

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

May 14, 2002
3:30 PM

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BLDG. FREEHOLDER MEETING ROOM

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

Pam Griner, Sr. Planner
Kimberly Wood
Kris Lemmonds, Secretary
Douglas Rainear, Freeholder
Michael Tofanelli

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, May 14, 2002, at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting Room of the Cumberland County Administration Building, Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Penny Watson, called for a motion to vote on the minutes from February, March and April. Jane Christy made a motion to accept the February 2002 minutes, seconded by Austin Gould and passed unanimously. Marianne Lods made a motion to accept the March 2002 minutes and seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously. Suzanne Merighi made a motion to accept the minutes from April 2002 and seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.

Vineland Cultural Funding - George P. Luciano memorial concert

The Vineland Cultural Funding is a grant that specifically is used in Vineland. The grant expires on 6/30/02 but Ms. Griner has written a letter to the State Council on the Arts to have it extended to the end of September. \$17,000 has been allocated for the Opera Gala for the School Counts Program that George P. "Duke" Luciano, Sr. had set up. It has been suggested that the concert should be a Memorial Concert in Duke's Honor and have the concert also be a fund raiser for the School Counts Program. Mel Brody has been in contact with Greg Hambleton at Cumberland County College. A discussion about the program and the process will be scheduled for July's regular meeting.

Arts Patron Award Dinner honoring Fred Manders

The Arts Patron Award Dinner honoring Fred Manders will be held at Cafe Centro at 6:00 pm. A flyer was handed out to the members with details regarding the dinner choices.

Nominations for Cultural and Heritage Commission Officers

Austin Gould made nominations for the 2002-2003 Cultural and Heritage Commission Officers. Austin nominated Penny Watson as Chairman and Suzanne Merighi as Vice-Chairman. There were no other nominations made. Joe Polhamus made a motion to accept the nominations and Marianne Lods seconded. Pam Griner conducted a voice vote to elect the Commission Officers. Pam called for a vote to elect Penny Watson as Chairman for the Commission. The Commission Members unanimously voted to accept the nomination. Pam called for a vote to elect Suzanne Merighi as Vice-Chairman for the Commission. The Commission Members unanimously voted to accept the nomination.

East Point Artists' Day and Open House

Pam Griner reminded everyone that the East Point Artists' Day will be held on Saturday, August 3, 2002. Marianne Lods suggested that perhaps the Glasstown 9 might be interested in participating. The music will be provided by The Snake Brothers, Jim Albertson and Steve Byrne. Pam Griner informed the members that the Planning Committee for East Point would like to have different musicians. Jane Christy suggested perhaps a musician named Herb Brizelle who plays a type of Dixieland might be a nice addition to the regulars. Jane Christy will get in touch with Mr. Brizelle to find out how much he would cost to have him be part of the East Point Artists' Day. The Commission decided to hire the Snake Brothers and Steve Byrne for this year's event.

New Jersey State Council on the Arts

Pam Griner distributed the grant loan application package being submitted for the Cumberland County Local Arts Grant for 2003, 2004 & 2005. The estimated amount requested is \$124,000.00 per year. Ms. Griner and Penny Watson have been granted an appointment before the State Council on the Arts Peer Panel on May 29, 2002 at 1:00 pm.

Old Business

Ms. Griner reported that the Cultural & Heritage website is up and running. The calendar is not yet up however. Sean Tomlin is sending Pam Griner the password she needs to input and change the information on the calendar. The Cultural & Heritage website address is cculturalheritage.org.

Ms. Griner and Penny Watson will be going to Philadelphia on May 23, 2002 to inquire about the cost to preserve the first Cumberland County Records book. An update regarding the cost to preserve the book will be presented at the July 2002 meeting.

Ms. Griner read a thank you note from the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts thanking the Commission for it's help with the Teen Arts Festival. The State Teen Arts is being held on May 22 & May 23 at the College of New Jersey.

Ms. Griner also read a thank you note from the Office on Aging & Disabled thanking the Commission for sponsoring Older American's Month and for the tickets that the C&H Comm. purchased for the Bay Atlantic Symphony.

Ms. Griner informed the Commission Members that a mini grant was received from the NJ Historical Commission for \$3,000.00 to perform an assessment survey of the Historical Community for Cumberland County.

Jane Christy mentioned that someone has been found to repair Gov. Stokes' mausoleum. Ms. Christy does not yet have a cost to repair the damage done by a lightning bolt. Someone that Matt Pisarski has found will be coming to visit and take a look at the mausoleum. Ms. Christy will keep the Commission updated on this issue.

New Business

The Purple Martin Festival will be held on August 17, 2002 from noon to dusk at the Mauricetown Firehall. The details have not been finalized. The Improvement Authority is constructing the viewing platform. A possible workshop to instruct people on how to build a purple martin house. Obtaining a possible donation of birdhouse gourd seeds or gourds. T-shirts will be made using the art winner from the Raptor Festival's Art Contest will be put on shirts for the volunteers and possibly sell them.

The next Raptor Festival will be held on Feb. 7 - 9, 2003. It will be held Friday evening, Saturday all day and Sunday morning. Kim Wood announced that an Eagle Dinner will be held Friday night. Ms. Wood also stated that Saturday will also be promoted as a Dine & Shop Around Downtown Millville. Sunday morning will be a Sunrise Walk with Pete Dunn. Marianne suggested putting travel packages together to promote it as a three day event. Ms. Griner informed the Commission that an additional children's day may be held on Feb. 6, 2003 extending to an extra day from last year.

Jane Christy inquired what the Commission could do to address the problem with the sandbars in Fortescue. The sandbars interfere with the fishing boats when they need to get in and out of the docks. Douglas Rainear informed Ms. Christy that the Freeholders have passed resolutions regarding the same matter. Penny Watson suggested Ms. Christy prepare a letter and bring it to the next meeting in July.

The Harlem Boys Choir Press Conference was held with only one paper in attendance. Ms. Griner stated that about 1000 flyers will be going out those on the Cultural and Heritage mailing list. Flyers would also be sent to the county's faith based organizations as well. The concert will be on October 19, 2002 at 8:00 pm at Cumberland County College. The ticket prices are \$25.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children 12 and under.

Marianne Lods announced that Arts District in Millville will be having it's first Arts & Antiques Festival on September 21, 2002.

The next meeting of the Cultural and Heritage Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2002 at 6:00 pm at Cafe Centro in Vineland for the Fred Manders Award Dinner.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm. Motion to adjourn was made by Suzanne Merighi and seconded Jean Jones and passed unanimously.