

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY
CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
MINUTES
MAY 8, 2001
CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Present: Penny Watson
Suzanne Merighi
Mel Brody
Patricia Gale
Jean Jones
Joe Polhamus

Freeholder Harold Johnson
Pam Griner, Sr. Planner
Jennifer Morgan

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on May 8, 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. The March 13th and May 8th minutes will be reviewed at the next regular meeting, July 10, 2001.

OPERA DINNER

Pam Griner said the Opera Dinner will be held this Friday, May 11, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ramada Inn, Vineland. Jean Jones offered to do a story on the Opera Dinner to publicize the event. Pam Griner informed the Commission that 35 to 40 tickets have been sold for the Opera Dinner. Jean Jones said that the aim is for 100 people to attend. Pam Griner thanked Jean Jones for offering to do a story for the Bridgeton Evening News.

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, June 6, 2001 at Wheaton Village from 6-9 PM. Pam Griner indicated that Jennie Ayres will be the facilitator. This workshop will be a free event. Flyers and press releases will promote the workshop. The arts and the history regrant program will be done at that time. Pam Griner said that in a couple of weeks we will be getting the dollar

amount for the Art Regrant. The history regrant program will have \$20,000 to disburse, which is twice the amount of last year.

ARTS PATRON AWARD DINNER

On June 12, 2001 at 6:00 PM there will be an Arts Patron Award Dinner for - *Judy Scull* - and also the Cultural & Heritage Commission Reorganizational Meeting. Pam Griner said that Judy Scull was excited and very honored when Pam Griner gave her the good news. The event will be held at The Charlesworth Restaurant in Fortescue. Joe Polhamus suggested having the Reorganizational Meeting in July and having *Judy Scull's* award dinner for just that evening. The Commission agreed. Pam Griner said that Judy Scull has shown a commitment and dedication to the arts in Cumberland County for over 25 years. Flyers for the dinner were distributed. All Commission members were encouraged to attend. RSVP by June 8, 2001.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOOK

Pam Griner introduced Matthew Pisarski who started with the Planning and Development office in December. Pam Griner said that Matthew Pisarski has been given the daunting task of doing the book for Cumberland County. Pam Griner reported that this will include research, writing, and a little bit of everything. Penny Watson said she thought Matthew was doing the research and she was doing the writing. Matthew Pisarski explained that he was transcribing it first. So far, that is what has been done. Matt said the book is now transcribed into a computer version with double spacing and a serif text. Matt will then start to go through the Bruno draft and make the obvious changes and making general edits. The next two steps will be editing and foot note citations. Penny Watson explained there are no sources available from Barbara Bruno's work and it is impossible to go back and check the information. Suzanne Merighi suggested several books that would be available for such research. Penny Watson said the contract was for a look from the beginning of Cumberland County until the Civil War.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK

Pam Griner asked Matt Pisarski if he would like to report about Historic Preservation Week which is being held next week. Matt said that there is a process of putting together a presentation exhibit. The map will be displayed at the Cumberland County Library, Bridgeton Library, Vineland Library, Millville Library, the County Historical Society, Landis Intermediate School and possibly some other places. Matt said the theme for this year's preservation week is "Historic Neighborhood Schools". The schools are on the County register and the rough draft map shows preserved land and also shows preserved farmland. Each of the ten schools are marked on the map, and they will lead up to a photograph and a brief history of the building. A press release was done asking for additional information. This press release was directed towards individuals who attended the school or teachers who taught there. Matt said information was received on Landis, Irving Avenue, and some information on the Delmont School. Matt said that the additional information will be incorporated on the extra space provided. The map will be used to explain the different procedures you can use for preservation so there is a historic American building survey drawing, an explanation of what that is. There will be a page on the

National Register Nomination for the Landis Intermediate and there will be an explanation of what the National Register is. One of the hopes is that it will renew the interest in the County register of historic places and to start obtaining new nominations for the register. Matt Pisarski also said that after Friday he will print out different sizes of the map.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pam Griner explained the reason for no meeting in April was because of the Teen Arts Festival which was scheduled the day after when the meeting would have been.

TEEN ARTS FESTIVAL

Pam Griner reported that the festival was very successful with approximately 400 to 500 students participating in the event. Freeholder Douglas Fisher, Freeholder Harold Johnson, Jr., Penny Watson and Suzanne Merighi attended. It was a very good day. Pam Griner said that Andrea Workman was our new visual arts coordinator this year and she was able to contact some new and very interesting artists. Beverly Hughes was an instructor, she works for the Philadelphia Horticultural Society as a flower illustrator with colored pencils. Pam Griner said it was nice to have Beverly Hughes there as an artist because she grew up in Millville and went to school locally. Beverly now lives in Philadelphia and works professional there. Beverly is a role model and was talking to the students about her education and experiences. The winners were selected for the State Teen Arts Festival on May 23-24, 2001 at the College of N.J.

YOUNG AUDIENCES - VINELAND RESIDENCIES

Young Audiences, Inc. is currently doing the cultural residencies in the Vineland Public Schools in the sixth grade classes. The teachers selected two residents this year. Last year all classes studied the Chinese culture in the arts with the ribbon dancing and watercolor landscapes. This year two of the schools are studying the Chinese culture. The other two schools are studying gargoyles. The residency studies ancient and medieval mythology about gargoyles. The student will work with computers and clay to make gargoyles. Pam Griner said that it should be very interesting. Christa Saurman will be in Vineland next week. Commission members who would like to attend, please let Pam know and she can provide a schedule.

RIVERFRONT RENAISSANCE CENTER FOR THE ARTS OPENING

The Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts held its grand opening on April 21, 2001. There was an opening held on Friday, April 20, 2001. There were representatives from the NJSCA, the Arts & Business Partnership, and the SJCA. The opening was well attended. Jean Jones said it was very nice.

NEW BUSINESS:

NEWSLETTER IDEAS

Pam Griner asked if anybody had any ideas for the newsletter. One suggestion is the Fourth of July celebrations, maybe advertise to have groups sing. Pam said the Folk Festival will be held on June 16th and they will be covering that. Jean Jones said that Millville will be having a Block Party on the 30th of June. They will close off Buck Street from Vine Street down to Main Street and it will be along the River front. Another suggestion was the Wheaton Village glass event held on Friday, May 17th - demonstration by the glass artists. Wheaton Village changes the theme each time. June 2nd is the Bay Day event. Pam said the newsletter will be available beginning of June.

CALENDAR ADDITIONS

Pam Griner said she will add the events on the calendar. Please give me a call if you have any other additions because Mr. Tofanelli calls during the middle of the month for additions.

SEABROOK EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CENTER

Pam Griner said the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center had a new gallery open on April 28th. The gallery was dedicated to Ellen Nakamura. The Cultural and Heritage Commission helped with the production of the catalog that was available for the event. We were given credit on the back cover. Discussion followed.

Pam Griner reported that the County received a \$20,000 grant from the NJ Historical Commission for the historical agency regrant program.

Pam Griner reminded everybody that instead of meeting in Bridgeton at the County Administration Building, we will meet at the Charlesworth Restaurant in Fortescue on June 12th at 6:00 PM for the Annual Awards Dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Duffield

Debbie Duffield, Recording Secretary