

ARTS COMMISSION

MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2012

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

Commissioners in Attendance: Tracy Nista, Loraine Brown, Lisa DeGrand, Donna Elkin, Charles Kortsep, Sandy Schiff, Deborah Dozier, Marita Gargiulo

Commissioners Excused: George Moore, Evelyn Skelly, Ricardo Henriquez, Stacy Sandler, Lois Jason

In the absence of Mr. Moore and Ms. Jason, Ms. Nista called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Review of September 4, 2012 Minutes:

Ms. DeGrand made a motion to approve the minutes of September 4, 2012. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported the following balances as of November 25, 2012: Saturday Series \$15,269.10; Gift Fund \$41,986.69; as of 10/31/12 in the Herreld \$98,350. A report on the Town Line Accounts is attached to the agenda.

Old Business

Silver Bells Festival

Ms. Coleman thanked everyone that helped with the Silver Bells Festival. Ms. Coleman said some of the heaters were not working. Sue used hand and foot warmers, but didn't think the foot warmers worked very well. Ms. Brown said she purchased a case of hand warmers at BJ's and will pick some up for the Commission.

Feedback: Ms. Dozier said people asked if we could have two button machines next year. Ms. Nista wondered if we could add another attraction and asked if the playground will be done next year. Ms. Coleman responded yes. The playground will be located near the Community Garden. Other suggestions were a chestnut vendor, hot chocolate/coffee, strolling entertainment, living statues. Ms. Schiff mentioned that she saw a vendor in New Mexico, who is from Glastonbury, who had a machine on his back with a tube dispensing hot chocolate. Ms. Coleman felt things worked better this year with the two tents. The face painter shut down early. The costs for the Silver Bells festival are listed on the attached sheet. About 400 kids attended. Some brought their letters directly to Santa, and Ms. Coleman had the others. She shared a few with the Commissioners.

Ms. Brown mentioned seeing a giving tree where people pay to sponsor a light bulb. Donors were listed at the event.

Ms. Dozier made a motion to approve a Silver Bells expense of \$52.96. Mr. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Saturday Series

Hobnobbin Goblins (10/20) cost \$700/Revenue \$411.50

Pirate School (11/3) Cost \$550/Revenue \$445

Purple Rock Productions (12/1) Cost \$750/Revenue \$816.40

Bubble Mania (1/12)

Sign ups for the Bubblemania will be held at the January meeting.

Sunday Series

Tribute to Sinatra (10/21 Cost \$1,650/Revenue \$1,220

Ms. Elkin mentioned that the audience loved this program and that we should probably have him back.

Riverboat Ramblers (11/4) Cost \$625/Revenue \$929

Excellent program as usual.

Raymond Suntino (1/13)

Everyone is looking forward to this program.

Franz Douskey reading and Book Signing (12/17) 7:00

It was decided not to have refreshments at this event.

Cultural Resource Directory 9-11

Ms. Coleman reported that the Cultural Resource Director is on the Commission's web site but is not linked to the Town's web site. Ms. Coleman is waiting for that to happen before announcing the availability of the Directory. The cultural portion of the Town's web site needs to be redone. Mark Peel is still helping. Commissioners are having trouble using the Arts Commission site. There was discussion regarding the use of Constant Contact emailing to get the Commission's messages out to the public.

Sculpture for Operating Engineers Building

Ms. Coleman brought the Commission up to date on the sculpture that will go next to the Operating Engineers Building on Dixwell Avenue. It will be built around the girder from 9/11 that was given to the Engineers for their help after 9/11. Marvin Michalson, former Arts Commissioner developed the rendering.

Ms. Schiff mentioned that there should be additional benches near the Veterans Memorial at the Hamden Middle School.

Summer Concert Ideas

The Zombies – Two of their hits are “Tell Her No” and “The Time of the Season.” The cost for the Zombies is \$20,000. There doesn't seem to be a problem getting them, even though they will be performing at Mohegan Sun in June. Ms. Gargiulo mentioned the Persuasions, Ms. DeGrand mentioned Jay Black.

Ms. Brown made a motion to hire The Zombies for one of the summer concerts. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. Coleman also looked into Eddie Money. He has a huge repertoire. Two of his hits are “Two Tickets to Paradise,” and “Can't Hold Back.” His music is from the 70's and 80's. Commissioners would like to pursue Eddie Money. We have \$40,000 in the bank and we will have about \$63,000 coming from the Town. We also have vendor fees, buckets, etc. Ms. Nista suggested the committee schedule a meeting in January to finalize plans.

Ms. Schiff suggested that we have the New Haven Chorale Singers at a Sunday Series Event. Ms. Dozier is a member of the New Haven Heritage Chorale.

Ms. Coleman reported that the Commission received \$500 from the Library Board for Saturday Series.

Ms. Schiff mentioned looking into Jay and the Americans and a man in Florida that does Neil Diamond.

Approval of 2013 Calendar

Ms. Schiff made a motion to approve the meeting calendar for 2013. Ms. Gargiulo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Coordinator's Report

Ms. Coleman had no additional comments.

New Business/Ideas/Good & Welfare

Cards were signed at the meeting for Ms. Jason and Ms. Skelly.

Adjournment

Ms. Elkin made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk