

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, March 4, 2015

7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Ricardo Henriquez, Lois Jason, Nancy Torello, Deb Dozier, Cheryl Riello, Donna Elkin, Lisa DeGrand, Tracy Nista, Marita Gargiulo, Ruth Resnick Johnson, Loraine Brown

Excused: Sandy Schiff, Janet Hunter, Jim Brewster, Charles Kortsep

Others in Attendance: Auxiliary Member Steve Graham, ARC 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. Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4th meeting. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Coleman reported that the Town Lines are shown on Page 2 of tonight's agenda. She also reported a balance of \$44,031.72 in the Gift Fund and \$18,555.89 in the Saturday Series Account.

Old Business

Saturday Series

February 21: Bubblemania – Bubblemania took in \$1,008 and he was paid \$750 Next year we will hold two shows for Bubblemania because of the large attendance.

March 7: Pirate School – Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Jason and maybe Ms. Dozier will assist.

Sunday Series

February 22: Raymond Suntino – Ms. Jason reported that although we did not have a full house, this was a wonderful program. We took in approximately \$900 which was all profit thanks to the Peter Herreld account.

March 8: St. Luke's Steel Drum Band – we expect a huge crowd. Assisting will be Ms. Jason, Ms. Coleman, Ms. Elkin, Ms. Brown and Ms. Hunter

Movie Nights at Keefe

There was lengthy discussion on the Movie Nights at the Keefe Center. The last event was not a success. Ms. Brown said Arts for Learning CT's last event at Keefe was also not a success. This is meant to be a neighborhood program for those who can walk to the Keefe Center. We used to have about 200 attendees, and the last event had only 30-40. Elderly services has held movies for 8 years, and used to have 150 people in attendance, now have only a few. We have one more movie scheduled – How to Train Your Dragon II – and that will be the last one. The commission thinks that the availability of movies on TV, Netflix and other technology is the reason. Ms. Nista said perhaps a film making program would be of interest. Ms. Coleman said P.L.A.C.E. does that. Ms. Coleman said she sends out a flyer to all of the schools listing all of the movies, and then as each movie is coming up, she sends another flyer to the schools in the area of the Keefe Center. She used to advertise in

newspapers and deliver flyers to local churches and businesses. Ms. Brown said AFL provides dinner with their programs. Mr. Henriquez mentioned a program at the Y that includes children and parents. He said the commission needs to determine what the people living in the area want. Ms. Coleman said we don't want to give up on bringing programs to the Keefe Center. Perhaps the commission can consult with staff at the Keefe Center and Neiva, who prided herself on being the community advisor.

Summer Concerts

Ms. Coleman said no contracts have been signed as yet. Tower of Power is out. Ms. Coleman distributed a list of bands that she has contacted. There was discussion on Kansas. Ms. Schiff had suggested had suggested Jay and the Americans, and Ms. Riello suggested Bad Company.

Ms. Dozier made a motion that Ms. Coleman contact Kansas immediatel about performing at Town Center Park on July 24th . Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. Coleman will email them after tonight's meeting. She will also get back to Los Lobos for next year when they might be routed here.

The tentative schedule for summer concerts is as follows: 7/10 The Animals; 7/17 Taylor Dane; 7/24 Kansas?; 7/31 Family Stone

Ms. DeGrand and Mr. Henriquez attended an 80's concert. Perhaps as an opening act for Taylor Dane, it would be a good idea to have an interactive DJ playing 80's music and advertise it as an 80's night dance party. There was discussion on DJs and Ms. Brown will check with someone in her group. There was discussion on two recent letters to the editor complimenting Town Center Park activities and expressing how much the writer enjoys the DJ at the fireworks. Ms. Coleman mentioned the complaints in the past about not having patriotic music at the fireworks.

Ms. Coleman mentioned that we have a lot of opening acts that want to perform including Blessing Ofer who wants to open for Family Stone. Ms. Coleman is also trying to get Blessing a spot in the New Haven concert series. There was discussion on giving the entertainers including the opening acts tickets for food at the vendor trucks. Ms. Coleman said she did this for the CERT Team at the Brooksvale Fall Festival. She will put an addendum in the contracts. Some refreshments would still be available in the tent. Ms. Coleman said we have received \$10,000 from Liberty Bank and we will get the \$25,000 from Quinnipiac according to Mayor Jackson.

Coordinator's Report

Budget Meeting

Ms. Coleman met with Mr. Leng and the Town's finance director and thought it went well. The Town surveys show that summer concerts are at the top of the list of what people enjoy about Hamden. Ms. Coleman told Mayor Jackson that she has to get up in front of the Council and defend her department every year. The budget for Arts, Recreation and Culture is one-half of 1% of the Town budget. The summer concerts and the library are what townspeople appreciate most. Ms. Gargiulo mentioned how happy people are to donate at the concerts. There was discussion on how many people participate in the concert events. The police thought there were 20,000 at Tower of Power concert and their merchandise person thought 18,500. Ms. Coleman uses a number of 50,000 without the fireworks, where we have 20-25,000 on the field. We will do another survey again this year.

New Business/Ideas

Ms. Brown mentioned a possible collaboration with Arts for Learning on a mosaic mural on the wall of the new parking garage at Memorial Town Hall.

Ms. Coleman mentioned a tile art project for the renovated Rochford Field/Villano Park wall.

Ms. Nista mentioned the Thornton Wilder writing competition. The Library didn't hold the contest this

year. She is proposing that the Arts Commission collaborate with the library and bring it back. This was open to high school students from local communities.

There was discussion on the possibility of a poetry event.

Good & Welfare/Adjournment

Ms. Jason reported that Derek sends his regards and has a good job in MA. He is still doing jewelry on the side. Mark Peel also sends regards.

Ms. Elkin reminded commissioners to watch and vote for Nick Fadiano on American Idol tonight.

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