

# HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Informal Meeting of Wednesday, January 4, 2012

7 pm: Miller Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Lois Jason, Mark Peel, Lisa DeGrand, Tracy & Michael Nista, Donna Elkin, Marita Gargiulo, Deb Dozier

Commissioners excused: Loraine Brown, Ricardo Henriquez, Derek Mirabilio, George Moore, Stacy Sandler, Sandy Schiff, Evelyn Skelly, Charles Kortsep

Others in Attendance: Steve Graham, Auxiliary Member, Mimsie Coleman, Director Arts Recreation & Culture, Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

Call to Order: Ms. Jason called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. A quorum was not available, so an informal meeting was held.

Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2011  
Tabled to February meeting

## Treasurer's Report

Ms. Coleman reported a balance of \$15,506 in the Saturday Series Account and a balance of \$28,472 in the gift fund. Ms. Coleman also reported that Page 2 of the handout, which is attached is the report on the Town Line Accounts.

The Commission has to decide on its budget proposal for next year. Ms. Coleman would like to ask for a substantial increase in our temporary wage line. Ms. DeGrand has been working a few hours, each week, but Ms. Coleman would like to increase that line item so she can work 16-19 hours a week or whatever will be allowed, at \$15 an hour. Ms. Coleman will meet with the Mayor and ask for 16-19 hours at \$15 per hour for 49 weeks. There have been cuts in our Arts programming. We haven't had any Friday night programs, and we only have one performance instead of two for each of the Saturday series. Our concert fees have been cut back to pre 2006 fees. Arts Recreation and Culture is .4% of the total Town Budget., \$130,000 for recreation, and \$90,000 arts.

We can't ask for increases in any other line item. Ms. Coleman has to ask for major increases in the recreation budget because it was decimated last year. Commissioners agreed. After Ms. Coleman talks to the Mayor she will send the budget via email for a vote, requesting a certain response date.

## Old Business

### Saturday Series

Pirate School January 21<sup>st</sup> – Ms. DeGrand noted that this is not a puppet show, but a singalong play/magic and comedy program. Ms. DeGrand, Mr. Peel, Iris and Ms. Coleman will help. Volunteers should arrive at 12:30.

### Sunday Series

Ray Suntino, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Gargiulo?, Ms. Elkin will help. Volunteers should arrive at 1:15.

## **Summer Concerts 2012**

The schedule is attached.

Doo Wop has been negotiated to \$17,000

NRB contract in hand negotiated to \$9,500

Southside Johnnie \$17,500 and they will pay for backline

Chuck Negron contract in hand \$15,000

Expenditures were previously approved by the Commission up to \$60,000.

## **Fund Raising**

Ms. Nista noted that a Painted Chair Auction is coming up in June in Old Saybrook. More information will follow. Some Commissioners plan to attend. Eli Whitney Museum is holding Thursday, 11/8/12 for the Commission's painted items auction.

Ms. DeGrand mentioned that in the book "1,000 Places You Should See Before You Die," the Connecticut Arts Trail is listed.

Ms. Coleman said we haven't received the bus trip information from Ken Sause. Ms. Coleman said the Recreation Department is also planning some bus trips.

## **Coordinator's Report**

Ms. Coleman had to send back over \$2,000 to the state of CT from a grant that was not fully expended. This has never happened before. They weren't sure they were going to give us the grant last year. We didn't get it until 2/1 instead of 10/1. Ms. Coleman keeps Joanie's and the Police time sheets. The Finance Department gives her a printout. In July, they had a bottom line that didn't match Ms. Coleman's figures. The account they use keeps the money from vendors and the grant. Ms. Coleman asked for an extension which they were working on, but in the end it was denied. Ms. Coleman apologized.

The Commission had approved a \$1,000 to Ben, the designer of the web site, but we then couldn't pay him. She is asking permission to pay \$500 to Ben out of available funds, and the remainder of the payment will come from our next grant in February. The Commissioners agreed. Ms. Coleman said the secretary in the Recreation Department will keep track of expenditures.

## **New Business**

### **Good & Welfare**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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