

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

October 10, 2000

3:30 P.M.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Present:

Austin Gould Penny Watson
Pat Gale Joe Polhamus
Mel Brody

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

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2000, at 3:30 p.m., in the Freeholders Meeting Room, in 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.

Penny Watson noted that Verizon was misspelled in the September Minutes. The Chairperson called for approval of the September 12, 2000 Minutes with the spelling correction. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Joseph Polhamus, seconded by Mel Brody, and passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

ADA WORKSHOP: Pam Griner reported that part of the Re-Grant program this year requires that an ADA Plan be part of each application. Most of this year's applicants did not have this plan in their applications. An ADA Workshop has been planned for Saturday, November 18th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon - hopefully at the County College. All re-grantees will be required to attend so they can complete their plan in compliance with the Grant contract. Other applicants and non-profits groups will be invited to attend as it is something they should be thinking about for their organizations.

NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST AWARD: At a program held in Trenton last month the first step of the Historic Trust Awards was announced.

Cumberland County was awarded a \$260,127.00 Grant to restore the Courthouse Cupola.

Other County organizations to receive grant awards were:

- a. Maurice River Historical Society
(East Point Lighthouse) \$300,000.
- b. Cumberland County Historical Society
(John DuBois Museum) \$ 7,500.
- c. Greenwich Township (The Old Schoolhouse) \$ 5,025.
- d. Levoy Theatre Preservation Society \$ 31,500.

The Cumberland Historical Society, Greenwich Township, and the Levoy Theatre received Planning Grants. This will enable them to get their working plans together and hopefully will soon be ready to apply for Bricks and Mortar Grants.

RIVER SWING WRAP-UP: River Swing was held on Friday, September 22nd. Mel Brody reported that while the turnout was a little less than expected those who attended had a good time, and Stan the Man and the vendors did an excellent job. Most of those attending were older, some from the Senior Citizen Housing in the area, and all enjoyed dancing to Stan's type of music.

MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL: Ms. Griner reminded members that the Millennium Festival is scheduled for October 21st, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Ricky Van Shelton Concert is "Sold Out". He will be given a Pat Witt painting for coming and performing in Cumberland County.

OLD BUSINESS:

CHILDREN'S BOOK: Austin Gould asked if there was anything new happening with the Children's Book. Director Wood replied that she and Richard Geiger will meet soon to discuss this problem. Chairperson Watson asked if it would be possible to get Mrs. Bruno's notes. There is a possibility that Barbara Bruno's name will be on the book in some capacity. It is the consensus of the Board that new illustrations should be used, and it was suggested that perhaps selected student artists could be contacted to submit drawings of a specified nature. Mel Brody asked how long it would take to re-write the book and Penny Watson thought that it would take about one year.

DEERFIELD HARVEST FESTIVAL: Freeholder Smith reported that he had attended the Deerfield Harvest Festival and accepted a plaque on behalf of the CCC&HC for its assistance in funding this event. He noted that there was a record crowd and the concert was a huge success.

NEW BUSINESS:

MEETING TIME CHANGE: Ms. Griner reported that there had been a request to move the meeting time up 1/2 hour to 3:00 p.m. Following a discussion it was decided to leave the time at 3:30 p.m.

LONG RANGE PLAN: The updating of the Long Range Plan is needed, and in the past this has been accomplished by holding a "retreat." Ms. Griner stated that this will probably take place in January or February of 2001.

Director Wood stressed that in order for the Commission to function efficiently, it needs to set over-all goals for the next five years as Pam Griner needs to know what is planned for the years ahead - so that she can work efficiently toward meeting these goals. A copy of the last Long Range Plan will be sent to each Commission member.

Following a general discussion it was decided that an all-day retreat on a Saturday in January 2001 would be best for Commission members. A professional Facilitator will be hired at a cost of approximately \$6,000. to lead this session.


Pam Griner will contact other Commissions to get names of successful Facilitators they have used and select three to put out for bids and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

NEWSLETTER: The next Newsletter is scheduled for December 1st. and Ms. Griner asked for suggestions for articles. The annual Christmas tours put on by several organizations, the Singing Ambassadors, and the "Nutcracker, were some of the suggestions.

Penny Watson commented that the Landis Theater has been nominated to be put on the National Historic Register.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Cannone
Secretary