

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION

Meeting of Monday, January 13, 2014, 7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Lisa DeGrand, Donna Elkin, Lois Jason, Tracy Nista, Cheryl Riello

Commissioners Absent: Lorraine Brown, Deborah Dozier, Marita Gargiulo, Charles Korstep,
Ricardo Henriquez, Sandra Schiff

Others in Attendance: Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts, Recreation and Culture, Peggy Craft, Acting Clerk

Call to Order

The meeting could not be called to order due to the lack of a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Due to the lack of a quorum the Minutes of the December 2013 could not be approved. This was tabled to the next meeting. Treasurers Report

Treasurer's Report

In Mr. Korsteps' absence, Ms. Coleman read the Treasurer's Report.

Ms. Coleman said by Monday, January 20th, she must submit a budget for the following fiscal year.

Ms. Coleman discussed her proposed budget as follows:

Temporary Wages: \$5,070 - This is for Joanie's salary.

Advertising: \$1,200.00

Special Projects - Ms. Coleman said she feels the amount for this item should be increased. She explained that under previous administrations \$25,000 was received from Quinnipiac. During the present administration, the grant from QU has been divided by the Mayor among the departments. He has assured Ms. Coleman that the Arts Commission will receive \$25,000 from QU Grant this year.

Ms. Coleman would like to request \$75,000 for this line item.

Special Programs: \$10,000 – Ms. Coleman explained that \$5,000 of this amount goes for the Friday Movie Nights in August. Ms. Coleman explained the cost of the programs that the Arts Commission oversees..

She would like to request \$13,000 for this line.

Professional /Technical: Ms. Coleman explained that this covers the salary for Lisa DeGrand. Ms. DeGrand presently works 15 hours at \$15.00 per hour for a total of \$11,250.

Ms. Coleman would like to request that Ms. DeGrand's hours be increased to 19 hours a week at \$15.00 per hour for a total of \$14,820.

Old Business

Ms. Elkin noted that on Facebook there was a list of the 10 best things that happened in Hamden. She said that she thought that the Summer Concerts were listed as 7th or 8th. She said she was very upset about this, and felt that the concert should have been closer to number 1. There was a discussion regarding this subject.

Ms. DeGrand and Ms. Riello discussed a graphics program.

Next, there was a discussion regarding Silverbells. Ms. Riello said next year she would like to provide this for the Commission. Ms. Coleman noted what a wonderful job the face painters did. Ms. Riello will place pictures on the Commission's website.

Ms. Coleman noted that it was very good to have two face painters and two button machines. It was also noted that these two activities were the busiest. There was a discussion regarding how these activities could be improved. Ms. Coleman said Mr. Korstep and his sister did a wonderful job with the button machine activity.

Saturday Series

Ms. DeGrand said the puppet show, Midwinter Magic, held prior to the Silverbells festivities did not make any money. Ms. Coleman said they broke even.

Ms. DeGrand did not attend the Yo Yo Guy program on January 11th. Ms. Jason said the show was wonderful, and very well received by all that attended. Ms. Coleman said the program cost \$500 and \$871 was taken in.

Ms. Jason said that three people in the box office works very well. There was a discussion regarding this program.

The next Saturday program, Robert Rogers Puppets, will be held on February 8th.

Sunday Series

Ms. Jason said Linda Ipanema & the Dixie Cats was a very engaging show. Ms. Elkin and Ms. Riello said the show was excellent. Ms. Jason said the audience loved the show, but she noted that the musicians were not very enthusiastic. \$1,211 was taken in for this show.

Ms. Coleman discussed a person named Rose Lymy who is a Connecticut Ambassador. She attended this show, and wrote a note to Ms. Coleman stating how much she enjoyed the show.

The next show in the Sunday Series will be on February 9th.

Website and Facebook page update

Ms. Coleman reported that Ms. Riello's husband came to the office and trained her and Ms. DeGrand on how to update these sites. There was a discussion regarding this subject. Ms. Riello said her husband is available to help with any problems that may arise.

Summer Concerts

Ms. Coleman said most of the performers on the list are very expensive. She has looked into Lou Graham of Foreigner. She spoke with a representative from a venue where he performed, and was told that he was very good, but there was problem because they refused to provide oxygen. She spoke with his agent, and asked about this problem. She said she feels that the Commission should not take a chance with this.

The Mayor is going to sign the contract for Kenny Vance tomorrow.

There was a discussion regarding Boston. The cost for this group would be \$150,000. Ms. Elkin asked about Survivor. Ms. Coleman has not heard back from them yet.

Ms. Nista asked about the agents that Ms. Coleman has worked with in the past. There was a discussion regarding the agents that Ms. Colman has previously worked with.

Ms. Coleman discussed Dave Mason of Traffic. He is currently doing a show called Traffic Jam. Ms. Coleman will look into this. She said she doesn't think this show would be out of the Commission's price range.

There was a discussion regarding a disco show.

Ms. Hunter asked if there would be a Doo-Wop show.

Sponsorship ideas

Ms. Coleman said if anyone has ideas for sponsors to contact her.

Ms. Riello asked what the cost was for Food Trucks. Ms. Coleman said the cost is different for each event. She discussed the Food Truck Festival and the \$25.00 charge for the trucks. She said the amount should be increased to \$300 or \$400. Ms. Coleman explained that this is a Town Center Park activity. Next, Ms. Riello suggested a Fall Festival. Ms. Coleman said this is a wonderful idea, but there is already a Fall Festival at Brooksvale Park.

Ms. Coleman said Ms. DeGrand has suggested an event involving pumpkin carving. Ms. Coleman suggested that there be an event held on the Farmington Canal Trail involving lighted carved pumpkins along a planned route. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this suggestion. Ms. Hunter suggested involving the schools in this event.

Next, Ms. Riello suggested a dance. She suggested having a "Dancing Under the Stars" event. Ms. Coleman said the Commission has held dances in the past. There was a discussion regarding this suggestion. Ms. Coleman said this is an excellent idea.

Ms. Riello asked about having a Valentine's Day Concert featuring Raymond Santino. Ms. Coleman said it is too late to plan something for this year.

Ms. Riello also suggested having a local bands night, or activities in Town Center Park following the Memorial Day Parade. There was a discussion regarding both these suggestions.

Ms. Jason adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.