

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, April 7, 2010

7 pm: Miller Center Social Hall

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Kortsep, Mr. Mirabilio, Mr. Moore, Ms. Jason, Ms. Elkin, Mr. Hernandez, Mr. Pool, Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Dozier, Ms. Skelly

Excused Absence: Ms. Brown, Ms. Nista, Ms. Schiff, Ms. Horowitz, Ms. Sandler

Mr. Mirabilio thanked everyone for their condolences on the death of his grandmother.

Call to Order

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 7:05

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Jason made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 3rd meeting. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balance of \$14,568.14 in the Saturday Series account and \$6,588.28 in the Gift Fund. He also reported that the Town Line accounts are at zero with the exception of \$50 in special programming.

2010-2011 Budget

Ms. Coleman said Mayor Jackson has recommended our budget as submitted to the Legislative Council. There was discussion on potential donors and fund raising efforts.

Election of Officers

Ms. Coleman reported that Mr. Moore has agreed to remain as chair. Mr. Kortsep agreed to remain as treasurer. Ms. Elkin nominated Ms. Jason and Ms. Nista to be vice-chairs. There were no further nominations. Ms. Jason made a motion to approve Mr. Moore as chair, Mr. Kortsep as treasurer, and Ms. Jason and Ms. Nista as vice-chairs. Mr. Peel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in

favor.

Old Business

Ms. Coleman reported the year end tally on Saturday and Sunday Series showed a small profit on both. Congratulations to Ms. Jason and Ms. DeGrand for the fantastic programs. Ms. Jason reported lots of compliments for this year's programs.

Ms. Coleman said we got some feedback, and some said they were disappointed that there were no Glen Miller Tommy Dorsey and more swing standards in the Berkshire Big Band concert. The audience thoroughly enjoyed this well attended event.

Saturday Series

Pumpnickel Puppets (March 6)

Sunday Series

Berkshire Big Band (March 7)

Friday Night Programs

Movie Night: March 12 – good program to carry forward

Newington Children's Theatre: "The Secret Garden" (March 19) performed at the Middle School this year. We took a loss this year of \$190, and this is the second year we lost. Perhaps because we have Whitney Players, this might not be worth carrying forward. Lisa felt we should give more to Whitney Players. Ms. Coleman said we let them use Thornton Wilder for rehearsals and they are only charged for the janitors on weekends. We actually give them a lot.

Evening of Poetry: (March 26)

This event was very successful and well received according to Ms. Jason. Mr. Peel said it was a wonderful night. It was a packed house. After open mike, Mr. Tillinghast read his poetry, and he was charming. One woman told her this is the best thing Hamden has had to offer. Feedback was that the open mike went on too long, approximately 90 minutes. It was free and people from different poetry clubs attended. Eli is a dynamo and her energy transferred to the audience. Perhaps we could charge a fee or take donations.

May 14: Salute to Young Artists

This is an annual event in its 23rd year. The Arts Commission honors students that are gifted in the arts. They are nominated by teachers and must be Hamden residents, not necessarily in a Hamden school. Performing artists perform and visual arts are displayed. Senator Crisco presents certificates from the State, and the Town presents awards. Ms. Coleman said on Monday May 10th between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. artists come for practice or to drop off visual art. Once that is done, the order of performance and needs of the performers are determined. This is very labor intensive. Help is needed on the evening of May 14th. We start at 7:00 p.m. and end about 9:30 p.m. Middle School culinary students prepare the food for the reception. Mr. Moore and Mr. Mirabilio will help back stage. Ms. Brown will also help. Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Dozier, Ms. Jason, Ms. Elkin, Mr. Hernandez, and Mr. Peel will also help where needed. Ms. Coleman said we currently have 35 kids signed up. Eric Nyquist does the introductions.

Summer Concert Update

Ms. Coleman distributed the Summer Concert Series flier. We don't have all of the contracts back yet, but we are confident they are coming. There was discussion on the expense of the concerts in light of Town Employees losing their jobs if the Mayor's proposed budget is approved. Commissioners felt that in these times when people might not be able to afford other than necessities, many families are able to enjoy these free concerts and other programs provided by the Hamden Arts Commission. The cost of this year's concerts is much lower than in previous years. The US Band of Liberty is free; Tower of Power is coming free; Daryl Hall is coming at an incredibly good price. Santana's Gregg Rolie will cost \$15,000 this year, and that was \$30,000 last year; The Turtles are reasonable. Ms. Coleman said a little known statistic shows that even during the depression, 65% of the population went to the movies weekly. This is free entertainment for families made possible by volunteers. Ms. Coleman applied for two grants for sponsorships and will make a big push for donations.

Opening Acts

Commissioners felt opening acts from Hamden should be given priority. There will be no opener for the military band. Blessing Ofer will open for Tower of Power. One of the Bernardettes will open for Santana's Gregg Rolie. Daryl Hall all might bring his own opening act, which leaves the Commission needing only one opener.

T-shirts

Tee shirts will be dark green camp shirts. Ms. Elkin has pricing information, and Ms. Dozier presented

samples of camp shirts from a different vendor. Ms. Elkin has prices of \$21.50 with front logo and nothing on the back, or \$22.00 with Commissioner on the back. There is no set up charge. The logo is green and yellow same as on the Arts Commission web site. Thanks to Ms. Elkin and Ms. Dozier for getting this moving.

Coordinator's Report

Commissioners approved reimbursement to Ms. Coleman for Commission letterhead.

Ms. Coleman met with members of the Clean & Green Commission and it went well. We will give them credit for their cleanups. They need gloves, bins, liners, etc., and Ms. Coleman will arrange to have supplies delivered before the concerts and stored in the Arts Commission trailer.

New Business/Ideas

Mr. Kortsep did some research on bus trips, and noted several that might be of interest. He said Falling Waters is a 7 hour trip, so that is out of the question. He mentioned an exhibit of Russian Icons in Clinton, MA, a 120 mile trip; the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, which has an exhibit on "Perceptions" coming up, and noted that there are many other attractions in Salem. Mr. Kortsep also mentioned the Weir Farm, which would not be suitable. The Cloisters was mentioned, as well as Connecticut Connections which provides several local tours (Mark Twain Tour, Textile Tour, Kate Hepburn's CT, and several others. A bus trip is being considered for October.

Mr. Mirabilio spoke about advertising on his website for different events. He will scan fliers in. He got a vending license and will be selling his personal art work in New Haven, and will put fliers on his table. The Art of Collaborative Giving is his web site.

Ms. Jason made a motion to adjourn. Ms. DeGrand seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk