

## HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, February 6, 2013

7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Charles Kortsep, Deborah Dozier, Ricardo Henriquez, Loraine Brown, Lois Jason, Lisa DeGrand, Donna Elkin, Marita Gargiulo

Commissioners Excused: Evelyn Skelly, Sandy Schiff, Stacy Sandler, George Moore, Tracy Nista

Others in Attendance: Auxiliary Member Steve Graham, Director of Arts, Recreation and 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. Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes of January 2, 2013. Mr. Henriquez seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

### Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balance of \$43, 604.39 in the Gift Fund and \$17,930.21 in the Saturday Series account. Page 2 of agenda shows the Town Lines accounts, to which Ms. Coleman made several corrections. The Temporary Wages account has a balance of \$2,440 and the Special Programs Account has a balance of approximately \$750, with Pumpnickel Puppets still to be paid. Ms. Coleman said she was expecting \$5,000 from the Quinnipiac donation for Professional/Technical services, but the Quinnipiac money can't be used to pay salaries. The Mayor is giving the commission a check for \$2,500 to the Gift Fund, and some of that can be used to pay Ms. DeGrand.

### Old Business

#### Saturday Series:

Bubblemania ( Jan. 12) – Ms. Jason reported that there were lines around the building waiting to get in. The Weekend Guide Editor put Bubblemania on the cover of the Weekend Guide section of the New Haven Register. We always get a full house for Casey Carl's Bubblemania, but never that big a crowd. He did two shows, one at 1:00 p.m. and one at 2:15 p.m., and both were sellouts. The profit for this program was \$1,148.00.

Magic Show (Feb. 9) – volunteers are needed for this weekend. In case of snow, we would make the call by 9:00 a.m. We would postpone until next year. If the entertainer gets here and we cancel we pay, but if we cancel before they are on there way, we don't pay. The program is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. The magician is Steve Johnson from

Encore Entertainment.

#### Sunday Series:

Raymond Suntino (Jan. 13) This program was a big success again, with a full house. We received donations in addition to tickets, and cleared \$567.

Sambeleza (Feb. 10)

Ms. Elkin, Ms. Jason and Ms. Coleman will work.

#### Summer Concert Series:

Performer Updates Ms. Coleman announced that as of today, we can't get Jose Feliciano. Eddie Money's contract is almost ready to be returned. He is scheduled for the first Friday in July. There is potential for the Zombies. They might be touring with their own opening act from Britain (et tu brute) and want \$250 for the open act, plus accommodations consisting of two double rooms, hospitality, and ground transportation. The Zombies will get \$19,500. Commissioners discussed how to handle the payment of \$250 because we don't usually pay for opening acts. The Commissioners decided not to pay the \$250, but to cover the other items. Ms. Coleman said the agent for the Doo Wop group is working on that for July 19<sup>th</sup>. Kenny Vance can't participate because a Connecticut company has an exclusive. We had decided to invite Freddie Paris and the Five Satins again. We are trying to get the Drifters as part of the Doo Wop. We had also considered Starship. There was discussion on 80's freestyle. It is a Puerto Rican type music.

#### Sponsorships

Ms. Coleman said we have some challenges this year. The Mayor promised \$20,000 from the Quinnipiac money. Ms. Coleman applied early to Webster Bank because the Town has switched their accounts from TD Bank to Webster. They gave \$1,000. TD used to give \$5,000. Commissioners suggested Quinnipiac Bank, Elks Club, and Rotary. Ms. Coleman said we usually get \$5,000 from Yale but we have a new President there, so we can't be sure. The Town gives us \$63,000. There was some discussion on the value of the concerts. Ms. Coleman said the \$63,000 is about \$1 per Town resident. The Volunteer Firefighters will do the fireworks on Friday June 28<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Saturday. We don't have a military band yet, but Ms. Coleman is working on it. Ms. Brown asked if there are any local businesses that would support us. Ms. Coleman asked Commissioners to think about businesses that might help.

#### Cultural Resource Directory

The director is up everywhere it is supposed to be, on our website, the Town's website, and it has been noted in the local papers, etc.

#### Lobby Exhibition

Ms. DeGrand announced that Debbie Chavoya contacted the Arts Commission regarding a collaboration. She hopes to place the art by her students in the Miller lobby and plans to keep changing it out. A schedule will be made up. This display will all have to come down in May in time for Salute to Young Artists.

#### Coordinator's Report

Ms. Coleman has spoken to Mr. Moore, who will be resigning from the Commission due to health issues. He will stay on the auxiliary, and has agreed to announce at the concerts.

#### New Business/Ideas/Good & Welfare

Mr. Kortsep mentioned an possible event in 2014, when the Town's main zip code coincides with the date of June 5, 2014. This is called a Zip Code Eclipse, and Commissioners agreed

they might do something for the event.

Ms. Coleman told the commission that Ann DeMatteo has had a relapse of her breast cancer and is undergoing serious treatment. Thea Moritz from Quinnipiac University, who designs our summer concert flyer concert, is Ann's best friend. Perhaps the commission can do a small fund raiser for Ann. Ann loves Karaoke. There was discussion on having an event at The Space. Their new space can accommodate about 300.

Ms. Coleman will be out of Town for the March 3<sup>rd</sup> is St. Luke's performance. They will be video and audio taping this performance. Everything will be set up ahead of time, including chairs. Also, their check in payment for their performance will be written ahead of time.

**Ms. Dozier made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Gargiulo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.**

Submitted by:

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Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission