

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, September 2, 2009

7 pm: Miller Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Lois Jason, Charles Kortsep, Loraine Brown, Evelyn Skelly, Mark Peel, Donna Elkin, Sandy Schiff, Tracy Nista,

Commissioners Excused: George Moore, Deborah Dozier, Willa Horowitz, Stacy

Others in Attendance: Mimsie Coleman, Gerry Tobin

Call to Order

Charles Kortsep called the meeting to order at 7:05

Ms. Coleman announced that Lisa Antonecchia has resigned from the Commission.

New Commissioner Mark Peel was introduced and presented his background. Commissioners each introduced themselves and gave a little background with a few surprises

Approval of Minutes

June 3 minutes – Add Ms. Elkin to list of Commissioners in attendance

July 1 minutes

Ms. Elkin made a motion to approve the minutes of June 3 and July 1 as amended. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep explained the various accounts. The Saturday Series Account has a balance of \$11,389.47. The Gift Fund has a balance of \$59,223.15. Town Line accounts: Temp Wages Account has a balance of \$3,084 and is used to pay the office assistant and other temporary help. The Longevity Account has a balance of \$675. Advertising budget was spent on summer concerts and currently has a zero balance. Professional/Technical Services has a balance of \$175. Special Projects has a zero balance. The \$60,000 was spent for summer concerts. Programming balance is \$5,000. Ms. Coleman added that the Professional/Technical account is

used to pay copyright fees, and we have one more to pay. The \$175 probably is not sufficient. Ms. Coleman said she has applied to the state for the ½ year salary for her office assistant.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Old Business

Summer Concerts

A sheet showing the costs of the summer concerts is attached, as well as information on the donations received.

Ms. Schiff said the hospitality committee seemed to run the smoothest yet. We had three great concerts, and the fourth was cancelled because of a storm. The tent worked out very well. Collections were great with \$4,700 donated at three concerts. Ms. Schiff suggested that in the future we need to be prepared as a Commission about what to do if we think we have to move the concert inside, even though there is a protocol. Ms. Coleman has the protocol in writing and will provide the Commissioners with copies. In case of rain we try to get it on Chanel 8, WQUN, our web site and Ms. Coleman calls all Town Departments. She is trying to get it on WEBE 108. We call all three TV stations. We subscribe to a weather service that provides weather to all the airports in the area. In addition, the state's emergency management office can be contacted. We have access to good information,

There was discussion on having to move concerts inside. There was discussion on accommodating the requests of performers. Ms. Coleman said our costs for the concerts this year were back to 2004 levels. We used to have five concerts and have cut back to four. A couple of them were much less expensive than usual. Tower of Power is coming back next year at the end of July and will not charge. There was discussion regarding the sound company, and we might have to hire a different company for the Tower of Power concert.

Review

Arts & Business Bazaar - tabled

Survey - results of the survey distributed at two concerts are attached.

Tower of Power – discussed above.

Turtles

Ms. Coleman said there have been several requests for the Turtles and they are priced at \$15,000. Commissioners asked Ms. Coleman to contact them.

Ms. Schiff suggested an article for the newspapers thanking the concert goers for their support and letting them know that Tower of Power is coming back next year.

Saturday Series

Oct. 3: Airborne Jugglers (\$500)

Nov. 7: Improv 4 Kids (\$600)

Dec. 5: Winter Wonderland (\$1,250)

Jan. 9: Pumpernickel Puppets (\$295)

Feb. 6: Magic by Jeff Horton (\$225)

Mar. 6: Tuckers Tales Puppets (\$750)

Dec., 2010: Crabgrass, "Mr. Punch's Christmas Carol" (\$1,040)

Ms. DeGrand said all contracts are back except Tucker's Tales. Performances are at 1:00 p.m. Ms. DeGrand suggested we have two lines at the ticket window to speed things up. She also suggested more singles for change. Prices are \$3 and \$2. Ms. DeGrand found some new groups this year. Winter Wonderland is at 3:00 p.m. There was discussion on Chanukah dates. Ms. Nista said Winter Wonderland is pretty much holiday, not religious. Volunteers should contact Ms. DeGrand.

Mr. Kortsep asked for a motion to approve the \$3,520 in expenses for the Saturday Series. Ms. Brown moved, Mr. Peel seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. Nista made a motion that the Commission books Crabgrass Puppets for 12/1010. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Friday Night Series – tabled to future meeting

Sat., Dec. 12: Christian Sands

April 9: Disability Film Festival (Young Audiences Workshop: April 23)

Ms. Coleman explained that we will be showing films about or produced by people with disabilities. The selections we will show were shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Young Audiences and Hamden's Commission on Disability Rights & Opportunities are collaborating with the Arts Commission on this project. The workshop will be held on 4/23.

Ms. Schiff suggested guitarist Glenn Roth for a Friday night series. She will get a copy of his CD but asked Commissioners to check his website. Ms. Coleman mentioned a dancer whose group might be willing to perform and perhaps give some lessons.

Government Center Exhibition

Ms. Coleman and Ms. DeGrand are working on the art exhibit.

Web Page

Ms. Coleman announced that Ms. Sandler said as soon as we have material for her she will put it on the web page. Ms. Schiff suggested we get our web site address on New Haven's Arts calendar.

Ms. Coleman said the Hamden Symphony Orchestra has asked us to support them in non-financial ways. They would like to use the Hamden Middle School for performances. Ms. Coleman needs permission from the Commission to put in writing that they have a relationship with the Arts Commission. The New Haven Symphony is holding three concerts this year at Hamden Middle School.

Ms. Coleman mentioned an accomplished Hamden boy, whose mother still lives in Hamden that wrote a musical about bullying. He wants to have a workshop here on a Friday night. If you are a Hamden non-profit you don't have to pay, but if you're not, you have to pay unless the event is sponsored by this Commission.

Ms. Jason made a motion that the Commission supports Michael Manicondi. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was seven in favor. Ms. Skelly abstained.

Coordinator's Report

New Business/Ideas

A list of potential Sunday Series performers is attached. Ms. Jason said the Sunday Series committee will have to meet again. St. Luke's has been successful every time we have them. Airborne is a jazz duo and they will be playing at Leon's either as a duo or with their larger group. Ms. Jason suggested we have a little room for dancing at the Sunday Series concerts. Ms. Schiff mentioned that Berkshire Big Band has 17 musicians.

Ms. Brown mentioned shirts, and we will discuss them again at our next meeting.

Good & Welfare

Adjournment

Ms. Elkin made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk