

## ARTS COMMISSION

**MINUTES:** The Arts Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 in the Activity Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Charles Kortsep, Mark Peel, Lois Jason, Loraine Brown, Derek Mirabilio, Evelyn Skelly, Lisa DeGrand, Tracy Nista, Donna Elkin, Sandy Schiff, Stacy Sandler

Commissioners Absent: George Moore (Excused), Deborah Dozier, Ricardo Henriquez

Others in Attendance: Arts Coordinator Mimsie Coleman, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin, Auxiliary Member Steve Graham

Mr. Mirabilio announced that he has opened a gallery in Wallingford. He has had a soft opening and will have a grand opening at a future date. He has already sold two of his pieces.

Ms. Coleman reported that Joanie has been out with bunion surgery, and expected to be out a day, but it is three to six weeks. Commissioners signed a card for her. Mr. Moore was in the hospital with atrial fibrillation. He is home now but unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Ms. DeGrand announced that Ray Santino will be at Antonio's in East Haven. \$55 includes dinner. She was not sure of the date.

Ms. Jason called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Review Minutes of October 6, 2010**

First page, second paragraph, change Mr. to Ms. Schiff. Page 3, Sunday Series, the Riverboat Ramblers will perform on October 17<sup>th</sup> (not November 16<sup>th</sup>).

**Ms. Nista made a motion to approve the minutes of October 6<sup>th</sup> as amended. Ms. Jason seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

There was discussion on the musical on bullying that will be performed at the Middle School.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Charles reported a balance of \$50,281.94 in the gift fund \$50,281.94 through 10/25. The balance in the Saturday Series Account is \$14,565.20. The balance in the Special Programs account is \$4,510, etc.

Ms. Coleman reported that this Sunday's performance will be paid out of our gift fund. Mr. Kortsep's report is after the cost of Bubblemania. The balance will cover most of the remaining Saturday and Sunday performances. We will get \$19,500 from the town for the summer concerts and \$1,500 to \$2,000 for silver bells, plus a donation from Matt Fitch.

### **Programs**

#### **Disability Film Workshop**

Ms. Coleman reported that last night was the last workshop of the Disability Film Festival. We invited a number of people to participate. The goal was to make a film including the artistic expressions of people with disabilities. The videographer suggested we make two films, one to submit to sprout, and another that will be more inclusive. We had the juggler and a young woman photographer (Angela—former pupil of Ms. Sandler). Mr. Mirabilio mentioned that he sat next to Craig Norton in a restaurant last night. Ms. Coleman said that the Town is thinking of having a showing of the film. The Town will submit one of the films for the film festival at the Metropolitan Museum.

### **Saturday Series**

Howlarious Halloween – Ms. DeGrand reported the entertainer was very good, but the turnout was small. At the last meeting Ms. Coleman announced that we made \$78 on the program, but it was actually \$168.

Bubblemania is this Saturday. There was discussion on how many chairs to set up. It was decided that the front would be left open and 80 would be set up in the back. There will be two lines at the box office, each taking money and giving out tickets. Volunteers: Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Jason, Mr. Kortsep, Ms. Nista and Iris.

### **Sunday Series**

Riverboat Ramblers – Ms. Jason heard from everyone that it was great, fun, etc. Mr. Peel agreed.

This Sunday – there will be a Dance Demonstration to the music of the big band era. Many people have said they are looking forward to it. Ms. Coleman said there are some people thinking there is going to be entertainment by a big band, but this is not the case. Volunteers should arrive at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Schiff and Iris will help. Ms. Coleman mentioned a couple from North Haven that last week gave a donation of \$50 and paid for \$20 for two tickets and refused change. They will be mentioned as sponsors.

February 6<sup>th</sup>            Ray Santino will perform a Valentine's Special

March 20<sup>th</sup>            The Kerry Boys, a highly recommended Irish group.

Ms. Brown asked if we can sell roses at the Santino event. Discussion followed. It was decided not to sell roses, because Mr. Santino gives them out.

**Mr. Peel made a motion to approve the expenses for Ray Santino and the Kerry Boys. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

### **Silver Bells – Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

There will be a puppet show at 3:00 p.m. – Mr. Punch's Christmas Carol. There will be face painting, letters to Santa and button making from 2–4 p.m. Outside activities will include hay rides, a toy drive, caroling, and Santa arrives at 4:30. Ms. Coleman is hoping to use a big tent from Place. Ms. Sandler will try to get students from the High School to help. Ms. DeGrand will contact the St. Rita's Confirmation students. There was a suggestion to include a Hanukkah craft (dreidel). Oriental trading was discussed as a supply source. Mr. Mirabilio, Mr. Peel and Mr. Kortsep and possibly Mr. Graham. Ms. Coleman will try to move town side arrangements up to the day before. Ms. Jason and Ms. Elkin and possibly Ms. Brown will help. If the weather is horrible on Saturday, indoor events go forward but outdoor events will be moved to Sunday. This event will be discussed further at the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Summer Concerts**

Ms. Coleman still doesn't have the contract from Tower of Power, but expects it shortly.

### **Coordinator's Report**

There was discussion on Ms. Coleman's letter to Mayor Jackson regarding the 2011 Arts Commission budget.

### **Old Business**

Ms. Coleman mentioned the delegation from Mongolia that came to Hamden. Various Departments hosted various members of the delegation. Ms. Coleman told them about the citizen participation in the Arts Commission and described the various commissioners. They were very inspired, and the translator wrote to her that the meeting ignited fires within the group.

Ms. Coleman is owed vacation time that she was supposed to take before 10/24, so she will probably take a day a week in order to use her time.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Discussion followed regarding having the meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. It was decided to have the Regular Meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> as originally scheduled.

Clerk Tobin will send the proposed meeting calendar to Arts Commissioners for voting at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Ms. Brown made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk