

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

May 9, 2000 3:30 P.M.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Present:

Mel Brody
Austin Gould

Jean Jones
Suzanne Merighi

Pat Gale
Joe Polhamus

Freeholder Bob Smith
Freeholder Jeff Trout
Kim Wood, Director
Pam Griner, Senior Planner
Sherry Riendeau, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2000 at 3:30 p.m., in the Freeholder Conference Room, of the County Complex, Bridgeton, New Jersey. Vice-Chairperson Suzanne Merighi called the meeting to order and read the opening statement in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act.

The Vice-Chairperson called for approval of the April 11, 2000 Minutes. Jean Jones noted several corrections to page three, under New Business - June Awards Dinner. The following corrections were noted: Mulva Beven should read as Fola Bevan; Whitney Garrison should read as Winnie Garrison; and Gwen Rudarow should read as Glenn Rudderow. A motion to approve the Minutes, with the above mentioned corrections, was made by Mr. Polhamus, seconded by Freeholder Smith, and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

OPERA DINNER

Mrs. Wood informed the Commission that ninety tickets have been sold for the Opera Dinner and the event is nearly sold out. Jean Jones noted that an announcement of the Opera Dinner was listed in the Weekender section of the newspaper. Mel Brody will pick up the electric piano and deliver it to the Ramada Inn. Roses will be provided for all of the lady guests at the cost to the Cultural and Heritage Commission of one dollar each. A press release will be issued shortly.

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

A flyer for the Annual Awards Dinner, which was prepared by Pam Griner, was presented to the Commission for their review. Mrs. Wood noted that she had contacted Pat Witt informing her of the award. Arrangements have been made to hold the event at the Maplewood Restaurant. A letter from Freeholders Smith and Trout will be sent to Ms. Witt. In addition, a proclamation will be presented at the dinner. The Cultural and Heritage Commission will finance the cost of dinners for Commission members, elected County officials, members of the Grants Review Panel, Pat Witt and a guest through budget funds. Additional guests will be charged \$35.00 each. The dining room at the Maplewood Restaurant will accommodate sixty-five people.

NEW BUSINESS:

STAFFING INITIATIVE GRANT

Mrs. Wood informed the Commission members that a submission has been applied for a staffing initiative grant, which would fund two part-time positions. The grant would finance the assistance of Pam Griner, as well as the assistance of the marketing and business retention coordinator to promote the efforts of the Cultural and Heritage Commission. Information regarding the awarding of this grant will be released in July.

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

The grant writing workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, 2000 at the Cumberland County College. A press release is forthcoming and a letter has been sent to everyone on the mailing list who have requested information regarding grant writing.

NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Wood noted that the mailing group has not given an explanation for the three week delay in mailing out the newsletter or the increase of \$200.00. However this charge may be for the additional page of the newsletter, causing an increase in postage costs. The invoice will not be paid until an explanation of the charges is received. It was noted that the calendar had not been mailed in a timely manner. In addition, the present mailing group has changed their policy, requiring payment for postage before the mail is sent out. Mel Brody stated that he will meet with the owner of the mailing group to discuss the problem. Mrs. Wood is actively searching for another mailing group to handle the mailing of the newsletter, noting that there is another mailhouse located in the Millville Industrial Park. The suggestion was made to contact the local post master for recommendations. The following topics were suggested for the summer newsletter: articles on the Bay Atlantic Symphony; the Vineland Chapter of the American Harp Society, and the unveiling of the Captain Buck statue.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Wood informed the Commission that Sally Watson is in the hospital. It was also noted that a letter has been received from Sunkie Oye tendering her resignation from the Cultural and Heritage Commission. Mrs. Oye is experiencing problems with her eyes and is unable to drive long distances. The Commission is actively seeking a replacement from the Vineland area.

A press conference announcing the Millennium concert is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center at Cumberland County College.

Mrs. Wood reminded the Commission members that the awards dinner generally replaces the next month's meeting. On the motion of Pat Gale, seconded by Freeholder Trout and unanimously carried, the Commission voted to replace the regularly scheduled Cultural and Heritage Commission meeting with the Awards Dinner honoring Pat Witt on Tuesday, June 13, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. at the Maplewood Restaurant. A notice to that effect will be published in the newspaper. The next meeting after the awards dinner will be Tuesday, July 11, 2000 at 3:30 p.m.

Mrs. Wood noted that she will be unavailable from May 18 through May 23, 2000, while she will be vacationing in Disney World with her family.

Pam Griner reported that Christa Sauerman will be visiting D'Appolito School on May 23, 2000 to observe the Young Audiences of America program. Ms. Sauerman will attend a ribbon dancing class at 12:00 p.m. and a landscape painting class at 2:00 p.m. All Commission members are invited to attend the classes.

There being no further business, on the motion of Joe Polhamus, seconded by Austin Gould, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Riendeau, Secretary