

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, March 7, 2012

7 pm: Miller Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Loraine Brown, Lois Jason, Donna Elkin, Evelyn Skelly, George Moore, Stacy Sandler, Lisa DeGrand, Tracy Nista, Charles Kortsep, Marita Gargiulo

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

Commissioners Excused: Mark Peel, Derek Mirabilio, Ricardo Henriquez, Deborah Dozier, Sandra Schiff

Call to Order: Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Commissioners congratulated Ms. Coleman on her Women in History Award.

Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2012

Ms. Etkin made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1st meeting. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Information on the Commission's Town line accounts appear on Page 2 of the agenda. Mr. Kortsep reported a balance of \$5,834.41 in the Saturday Series Account and \$31,971.65 in the Gift Account as of March 5th.

Budget

Ms. Coleman distributed copies of the Commission's budget submitted to the Mayor, and has starred the few lines that belong to Arts. This is the same Arts budget presented in previous years, with the exception of an increase in the Professional Technical Line in order to have a 15 hour per week assistant in the Arts Commission Office. All Departments have been asked to cut back. Ms. Coleman cannot participate as she used to in the Arts Commission. She has been working almost every weekend. The Mayor is seeking donations to fund the position, and Ms. Coleman has thanked him for this on behalf of the Commission. Ms. Coleman is hoping for a happy ending. We got a state grant which goes to pay Joanie and we committed some of those funds to the web designer and Mr. Peel's minimum expenses, so Ms. DeGrand can start coming in now. She will be in the office next week while Ms. Coleman is away. Ms.

DeGrand can respond to phone calls, clean up emails and help with the Cultural Resource Directory. We have only one more Sunday Series and our next big project is Salute to Young Artists.

Old Business

Saturday Series

Ms. DeGrand reported last Saturday's Tanglewood Marionettes (March 3) was a fabulous show and made a profit. Ms. Jason reported great feedback. The parking lot was packed, but commissioners were not sure if that was a result of the performance or something else. Pirate school is coming 12/3/12.

Sunday Series

St. Luke's Steel Band (February 26)

This is everyone's favorite. Everyone was up dancing, and the band was interactive with the audience during intermission.

Giaocomo Gates (March 4)

Ms. Jason reported this was a fantastic event, and she thanked Ms. Brown for getting a great price. This was all quality jazz. They engaged the audience and there were lots of unfamiliar faces in the audience. Ms. Jason thanked everyone that supported this event. We took in \$857 and paid \$1,200.

The Trumpet Guy (April 22nd)

Salute to Young Artists

Rehearsal is May 10th between 3 and 5:00 p.m. and the event will take place on May 18th at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Moore will act as stage manager. Ms. Brown will help. Ms. DeGrand will help with the rehearsal. Ms. Etkin will do both.

Fund Raising

Ms. Sandler reported that the Committee met. They will talk to the High School students about the pieces to be painted. They will approach A. C. Moore, Michael's and Joanne Fabrics for donations, and they will advertise for donations. They will also ask local artists, high school students and the high school community if they would be interested in painting an object. Objects will be distributed in June, collect in October, and the event will be held in November. Food & wine will be provided with the ticket and they hope to have a musician in attendance and a silent auction. Ticket prices will be \$25 and the painted objects will be priced from \$10 up. We are looking for donations of wine, etc.

Summer Concerts

Ms. Coleman reported that contracts have been signed and mailed back. July 6th is Doo Wop with the Belmonts, The Duprees, and Shirly Austin Reeves. July 13th is NRBQ, July 20th is South Side Johnny, and July 27th is Chuck Negron of Three Dog Night.

Cultural Resource Directory

Ms. Etkin said within the next month or so the commission will see the Directory, and by the summer it will be up and running. Ms. Coleman said that might be premature because there is not one band in there, and she hasn't reached out to Steve Rogers. There are so many musicians born and raised here who have gone off to do art that are not included. She also wants to talk to Julian Schlossburg about his students. Mr. Kortsep feels we should launch the Directory and keep adding to it because if we wait until it is perfect, we might never get it out. Ms. Coleman doesn't want to offend anyone. She wants to reach the teachers. We want to show that thanks to our teachers, public schools and parents, we have created a lot of artists in Hamden.

Coordinator's Report

Ms. Coleman mentioned that in a Department Head meeting, the Mayor asked the Department Heads what they thought were Hamden's strengths. The Mayor mentioned that he felt Hamden did better than any other Town in the Arts. His second pick was Guardian Services.

Ms. Coleman announced that the Commission is receiving \$100,000 from the estate of Peter Herreld. His accountant is his executor and Mr. Herrera made it clear to him that this will go to the Sunday Series. Ms. Coleman is meeting with the accountant to draw up some rules. The Sunday Series will be renamed in his honor. The want him Mr. Herrera memorialized. Mr. Herreld was a Commission member for about six months, and raised \$13,000 for the Commission.

Ms. Coleman pointed out a magazine article written by Mr. Peel.

New Business/Ideas/Good & Welfare

Ms. Jason suggested the Commissioners form a committee in late spring or early June to plan for the first concert.

Adjournment

Ms. Gargiulo made a motion to adjourn. Ms. DeGrand seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

 Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk