

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**November 14, 2000**

**3:30 P.M.**

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**Present:**

Austin Gould	Penny Watson
Pat Gale	Joe Polhamus
Jean Jones	Suzanne Merighi
Marianne Lods	Jane Christy

Freeholder Bob Smith  
Freeholder Jeffrey Trout  
Kim Wood, Director  
Pam Griner, Sr. Planner  
Nancy Cannone, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2000, 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.

Chairperson Watson called for approval of the October 10, 2000 Minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Joseph Polhamus, seconded by Austin Gould, and passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

**ADA WORKSHOP:** Pam Griner reported that the ADA Workshop originally planned for November 18th at Cumberland County College has been canceled. The person contracted to run the Program felt it would be better if the Commission used the State Arts Access Program which is planning an ADA Workshop statewide in the Spring. By attending the State sponsored workshop, the Commission's funds can be used for other technical assistance workshops. Ms. Griner will be contacting the re-grantees so that they may attend the workshop which will be held somewhere in the area, hopefully at Wheaton Village.

**DELAWARE BAY SCHOONER PROJECT APPEAL:** Ms. Griner stated that after the award amounts were decided upon by the Grant Review Panel and the Commission, award letters and contracts were sent out to all the re-grantees. They have two weeks

to appeal the decision on the amounts awarded. The Delaware Bay Schooner Project did appeal. The organization felt that the type of programming that they did could not be done satisfactorily with the amount they were awarded. Their application and appeal letter were re-sent to the Grant Review Panel outlining their position. The Panel had a week to review the application and they decided to let the award stand as it was, so the amount voted on by this Commission in September stands.

Chairperson Watson asked if they were reduced by the same amount as all the other re-grantees. The answer was Yes, everyone was reduced by one-third. The reduction was due to a shortening of the grant period from 18 months to 12 months - 1/3 of the time.

Jean Jones asked to be refreshed as to what their project was and Ms. Griner replied that it was "Bay Day."

Freeholder Smith asked if the Commission has received a response from them on the denial. Ms. Griner stated that a letter was sent out to them on November 3rd giving them the decision of the Grant Review Board and nothing has been heard back from them.

Freeholder Trout asked if appeals are a common occurrence and Mrs. Wood replied that she had only had one appeal in the three years she headed the Commission.

NJSCA PANEL MEMBER VISIT: Kim Wood reported that a new program was beginning a year and a half ago when the Commission submitted the 18 month grant applications. The State Association of Cultural & Heritage Associations stated the desire to meet the Panel that was looking at the applications and determine whether organizations had good programming. The State Arts Council listened and provided a forum where groups were allowed to meet with the twelve member Panel - which Chairman Watson and Mrs. Wood did. As a result of that meeting this Commission received glowing Panel comments and received a wonderful Grant award. At the end of the Grant period, which is now, a Panel member was assigned to each Commission to visit and evaluate their programs.

On November 13th, Alec Simpson the Deputy Director of the Washington, D.C. Arts Council visited Cumberland County. During the day he met with Steve Kehs, Penny Watson, the Freeholders, 3 re-grantees (one of which was the Schooner Project) and Pam Griner.

Freeholder Smith stated that his perception was that Mr. Simpson was very impressed with the work that was being done by this Commission. Mrs. Wood thanked Freeholder Smith for his comments on "needing more money" and stressing that the County Board of Chosen Freeholders are "strong advocates of the Commission and their programs."

What will happen as a result of the meeting, stated Mrs. Wood, is that the Commission should be able to receive more money next year.

HISTORICAL AGENCY GRANT APPLICATION: This Grant was applied for last year by Mrs. Wood and CCC&HC received \$10,000 for a re-grant program. This was for general operating costs for four agencies (Jewish Historical Society of South Jersey; Maurice River Historical Society; Maurice River Village Preservation Association; and Millville Historical Society). This year the Commission will be able to apply for \$50,000 for general operating support for historical agencies. Ms. Griner noted that this Agency also has a "mentoring program" for County agencies who aren't experienced in writing grants.

### OLD BUSINESS:

LONG RANGE PLAN - BOARD RETREAT: Ms. Griner has contacted a woman who could act as a facilitator and also write the Plan. Also received were names of other possible facilitators. She will send out proposals of the specific things that the CCC&HC is looking for to the people on our list and they can get back to the Commission with a price. A specific date will then have to be set, but it will be on a Saturday, and will be an all day affair in either January or February.

VAN-GO ART PROGRAM: Jane Christy asked about the status of the Van-Go program. Mrs. Wood replied that the Commission is waiting for Tricia Dufford to bring back a written proposal.

MASCRA PROJECT: (Mexican American Songs Crafts & Regional Association) This is a program that CCC&HC is doing in collaboration with the New Jersey Cultural Institute. This is still in the planning stage but it is hoped that money can be put together, along with Wheaton Village, to provide supplies for the artists.

APPEL FARM: Mrs. Wood stated that Appel Farm which is located in Salem County, is a community art collaboration project that this Commission has been involved in over the last year. They have built a facility to hold art classes, art workshops, technical assistance, etc.. They want to do a study in the Salem-Cumberland region to find the needs of the artists (both adults and children) in this area. Hopefully artists would travel to Appel Farm or they hope to bring the arts education assistance into Cumberland County. They are looking for help in funding of about \$2,000 from this Commission. This is not only a good project as it benefits our County, but it will give statistics that CCC&HC does not have, nor has the tools to get.

BOOK: Pat Gale asked for an update on the book. Kim Wood reported that calls have been made to the County Counsel, and Tricia Dufford but nothing has been settled.

RICKY VAN SHELTON CONCERT: Mrs. Gale commented that quite a few people had commented to her how much they enjoyed the concert, and that these people represented a wide range of economics, ages and musical tastes. Mrs. Wood reported

that a woman called her to tell her that she had taken her 70 year old and his friend and couldn't say thank-you enough times.

Mrs. Wood commented that 11 different states were represented at the Concert. In anticipation of this, 150 tourism packets were prepared so that when tickets were mailed out by the box office the tourism packets were enclosed. This enabled them to make their hotel reservations, where to eat and how to get around the County.

Jean Jones stated that she also had received many favorable comments and asked "Where does the Commission go now?" Freeholder Smith commented that some ideas are already being considered. Mrs. Wood commented that if the Commission wishes to continue to sponsor these concerts she would be happy to continue to assist with fundraising activities to make it happen.

Jane Christie suggested that all these positive comments should be put into the Newsletter. Pam Griner will work on this.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**TEEN ARTS FESTIVAL:** The Teen Arts festival is scheduled for April 11th at the County College. At the present time the Teen Arts Coordinator has not been selected.

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS:** Ms. Griner read to the Commission a list of topics that Tofanelli plans to put in the December 1st issue of the Newsletter. She asked members if they had any additions they would like to see in this issue. Some suggestions were the Bay Atlantic Symphony Holiday Concert on December 10th; the New Jersey State Council on the Arts visit to the County; and how Christmas is celebrated by different ethnic groups.

**CALENDAR:** Ms. Griner passed around a copy of the December Cultural & Heritage Calendar for members to review. Freeholder Trout suggested that the Millville Handel Messiah Concert at the Senior High School be added.

**OPERA DINNER:** Jean Jones asked if the Commission was going to sponsor an Opera Dinner next year. Pam Griner stated that as members have indicated that they would like to see one, she will start working on the preliminary preparations.

**CEMETERY TOUR:** Chairperson Watson stated that the tour did not do as well this year and that the bus was not full. The misinformation in the Newsletter may have hurt as people may have thought it was the same tour as last year. Additional PR will be implemented next year. The Historic Society has indicated that they would like to do a historic churches tour. Ms Griner will work on this with the Historic Society.

**WOMEN'S HISTORY HERITAGE TRAIL:** Chairperson Watson reported that the State Historic Preservation office is developing a Women's History Heritage Trail for New

Jersey and the Commission was asked to nominate a site, The David Sheppard House in Bridgeton was nominated.

There being no further business on motion by Pat Gale, seconded by Austin Gould, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cannone  
Secretary