

## **Minutes of the Arts Commission Meeting of Wednesday, September 3, 2014**

Commissioners in Attendance: Lisa DeGrand, Tracy Nista, Lois Jason, Cheryl Riello, Donna Elkin, Charles Kortsep, Sandy Schiff, Jim Brewster, Marita Gargiulo

Commissioners Excused: Deborah Dozier, Ricardo Henriquez, Loraine Brown, Janet Hunter

Others in Attendance: Auxiliary Member Steve Graham, ARC Director Mimsie Coleman, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

Call to Order 7:04

Ms. Jason called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

**Ms. Elkin made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2014 meeting. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balance in the Gift Fund as of 8/25/14 of \$21,788.30. The Saturday Series account has a balance of \$16,314.70. The Town Line Accounts are listed on page 2 of the agenda.

Old Business

Summer Concerts – summary of sponsors, collections, post series analysis

Commissioners agreed that this was a successful year and we had excellent weather, etc.

On the budget page, expenditures are listed. \$184, a reimbursement, has to be added to hospitality and we are awaiting two bills as noted. Ms. Coleman mentioned that the commission received \$25,000 from the Mayor. This was from Quinnpiacc's donation to the Town. Ms. Coleman took out slightly more than that in error, but Mayor Jackson okayed it.

Ms. Elkin mentioned how helpful the golf carts are for getting people to the field, and explained the issue with bringing her 91 year old mother to the Greek Festival in Orange, where they don't have the golf carts available. Ms. Schiff mentioned a gentleman who was unable to get up onto a platform to get onto a cart. Ms. Coleman said if she is notified in advance, she can make special arrangements.

Ms. DeGrand mentioned that the lights inside the portapotties didn't work. Ms. Coleman said there are lights, but they are battery operated, and the batteries go out after the first night. We will try to rectify this issue.

Commissioners felt there are more lights needed after dark when people are leaving. Also, the drainage pipes need to be covered or fenced to keep people from stepping into them.

Ms. Schiff felt that security people were not allowing her to do her job, and were not very nice about it. She didn't like the way she was spoken to by some of the people working security.

There was lengthy discussion on this issue. Ms. Coleman said she instituted the rule about people

going into the tent because some groups have asked to have privacy. Ms. Jason said we are all adults and all in it together, and they should be more diplomatic. They should take into consideration that Ms. Schiff is there to be helpful. We have to respect the groups that ask for privacy. No one should receive special treatment. Ms. Coleman will ask the road manager for each group for details re privacy, food etc. Hospitality has to be able to move in and out. Mr. Brewster said if a group is scheduled to arrive at a certain time, hospitality as to be finished in the tent. The tent should also be empty at the time the group comes off the stage for their break. Additional discussion followed. Ms. Jason suggested this discussion be tabled to May or June.

Ms. Coleman said everyone has to respect the sound equipment. At the Frank Cosmo concert there were two electrical issues which Tom Conway found very quickly.

Ms. DeGrand said we need to keep track of the lanyards. It seems like there are a lot of people wearing them.

Ms. Gargiulo brought up the subject of people smoking at concerts.

The Commission received \$39,850 in sponsorships. In addition, we received many in-kind services. The bucket collections at the four concerts totaled \$7,664. Vendor income is not included in the report. We charge is \$75 per concert per vendor with some discount for vendors signing up for all four concerts.

Expenses were \$110,195.78 which includes two bills that have not come in yet and a hospitality expense to be reimbursed.

Ms. Coleman reported that the Flash Mob was a great success and the video has had 5,643 views on u-tube. We paid dance studio and the lead dancer was awesome. One disadvantage was some people weren't seen on the video. Mr. Kortsep pointed out that most people on the field didn't know the flash mob was going on. The flash mob received great coverage in the Hamden Post Chronicle.

#### Saturday Series

The Saturday Series schedule is attached to the agenda. There was discussion on doing two shows with Bubblemania. In the past we had two shows for all of the Saturday Series. Last year we had excellent publicity for Bubblemania and had people waiting all way around the building in line to attend.

**Ms. Nista made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$4,505 for Saturday Series programs, plus the cost of a second Bubblemania concert, to be determined. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Saturday Series programs are at 1:00 p.m. If a second show is scheduled it would be at 2:30 or 3:00

#### Sunday Series

Ms. Jason said the Sunday Series committee is looking at several performers including Val Ramos – flamenco; Hot Cat Jazz Band (Cole Porter, George Gershwin); CT Ballroom Theater (music from the thirties up to the end of WWII; and the Galvanized Jazz Band.

#### Freddie Parris

Ms. Coleman reported that she heard from Mr. Parris' manager who told her Mr. Parris is unable to do a solo concert. His manager thanked us for being so kind and said we have a reputation of treating the

groups very well.

#### Coordinator's Report

Ms. Coleman reported that Mayor Jackson has appointed new Arts Commissioner whose name is before the Legislative Council for approval. Ms. Coleman also heard from a woman who wants to be involved in the Arts, and she will be meeting with her shortly.

#### Hamden Poet Laureate

Ms. Coleman said this will emanate from the Mayor's Office.

#### Good & Welfare

Ms. Jason mentioned the Whitneyville Fall Festival which will take place on September 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Whitneyville Church at Putnam and Whitney Avenue.

Ms. Schiff sent around a notice about some performances for Groove Time, which she feels would make an excellent opening act for next summer. They will perform Saturday between 12 and 4 at the North Haven Fair, and their jazz group will be performing next Sunday night at Outer Space. Outer Space will waive a cover for commissioners. Call Ms. Schiff for more information.

#### Adjournment

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

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk