

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, April 2, 2014

7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Lois Jason, Donna Elkin, Cheryl Riello, James Brewster, Tracy Nista, Charles Kortsep, Lorraine Brown, Marita Gargiulo, Janet Hunter

Commissioners Excused: Sandra Schiff, Ricardo Henriquez, Deborah Dozier, Lisa DeGrand

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 7:13 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Elkin made a motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2014. Mr. Brewster seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a vote of eight in favor, one abstained.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balance in the Gift Fund as of 3/25 of \$27,085.35, and the Saturday Series Account of \$16,320.31. Town Lines Accounts were attached to the agenda.

Old Business

Mayor's Recommended Budget

Ms. Coleman reported that Mayor Jackson recommended the \$75,000 that we asked for for Special Projects. He also recommended \$15,820 for Professional/Technical Services, which is what we requested. For Special Programs, The Mayor recommended \$10,000. Last year that item was funded at \$10,000, but \$5,000 of that was for movie nights. If the \$10,000 is approved, we will actually have \$5,000 more than we had last year.

Special Birthday Wishes for Steve Graham – with cake, candles and song!

Saturday Series

“Willy Wonka’s Wonkaville” (March 8)

This very successful program brought in \$645, and cost \$600.

Sunday Series

Irish Concert (March 30)

Ms. Jason said this was a very good program and was very well received. The cost was \$650 and it brought in \$839. Everyone enjoyed it and thanked us for everything we do. One group came from East Haven and this was their first Sunday concert. Our couple that comes to all of our concerts and donates to us was in attendance. They do not want to be acknowledged. This time they presented a check for \$100. She said her thanks is the way she is greeted when she comes. We save them seats, but other than that they do not want to be acknowledged. The commission decided to send them a framed letter of thanks.

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

Status of nominations – we had 37 nominations, we are taking 27 or 28. There are not many musicians, but we will have 13 visual, a number of vocalists, two poets, etc. Greg Downing will be a replacement for Tom Conway, doing the lights. He doesn't do sound. Ms. Coleman spoke to our sound company about hiring someone. We still have money in our Saturday Series account. Perhaps

we will rent walkie talkies. Rehearsal is on the Thursday May 8th from 5-7 p.m. Our meeting is the night before. Ms. Coleman asked for volunteers. The event is on Friday the May 16th.

Summer concerts

Update on performers/Status of contracts

The Family Stone backed out to do two major concerts in Europe. We have not received the Fifth Dimension contract yet. They will be flying into New York instead of Hartford. Mr. Brewster said we are not on Fifth Dimension website to date. We are on The Family Stone's. We are on Dave Mason's site. Ms. Coleman said Fifth Dimension and Family Stone have the same agent.

Ms. Coleman will write the press release once she receives the contract. There was discussion on the Hamden Patch. Kate Ramuni is no longer writing for the Patch, she is writing for the Hamden Times. Gary Jeanfaivre is the new editor of the patch. Before each concert, Mimsie sends a photo and press release to the papers. Ms. Riello's husband will be able to put the information on the web site and could include a video.

New idea

Ms. Coleman said she has always had the fantasy of doing a flash mob at one of our concerts before the opening act. She was thinking of asking the director and choreographer of Whitney Players to come up with a routine to Michael Jackson's Thriller. She felt we could offer to pay them to work with us. They would help us plan it out. Ms. Coleman was thinking of this for the July 25th concert and if the weather was bad we would do it on August 1st.

National Anthem

The consensus is that we will not have the National Anthem at the start of our concerts, after checking with the chairman of the Veterans Commission and the Commission's previous discussions.

Film Update

Ms. Tobin reported that she has been in touch with Inocente about coming to Hamden for a showing of the film "Inocente" and doing a Q&A. Her fee would be airfare and lodging for herself and a companion plus her speaking fee, which she quoted as \$1,000, but said that is negotiable. There is also a fee to purchase or rent the film. There was discussion on possible sponsors and a date for this event. Ms. Tobin suggested commissioners look up inocenteart on the internet to see her what she does. Also, look at Shine Global's site to see a clip of the film. The film is also available on I-tunes. Ms. Tobin will meet with Inocente on her June/July trip to San Diego.

Coordinator's report

New Business/Ideas

Cosponsor events

Ravenna Michaelson's All String Play-Ins – Ms. Michaelson is a cellist and the daughter of our former chair Marvin Michaelson. She wants to host some all string play-ins, bringing together people of all ages who can read music and get together to play together. She would take the lead. Ms. Michaelson would like to do this at Thornton Wilder, possibly three times over the summer. She is asking for \$200 – \$250. She teaches at neighborhood music school. She would expect 20-50 to participate. Ms. Nista feels if she wants us to fund her, we should not do it in the summer. It is also difficult to book Thornton Wilder.

Author Event: Hamden author Wayne Meeks on his book, "Swallowing Jonah"

Ms. Coleman asked if we could sponsor this event at no cost to the Commission. The commissioners agreed.

Good & Welfare

Steve Graham Announcement

Mr. Graham told the Commission that he made out his will about a year ago and has designated the Arts Commission as a beneficiary.

Adjournment

Ms. Nista made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk