

MINUTES: The Arts Commission, Town of Hamden held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Stacy Sandler, Charles Kortsep, Tracy Nista, Donna Elkin, Derek Mirabilio, Sandy Schiff, Lois Jason, Marita Gargiulo

Excused: George Moore, Deborah Dozier, Lisa DeGrand, Loraine Brown, Evelyn Skelly, Ricardo Henriquez

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

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Sandler made a motion to approve the minutes of June 27, 2012. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balance in the gift fund as of 8/25 of \$40,762.98, checkbook \$40,601.71, Saturday Series \$14,782.87 and \$15,387.16 in the checkbook. The report on the Town Lines Accounts was distributed with the agenda.

Letter from Mark Peel

Mr. Peel has resigned from the Commission and Ms. Coleman read a statement on his behalf. He actually declined reappointment when his term expired. He relayed to the Commission that he is a firm believer in moving along when the time has come. He felt his term on the Commission was a wonderful opportunity to share his experience with the Commission and he enjoyed the Commissioners. The Cultural Resource Directory was his most significant contribution and he thanked his team members Ms. Elkin, Mr. Kortsep, Ms. DeGrand, IT man Ben and Ms. Coleman. Commissioners will express their gratitude via email. Ms. Coleman said we need to think about when we will launch the directory. Mr. Peel will participate in the press release. (Hamden Cultural Resource Directory Phase I)

Old Business

Summer Concerts Review

Ms. Jason had positive feedback for every concert. Ms. Sandler agreed. Ms. Coleman said they have to do something about the lights and the portalets should be placed somewhere else. The trash barrels were invisible in the dark and people had trouble finding them. The Boy Scouts take the recycling the night of the concert and the Clean & Green Commission cleans up the next day. There were times when the opening act helped themselves a little too heartily to the refreshments that were set out for the main act.

We have had no complaints about the movies. Last week was a big crowd for the Princess Bride. Family movies are the biggest draw. The collection buckets took in \$6,302, and sponsors totaled \$39,225, For two of the nights the weather was iffy. Also the Olympics drew some people away. Ms.

Sandler said the bands expressed how much they love working with the Arts Commission. Ms. Schiff said we should ask Dunkin Donuts to donate Boxes of Joe. Food costs this year were over \$845 and total concert expenses were approximately \$101,346. Next season we should have a dry run of what to do in case of rain. Also, Ms. Coleman wants to meet with the CERT team before hand to see what we should do regarding lightening. Mr. Mirabilio said CERT should be the ones who make the announcement regarding emergencies. Ms. Schiff mentioned the attendance at meetings by Commissioners. We need to make a strong plea. We have to replace Mr. Peel, and eventually Evelyn, who is in Hamden Health Care and will not be going home.

Saturday Series Approval of Schedule

Ms. Sandler made a motion to approve the Saturday Series Schedule. Mr. Mirabilio seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Sunday Series Update

10/21/12 - Riverboat Ramblers

11/4/12 - Rob Zeppula (He was a vocalist with Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra for 8 years and has performed all over)

1/13/13 - Raymond Suntini is almost definite

In March we might have Irish Singer Charlie Zahm, and Ms. Coleman will reach out to Sambaleza, a Brazilian group for February.

There was discussion on holding the Saturday and Sunday series on the same weekends. Some thought it would be too much to sign up for both. Others felt that it was good to only have to commit for one weekend each month instead of two.

Fund Raising

Painted Furniture Auction

We need to start finding people to paint. Ms. Schiff has two wooden chairs with black Naugahyde seats and a cedar chest, plant pots, and a plastic mailbox to donate. There was discussion on getting items and painters.

Objects d'Art Date of Delivery

This event is scheduled for November 8th. The Commission can't get into the museum until 5. We should send out a save the date notice. Perhaps we can place the items in the second building. More research needs to be done. What will we charge for entrance fee, wine, etc. A committee meeting will be set up. Ms. Schiff has a contact that will try to get donors for the wine who might bring reps to pour. Music for the event was also discussed.

Bus Tour

The bus tour to Newport has been canceled.

9-11 Sculpture

Ms. Coleman has been asked to help the Union of Operating Engineers come up with a sculpture garden or something to surround the girder from the World Trade Center that they have on their property. This Union went to New York to help after 9/11. There is a small plot of land between their building and the Parkway. Ms. Coleman did the research and a committee came up with ideas. Ms. Coleman will show Mr. Mirabilio the design ideas that have been presented. Mr. Mirabilio will give it a try. Ms. Coleman and Mr. Mirabilio will meet Thursday morning.

Ms. Coleman announced that Mayor Jackson has committed \$20,000 for summer concerts and \$5,000 to keep Lisa working in the office beyond January. (This is from the Quinnipiac University donation.) Ms. Coleman is still working on the \$100,000 donation from Peter Hereld.

Ms. Sandler described a web page issue. Our calendar has been changed to a Google calendar. She made some changes, but when she looked back at it, the changes had not been saved. Ms. Coleman will contact the person who made the changes. Ms. Sandler said he has better technical skills than she does, but her aesthetic skills are better. Also, the navigation bar is not up on the web site.

Mr. Kortsep had an opportunity to talk to the Go Gos about a possible concert. They are touring.

Coordinator's Report

New Business Ideas/Good & Welfare

Ms. Schiff hooked a gentleman up with a Realtor in Florida, and he has a connection with the Beach Boys.

Ms. Jason and Mr. Mirabilio have been working on a new idea. They went to Giovanni's to ask if they would be interested in having us give them something. Every summer we hand out flyers to thousands of people. It wouldn't cost the Commission anything to dedicate a small portion of our flyer to coupons for our sponsors' businesses. If coupons were collected by the businesses, we could show that we help bring business to our local business owners.

Ms. Jason mentioned the Whitneyville Fall Festival, Saturday, September 29th, 10-4. She and Derek manned an information table last year and could use volunteers again this year.

Mr. Graham retired 31 years with Post Office. He will volunteer at the Humane Society of Meriden and for the Arts Commission.

Adjournment

Ms. Elkin made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kortsep seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk