

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

October 8, 2002
3:30 PM

CUMBERLAND COUNTY LIBRARY MEETING ROOM

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

Pam Griner, Sr. Planner
Kris Lemmonds, Secretary
Steve Kehs, Planning Director
Freeholder Douglas M. Rainear

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2002, at 3:30 PM., in the Cumberland County Library Meeting Room, Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Penny Watson, called for a motion to vote on the minutes from September 2002. Marianne Lods motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Austin Gould and passed unanimously.

2003 Regrant Applications

Recommendations of the Regrant Review Board from September 24, 2002

Mel Brody remarked that last year the Cumberland Players were not given any money as they were not ADA compliant. Mr. Brody wanted to know why they were being given funding this year if they were still not completely ADA compliant. Ms. Griner stated that the state requires that an organization have an ADA plan and be moving toward compliance. Ms. Griner explained that the \$4,500.00 awarded came from the Vineland Cultural Funding and was awarded by the Cultural and Heritage Commission in September.

Ms. Griner stated that \$89,739.00 had been allocated by the NJSCA for funding the regrant program. Ms. Griner asked for a motion to be made to accept the review board's recommendations. Jane Christy motioned to accept the regrant recommendations and seconded by Marianne Lods and passed unanimously. With the \$22,000.00 awarded to Vineland Cultural

groups and the \$89,739.00 from the regrant program, \$111,739.00 was awarded to local arts groups.

2002 County Arts Program

Ms. Griner informed the commission that a total of \$11,967.68 needs to be expended before the end of the year.

The commission was presented with two proposals, one from Cumberland County College and the other from Bridgeton Cumberland Tourist Association. The Cumberland County College is requesting \$5,000.00 for next year's concert series and the Cultural & Heritage Commission would be listed as a co-sponsor on all the publications.

The Bridgeton Cumberland Tourist Association is also requesting \$5,000.00 to present either an Art Garfunkel concert in November 2002 or a Bacon Brothers concert on December 18, 2002. Both performances would be held at Cumberland County College.

Ms. Griner informed the Commission that \$17,010.00 was still available in the Trust Account and that that would be used for any expenses for the Harlem Boys Choir. Marianne Lods made a motion to support the Cumberland County College concert series project and seconded by Mel Brody and passed unanimously. Mel Brody made a motion to support the Bridgeton Cumberland Tourist Association's "Bacon Brothers" concert on December 18, 2002 and seconded by Jane Christy and passed unanimously.

County Book Update

The county record books were reviewed by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts. The proposals were reviewed. The County match account has \$3,500.00 that could be used for the restoration of the County Books. Suzanne Merighi asked if the books could also be put on microfilm ^{or} be digitally reproduced. Ms. Griner said that that was possible but that she did not have an estimate on the cost.

Ms. Griner informed the Commission that funds were available to restore and microfilm both of the County books, if the Commission chose to do so. Jane Christy made a motion to support restoring and microfilming both of the County Books and seconded by Marianne Lods and passed unanimously.

Old Business

Ms. Griner took a moment to thank Mel Brody for all of his hard work with "La Boheme". Ms. Griner stated that it was a wonderful performance. "La Boheme" was performed on Saturday, October 5, 2002 at 8:00 pm at Cumberland County College. A little over 400 tickets were sold for this performance and it was very well received.

Ms. Griner informed the Commission that 300 tickets had been sold for the Harlem Boys Choir Concert. Another 200 still need to be sold. She asked if anyone had contacts that might be interested in sponsoring tickets to please get in touch with them.

Penny Watson mentioned to the Commission that the Secretary of State's visit with the Underground Railroad was a great success. Ms. Griner estimated that at least 250 were at the harbor, 100 walked with the Secretary of State and another 200 at the AME Church.

Ms. Griner announced that the Commission had been granted \$25,000.00 for historic organizations. The re-grant funds will assist with General Operating Support. Ms. Griner stated that applications for re-grants are due back to her office on Oct. 10, 2002.

New Business

Ms. Griner asked for suggestions for the Fall 2003 concert. The Commission members stated that they would like to have a blues concert. Mel Brody suggested asking Greg Hambleton for possible suggestions for entertainment. Ms. Griner stated that an RFP has to be done to hire the promoter and the promoter will find the entertainment.

Mr. Kehs stressed that in order to spend county grant funds a RFP has to be done. Once the RFPs are submitted the Commission could then choose a vendor. Ms. Griner stated that certain parameters could be set that a potential vendor would have to follow if chosen.

The next meeting of the Cultural and Heritage Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2002 at 3:30 pm in the County Freeholder Conference Room. A motion to adjourn was made by Austin Gould and seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.