

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, March 5, 2014
7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Loraine Brown, Lisa DeGrand, Ricardo Henriquez, Lois Jason, Cheryl Riello, Charles Kortsep, Marita Gargiulo, Jim Brewster, Donna Elkin,

Commissioners Excused: Deborah Dozier, Sandy Schiff, Tracy Nista, Janet Hunter

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

Call to Order

Ms. Jason called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of January 13, 2014. Ms. DeGrand seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balance of \$27,035.14 in the Gift Fund and \$15,713.04 in the Saturday Series account. The Town Lines report was attached to the agenda.

Old Business

Saturday Series

“Just So Stories” (Feb. 8)

The cost of this program was \$700, and receipts were \$592.

“Willy Wonka’s Wonkaville” (March 8)

Several commissioners signed up to help at this event.

Sunday Series

“Three Ladies of Swing” (Feb. 9)

This program cost \$800, and receipts were \$1,321. Commissioners discussed mixed reviews.

Irish Concert (March 30)

The Kerry boys are also appearing at the Irish Hunger Museum the previous week but tickets will cost \$15.00 each. Several commissioners signed up to help at the March 30th event.

Salute to Young Artists (May 16/rehearsal May 8)

Status of nominations

Ms. Coleman reported five or six nominations to date. The deadline for nominations is March 14th.

Ms. Elkin will inform Cathy Swlinger and Rich Pershan at the High School

Structural changes this year

Ms. Coleman reported that Mr. Conway is in Florida and will not be here for this event. He has always done our sound and lighting. Greg Downing has agreed to do the sound and lighting this year, and he is a professional. Mr. Conway is a detail person and he would rent walkie talkie's so he was able to communicate with the back stage workers. Ms. Brown stressed the importance of that communication, because from back stage you can't really see what is happening. Rehearsal for this event is May 8th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Several commissioners volunteered to help at the rehearsal and the event.

Summer concerts

Update on performers/Status of contracts

Ms. Coleman reported that as of today all contracts have been reviewed by the Town Attorney and are

now with the Mayor for signature. Ms. Coleman will scan them and email the contracts back to the representatives. One of the performers wants to project things on a screen at the rear of the stage, and we will pay the additional cost. The total of the contracts for this year is \$53,500, which is much less than in previous years. The Platters are on their 60th anniversary world tour and are charging \$8,500. The Family Stone is \$15,000. Fran Cosmo, former lead singer of Boston is \$12,500. Dave Mason's Traffic Jam Tour (co-founder of Traffic) is \$17,500. If we have to spend more on production this year, that is okay. At the last meeting the commission did not approve the performance fees of \$53,500, and Ms. Coleman asked for a motion. **Ms. Elkin made a motion to approve performance fees of \$53,500. Ms. Gargiulo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Ms. Coleman said we have to pay deposits of \$26,750 by next month, and we have that in our account. We have been promised the full \$25,000 from the Quinnipiac donation by Mayor Jackson.

Sponsorship ideas

Ms. Coleman said she is bringing this up in case anyone has any fresh ideas.

Issues: National Anthem

We have had another request for someone to sing the national anthem at the start of our concerts. The request came from a Legislative Council Representative via a Veteran. There was lengthy discussion. We will continue the discussion and ask for a consensus at the next commission meeting.

Fund raising Ideas

Dance/Pumpkin Event/Whist Military Card Party/Guitar Auction

Mr. Brewster mentioned that he has a local limousine company that might trade a ride for publicity. Ms. Coleman isn't sure how many limo trips we will need. Mr. Conway does a lot of chauffeuring, but she isn't sure how much he'll be doing this summer.

Fund raising – part of our mission is to bring all of the arts together, and all performers are into the arts as well. Perhaps we can auction off signed instruments – guitars, drum heads, etc. We would provide the instruments. “Non profit” is something that we should put in our publicity and “your donations bring in the bands.” That should also go on the rack cards. There could be a live auction with a signed guitar as a lot, a signed drum head as a lot, and signed posters. We could get businesses to donate things for a silent auction. This event would take two hours tops. We could hold the event probably at the end of August or early September, not too distant from the concerts. A dance was also suggested. To engage the audience, we could design certificates and award them to the best tailgate, the best lookalike, etc. Space ballroom was mentioned as a venue – people can buy their drinks there, taking that responsibility away from the commission. These ideas will be discussed further in committee.

Ms. Riello suggested a setback party. Ms. Coleman has the contact's email. North Haven did this and made \$3,000 one evening in two hours. You pay \$8 at the door, groups are set up at tables of four. The leader explains the whole thing. You keep moving around the room as you play. Coffee and dessert are served and hard candies are placed on each table. There could be a raffle of gift baskets. The woman is located in East Haven and has a following.

Mr. Brewster shared his thoughts on the web site. He said if we listed all of the bands we have had over the years, people could go on line and see the list and be impressed. We could put 8-10 songs from each band for the current year, 15 second videos, or even a YouTube video. Ms. Coleman mentioned that summer concerts started in 1988.

Mr. Brewster suggested a game on the website, and he would be willing to do all of the work. He did seven degrees of separation connecting Humphrey Bogart to John Candy through movies they were in. He would have to put the game in a word document and send it to Ms. Riello.

Ms. Jason mentioned that one of our Notables died and the Notable list has to be updated. There was discussion on getting our page back from the person who did it originally, in order that we can update it. Ms. Riello said her family can put items on the site. It is easy as long as the item is written up in word.

Film Update

Ms. Tobin is having some difficulty getting a response from the film company. Inocente is no longer working through ARTS. She will continue to pursue getting the film Inocente shown in Hamden.

Coordinator's report

Auxiliary member suggestion

Ms. Coleman asked the commissioners to approve a new auxiliary member, Greg Goulart. He is a member of the CERT Team and has worked with Tom Conway. He is willing to do a lot of work. Commissioners were all in favor. Ms. Brown said her husband Dave is willing to help at the concerts. Mr. Brewster, if his work allows, will plan to take concert Fridays off to help with concert set up. Mr. Kortsep usually helps with set up.

New Business/Ideas/Good & Welfare

Adjournment

Ms. Gargiulo made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk