

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA

Meeting of Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Lisa DeGrand, Lois Jason, Tracy Nista, Donna Elkin, Loraine Brown, Charles Kortsep, Cheryl Riello, Marita Gargiulo, Sandra Schiff

Commissioner Absent: Deborah Dozier (excused), James Brewster, Ricardo Henriquez, Janet Hunter, Stacy Sandler

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Nista made a motion to approve the minutes of October 2, 2013. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balance in the Gift Fund as of October 25, 2013 of \$27, 537.27, and in the Saturday Series account as of 10/25/13 in the amount of \$17, 354.63. The Town Lines are reported on sheet two of the agenda.

There was discussion on the special programs account. Ms. Coleman explained that items were charged to the Arts Commission instead of the Town Center Park Commission, and that error will be corrected.

Old Business

Roberto Iarussi Concert - Commissioners felt the concert was wonderful. Ms. Jason felt she was watching history being made, and we will hear more about him in the future. People were asking for programs, and there were none available. Feedback has been incredible. We received several emails and phone calls. There was no review in the paper. Ms. Coleman thanked Ms. DeGrand for handling the box office. Ms. Jason seconded the thanks.

Ms. Coleman said we paid Mr. Iarussi \$15,500. He originally wanted \$20,000. Ms. Coleman said the last time Mr. Iarussi performed here, she worked with his personal manager, but this time he wanted to do it himself. We had a folder with a mailing list and names of people that attended the previous concert. The media, including radio stations, played it up big in special articles. Emails were sent to Italian American organizations. Mr. Iarussi had a person that was connected with the opera world, but she didn't provide a mailing list nor did he. At one point Ms. Coleman told him we only had 125 tickets sold. We contacted the K of C because he had done a free concert for them at the Shubert. He asked for 30 comp tickets, then asked for 33 more. Technical costs this year are much more than the \$800 we spent last time, but we still don't know the final total. We paid him a \$2,500 deposit, and \$8,000 the night of the performance.

There was a problem with the ballerina. She had to re-choreograph because she was not told that the stage would be filled with equipment.

We still owe Mr. Iarussi \$5,000, and we owe the tech costs. Ms. Sandler feels we should deduct the cost of the comp tickets. Commissioners agreed. There was further discussion regarding this concert.

Saturday Series:

Magic Variety Show – Ms. DeGrand said we lost money on this program. We paid \$550 and took in \$396

"Pirate, Princess & Pea:" Nov. 23 – Ms. DeGrand can't be there. Ms. Coleman, Ms. Jason, and Ms. Riello will be there. The program begins at 1:00.

Sunday Series

Rich DiPalma – Ms. Coleman said this was a very successful program. We paid \$550 and took in \$915. Ms. Jason asked if we can use the interest on the money in the account, and Ms. Coleman said no.

Sambeleza: Nov. 24 – Brazilian Jazz, with Jeff Fuller. This program was snowed out last year. This is a very good group. Ms. Jason, Ms. Gargiulo, Ms. Schiff, Ms. Elkin volunteered. Ms. Nista said they performed at the Cheshire Library last weekend free. We charge \$7 and \$5.

Ms. Jason said Ms. DeGrand has been doing a great job wrangling the people. We have the same audience all the time. One attendee pays for her tickets and gave the commission a donation.

Silver bells : Dec. 7 – A copy of last year's program was attached to the agenda. Ms. Coleman said the carousel company was planning to bring a tent and provide a second carousel, but they have now gone out of business. There aren't that many companies out there. Ms. Coleman asked if anyone knew of anyone, would they let her know. We will ask the library if they want to do face painting again. Ms. Riello can get people for crafts and face painting. We use a button making machine and we do letters to Santa with a mail box. The next Commission meeting is the Wednesday before the Saturday event. Last year we started at 2. The Commission decided to start at 2:30 instead.

Film: "Inocente"

There was a lengthy discussion on a possible showing of the film Inocente. It was decided to try to put an event together for April, that would include a showing of the film and an art workshop, probably at the Hamden Middle School. Ms. Tobin will get information from ARTS and Shine Global.

Website Update

Cheryl Riello's husband Chris is working with our web site, and we are in good hands! He has been able to come up with the number of hits our website receives, and the report is attached. Mr. Riello is going to teach Ms. Coleman and Ms. DeGrand how to update the site.

There was discussion on the web site and a Facebook page.

Summer Concerts

Ms. Coleman said Tower of Power is not coming this year. They are on a big tour with Journey and some other well known bands. Kenny Vance is still a maybe. Ms. Coleman said we might not get the \$20,000 from Quinnipiac, but Mayor Jackson said it is coming. Ms. Coleman said she knows of three people want to be on Arts Commission, one is a retired Board of Education employee, a young woman who unfortunately just moved to New Haven (who might be on the auxiliary, and a young law school graduate. Ms. Coleman will be asking Eleanor Skelly to write a letter of resignation for Evelyn.

Ms. Jason said she has been on the Commission for 13 years, and has seen people come and go. They come on the Commission, pad their resume, and never do anything. Ms. Jason feels that Commissioners should commit. They have a responsibility and should sign up for a certain number of events during the year and attend the meetings. Ms. DeGrand feels Commissioners should do at least two concerts, and a Saturday series and Sunday series event at the minimum.

Ms. Schiff has a CD of a professional group that would like to be an opening act next summer.

Coordinator's report

Ms. Coleman had nothing additional to report.

New Business/Ideas/Good & Welfare

Ms. Nista said in an issue of Ct magazine rating area Towns with similar median home prices, Hamden came in 43 out of 44, but in the arts and culture area, Hamden was #4.

The PLACE fundraiser was discussed. Ms. Coleman is being honored, and she said it is really a party with a jazz band, a Bollywood dancer and a young Chinese performer. There will be 15 minutes of acknowledgments of those being honored for helping PLACE. The event will be held at Cascade on Thursday, November 14th. Ms. Coleman has tickets.

Adjournment

Ms. Nista made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

**Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk**