another thing the Commission must take into consideration is the time of year the concert will be held so not to compete with the many other cultural events that take place in the Spring. Mel Brody mentioned he had seen a list that Greg Hambleton had of many artists that are available and there were a lot of fine artists available for \$10,000. to \$12,000. which is a lot less than we paid this year. Another suggestion was that perhaps we hold the concert every other year.

It was decided that this was a topic to cover at the Commission Retreat being planned for later this year.

DATE FOR RETREAT: Susan Gogan has offered the pottery shop classroom at Wheaton Village for the Retreat. Mrs. Wood commented that initially it was suggested that the Retreat be held on a Saturday, but after a discussion with Ms. Gogan, perhaps it would be better if it was held on a week night. After a general discussion it was decided to hold the Retreat on June 29th, starting at 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Wood volunteered to make sandwiches, Susan Gogan will provide the desert, and other Commission members will bring soda, salads, etc..

It was decided that the focus of the Retreat will be on the direction that the CCC&HC wants to take in the coming years. Members will call Mrs. Wood with suggestions for items to be put on the Agenda - which will be mailed out ahead of time so that individuals can think about each idea.

Mel Brody also asked if, prior to the Retreat, Mrs. Wood could send members a list of the Commission's accomplishments.

LE ANNE MC GIFFEN CONCERT: This Concert is scheduled for 8:00 p.m., Saturday, June 5th, at the County College. Tickets are \$7.00, and go on Sale Friday at the College Box Office. Mel Brody has volunteered to take care of a Program Book and Flyers.

BARBARA BRUNO: Mrs. Wood called Mrs. Bruno about the book and left a message and is now waiting for Mrs. Bruno to return the call. Sue Gogan has volunteered to go with Mrs. Wood when a meeting can be arranged.

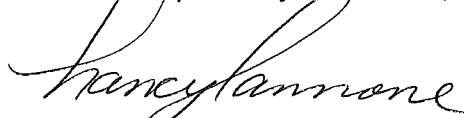
**NEW BUSINESS:**

MILLVILLE ARTS DISTRICT MEETING: Mrs. Wood attended a meeting on May 10th in the pottery shop classroom at Wheaton Village where local artists discussed the proposed "Arts District" in the City of Millville.

STATE ARTS COUNCIL: Director Wood reported that she would be attending the State Arts Council's Grant Review Panel meeting on May 19th at 4:00 p.m. where they will start reviewing the Grant Applications. This is a new procedure as it is the first time they will be interviewing the person submitting the applications. Chairperson Penny Watson volunteered to go with Mrs. Wood.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Cannone  
Secretary