

HAMDEN ARTS Commission MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, May 6, 2015

7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Tracy Nista, Ricardo Henriquez, Charles Kortsep, Loraine Brown, Lois Jason, Nancy Torello, Cheryl Riello, Donna Elkin, Ruth Resnick Johnson, Sandy Schiff, Jim Brewster, Marita Gargiulo, Janet Hunter

Commissioners Excused: Deborah Dozier, Lisa DeGrand

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

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes – April 1, 2015

Under excused absences, add Charles Kortsep, Jim Brewster, Deborah Dozier, Janet Hunter

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 1st meeting. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balance of \$55,397.59 in the gift fund; \$19,105.05 in the Saturday Series account; and \$86,528.02 in the Peter Herreld account. Town Line accounts are shown on Page 2 of the agenda.

Old Business

Salute to Young Artists

Honorees – Ms. Coleman reported all 22 honorees are seniors, 8 are visual artists, one of which is also performing. Ms. Torello, Ms. Brown, Ms. Jason and Ms. DeGrand and Ms. Elkin will assist. Mr. Henriquez will be in New York to run a marathon! Commissioners wished him well. Fred Santore will do the sound. Ms. Johnson will help with hanging the visual art sometime next week, probably Tuesday. There was discussion on the gift for Richard Hicks.

Rehearsal will take place on Thursday, May 7th from 5-7 p.m. The program will take place on Friday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m.

A Volunteer sheet was passed.

Fireworks Issues

The Legislative Council approved \$16,000 fireworks to come out of the the Quinipiac University donation. The volunteer firefighters do collect at this event and the funds will go to the cost of putting on the fireworks, over and above the cost of the fireworks themselves. We will have a DJ plus the Navy Northeast Brass Band which consists of nine members playing Patriotic music plus some contemporary choices. They remember our venue from last year and loved the food!

Summer Concerts

Mobile dressing room rental

Vendor update - almost same as before, lobster guy (butter) barbeque person will be different, Additional stage units and hardware needed

Announcing May 11

Report on Performing Groups – all contracts have been received. Ms. Coleman found a second mobile dressing room. The cost is \$1,070 and our attorney will draw up the contracts. It is not elegant but clean and okay and

coming from Seymour. We cannot announce the lineup until Monday, May 11th. Ms. Coleman will work out the food for Kansas with their road manager. One of their people has been at our venue before. Vendors will be pretty much the same with the exception of barbeque which will be a different vendor. Lobster guy will be back (butter not mayo!)

A volunteer sign up sheet was passed.

There was discussion on buttons, lanyards, shirts, and other identification for Commissioners/volunteers. Susan Riello will do the lanyards, which will say backstage pass on the back. She will also do the artwork for buttons, which will be made in the Arts Commission Office.

Ms. Coleman said we only need a few risers this year and we think it makes sense to invest in a few more floor units. Commissioners gave Ms. Coleman permission to look in to purchasing risers.

New Programs

Banjo Jamboree – There was discussion regarding adding Joel Schiavoni and his group that used to perform at the “Your Father's Mustache” to the Commission's performance schedule. They would want us to provide them with one or two meals and we would charge and earn the money for the Commission. The High School is holding September 20th as the potential date. We would have to pay for sound and probably janitorial services. This show could be added as a special Sunday performance and would appeal to that audience. We would charge \$5-\$7 as we do for our regular Sunday Series. Ms. Coleman will work out the details.

Recreating Retirement for Women – Ms. Coleman removed this from the Commission's agenda and added it to the recreation side of her department.

Coordinator's report

Joan Kenny is in the hospital again and will be released to an assisted living facility. She will be moving to Southington where she has a sister.

Ms. Coleman passed around a note from Eleanor Skelly thanking the Commission for its donation in Evelyn's memory.

Ms. Coleman reported that Ms. Hunter, Ms. Gargiulo, Ms. Schiff, Mr. Kortsep and Mr. Henriquez have all been reappointed to the Commission.

New Business/Ideas

Ms. Schiff mentioned Rockapella as a possible opening act. They have done several commercials and recently performed in Florida.

Ms. Coleman distributed a drawing of Peter Villano Park (formerly Rochford Field). The Arts Commission will be involved in the mural project at that location.

The Commission will hold a meeting about the pre concert opening acts. Blessing is opening for Family Stone.

Good & Welfare/Adjournment

Ms. Brown 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