

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, May 1, 2013

7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

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

Commissioners Excused: Ricardo Henriquez, Stacy Sandler, Evelyn Skelly

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

Call to Order

Ms. Jason called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of April 3, 2012. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balance of \$48,501.55 in the gift fund and \$18,493.23 in the Saturday series account. Page 3 of tonight's agenda shows balances in the Town lines accounts. There are still funds available in the Temporary Wages and Advertising accounts. All other accounts show a zero balance. There was discussion on funding for the part time office assistant.

Election of Officers

Currently Mr. Moore is chair, Ms. Jason and Ms. Nista are vice chairs, and Mr. Kortsep is treasurer. Mr. Moore is resigning from the commission.

Ms. Schiff nominated Ms. Jason to serve as chair. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Ms. Jason accepted the nomination.

Ms. Dozier made a motion that Ms. Nista serve as vice chair and Mr. Kortsep serve as treasurer. Ms. Gargiulo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Old Business

Salute to Young Artists: Rehearsal (May 9); Event (May 17) - Report on artists

Twenty-eight artists have registered for this year's Salute to Young Artists. 12 are visual artists and 16 are performing artists. There are 15 performances, as one is a duet. This year the program was opened to other than seniors, and we have participants from Cooperative High School, Aces, and Sacred Heart Academy in addition to Hamden High School. Rehearsal will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday May 9th.

The performance will be held on Friday, May 17th. Ms. Dozier will work the microphones, Ms. Brown will work backstage with the help of Mr. Graham. Ms. Jason will do the introductions. Mayor Jackson will welcome guests and Senator Crisco hopes to come. Town Clerk Morrison will try to attend but will be returning that day from a trip to Washington, D.C. with the Veterans.

Sprout Film Festival, with Young Audiences of CT: May 31

This event will start at 6:30 in Thornton Wilder Hall. We will help set up the reception. Punch, bottled water and desserts will be served. Ms. Elkin and Ms. Nista will bring dessert. Ms. Brown will bring a fruit tray. Ms. Jason will bring cheese and crackers. Ms. Coleman will bring spinach dip.

Summer Concerts

The Commission's calendar is still not updated the web site. Ms. Coleman explained that the bid waiver for the performers will be voted on at the Council meeting on May 6th. After that we will advertise the acts and and put them up on the web site. Ms. Brown suggested a notice be put on the web site saying the concerts to be announced soon. Commissioners thought this was an excellent idea.

Ms. Brown brought Blessing to a conference and had stories to tell about his new puppy. She said Blessing has a new album coming out under an independent label. He told her he can't wait until he can be one of our main acts

Performers updates - Opening Acts

Ms. Coleman announced that the Zombies bringing their own opening act, Et Tu Brute

Starship is bringing Beach Avenue (This band has some Hamden members)

The Doo wop show opening act is Blessing

Eddie Money's opening act is the Joey Sexton Band (They have has some Hamden members) one member requires a wheelchair ramp, which we fortunately have available. Chief Wydra is very excited about Eddie Money, so Ms. Coleman invited him back stage. Commissioners suggested we ask the Chief to introduce him. Eddie Money was a policeman before he became an entertainer.

Movie Nights

The Movie Night Schedule is listed in the agenda. Instead of Brave on August 30th, we will have Monsters, Inc. or The Incredibles. There was discussion on the baseball game. The Arts commission is collaborating with the Town Center Park Commission for movie nights We do not have rain dates for movie nights. For the movie nights we have a budget of \$5,000. There are copyright fees and fees for the renting the screen and sound equipment.

Ms. Brown suggested that we look into umbrellas with the commission logo. Ms. Jason suggested shirts. Ms. Dozier, Ms. Elkin and Ms. Brown will do some research and email the results to commission members.

Coordinator's Report

Ms. Coleman said we will be getting some new commissioners. She mentioned a retired teacher's aide, the return of a former member, and a restoration carpenter are potential members. Ms. Brown mentioned that she would like a commissioner button with her name on it. Ms. Coleman will look into this.

Cultural Resource Directory

Ms. Coleman applied for and now has a Quinnipiac Presidential Fellow and she is interested in working on the cultural directory. Mr. Kortsep and Ms. Elkin serve on that Cultural Resource Directory committee.

A breakdown of costs and revenue from the Saturday and Sunday Series is attached to the agenda.

Ann DeMatteo is now home, and her best friend Thea, who has been with her everyday, reached out to us. Ms. Coleman received an email Tuesday evening saying they are ready to do something. We had previously discussed Karaoke and Ms. Coleman mentioned holding the event at the Spaceland Ballroom.

New Business/Ideas/Good & Welfare

Ms. Coleman has been thinking about a collaboration with Steve Rodgers for movie shorts and/or movies that are by, for, or about Hamden residents or former Hamden residents. She was inspired by the film "Inocente". Tom Rousseau's son is in a film, and there was a film made with Antoinette Oliveira in the starring role. Ms. Jason suggested calling the series "Our Town."

There was discussion on the silent auction of painted furniture.

When Ms. Jason was at the Chamber Business Expo, she saw two Quinnipiac students taking videos and she spoke to them about volunteering. They said they would be interested.

There was discussion on Ms. DeGrand's office time, which is currently 12 hours each week. The Mayor donated funds to the Arts Commission in order to keep Ms. DeGrand for the second half of this year. Ms. Coleman has asked for funding for the 12 hours for the full year in her budget. Ms. Coleman mentioned that Joannie seems to be improving and may want to come back to work.

There was discussion on the Quinnipiac funds that the Mayor distributes.

Ms. Schiff's email account was compromised, and she gave the commission her temporary email address, which follows. sandyschiff11@gmail.com

Adjournment

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

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk