

Hamden Arts Commission

Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m
Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Charles Kortsep, Donna Elkin, Lisa DeGrand, Cheryl Riello, Lois Jason, Stacey Sandler, Sandy Schiff, Deborah Dozier, Ricardo Henriquez, Marita Gargiulo

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

Commissioners Excused: Janet Hunter, Loraine Brown, Evelyn Skelly, Tracy Nista, Jim Brewster

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Tabled to November meeting

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported as of 9/25/13 the Saturday Series Account has a balance of \$16,448.49 and the Gift Fund has a balance of \$27,000.12. The town line accounts are shown on sheet 2 of the agenda.

Old Business

Saturday Series

Flyers for series – Ms. DeGrand reported that the flyers for the series are available. The first show will be held on 10/19 at 1:00 p.m. This is a magic show. Volunteers are Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Jason, Ms. Coleman, Ms. Riello and maybe Mr. Graham. Flyers were sent to elementary schools, and they will be sent to all nursery and pre schools.

Sunday Series

Ms. Jason reported that flyers for the series are available. The first program is Rich DePalma on October 20th at 2:00 p.m. Volunteers for this program are Mr. Hernandez, Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Jason, Ms. Coleman.

Roberto Iarussi

Updates – Ms. Coleman is working on the flyer. Commissioners will each receive one ticket. This is the launch of Mr. Iarussi's new crossover CD recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra. He will not be performing arias. There was discussion on the fact that there will be no arias performed. He has concerts scheduled in New York and Florida in the near future.

Silver Bells

Ms. Coleman reported that the Hamden Chamber encourages businesses to decorate for the holidays. Nancy Dudecik is hoping for a synchronized town-wide holiday light-up on December 7th, the day of Silver Bells. Ms. Coleman asked the Commissioners how they felt about changing the time of our tree lighting from 4:25 to 5:00 p.m. as requested by the Chamber. The Girl Scouts and schools will be singing. The chamber gives awards to businesses for having the best decorations. After some discussion, Commissioners decided not to change the time of the Silver Bells tree lighting.

Commissioners felt it is important to get people home as early as possible because of the cold weather.

Website

Ms. Coleman said she and Ms. DeGrand just got a mini lesson from Ms. Sandler on the website, so they will be able to update the google calendar. Ms. Sandler said we have to groom someone to manage the site. Ms. Riello's husband is a software engineer, who travels extensively for his business. He said it is really very easy and he can show Ms. Coleman and Ms. DeGrand everything as to how to update, etc. He only needs the password. Ms. Sandler said this is perfect timing, because she has some additional job duties this year. She will put up the current information, and Ms. DeGrand will do the calendars.

Coordinator's report

Ms. Coleman applied for a state grant, but they have really cut back on the Arts. They have an operational grant, but the highest one is \$7,000. If she comes out with \$500, it isn't worth the time it takes to go through the application process.

New Business/ideas/good & welfare

Ms. Elkin said Mr. Mirabilio has a new jewelry line and is starting to do shows. She would like to see the Commission help him get the word out. Ms. Coleman was thinking of a house party. Ms. Dozier suggested he have a table at the Commission's Saturday and Sunday events. He has a website. Ms. Coleman got him into the Brooksvale Fall Festival and he sold out. Every piece is unique and made from natural materials.

Ms. Dozier mentioned that she saw Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, which was excellent – at a theater behind a storefront on Chapel Street in New Haven.

Ms. Schiff mentioned that in the paper a while back, she saw an article on one of our young artists, Emma Baranski. She won first place in the National Synchronized Swimming Championships in solo and figure competition.

Ms. Elkin mentioned that the Hamden High PTSA is asking people to sign up for an A+ Stop & Shop Cards to be used from October to March with a percentage of money spent going toward the after prom. Commissioners were asked to go on the Stop & Shop web site – School ID 09358.

Ms. Gargiulo had the beginning of an idea for having a Haiku contest. It could be open to students and adults, and people could submit their Haiku for judging, or could read their Haiku at an event. February is national Haiku month. Ms. Coleman said we used to do some poetry events under our Neglected Arts programming. Ms. Gargiulo would be happy to work with someone on this. There was discussion. Ms. Gargiulo also mentioned that there is a monthly poetry society meeting here once a month.

Ms. Elkin said in the spring the High School has an event called “The Spoken Word,” poetry by high school kids.

Ravenna Michaelson is performing at best video according to Ms. Jason.

Ms. Sandler mentioned that we still owe the High School for the birdhouses and other items for the painted furniture sale.

Ms. Schiff asked if all of the donors for the summer concert series have been thanked.

Ms. Jason spoke of the wonderful service at Giovanni's.

Ms. Elkin mentioned another chalk fest at the end of October 22/23. Ms. Sandler said this is a juried art show and they choose 75 squares and it will be in the front of the school. Information can be found on the school website, hamden.org.

Adjournment

Ms. Gargiulo made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk