

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, June 3, 2015

7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Hernandez, Ms. Brown, Ms. Nista, Mr. Kortsep, Ms. Elkin, Ms. Riello, Ms. Torello, Ms. Jason, Mr. Brewster, Ms. Schiff, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Dozier, Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Gargiulo, Ms. Hunter

Also in Attendance: Auxiliary Member Mr. Graham, Arts Recreation and Culture Director Ms. Coleman, Commission Clerk Tobin

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Nista made a motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting. Mr. Hernandez seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balances as of May 25, 2015:

Gift Fund - \$36,647.96

Saturday Series - \$19,068.21

Town Line accounts are noted on Page 2 of the agenda.

Ms. Coleman explained that the Professional/Technical account pays Ms. DeDeGrand's salary. The amount set aside for Joannie's salary will be used to pay a young woman who will start at the end of June and work on Fridays. She will help with the concerts. She will replace Joanie but will work fewer hours at a higher hourly rate.

Ms. Coleman said she might use the \$410 remaining in the Special Projects account to purchase some radio time. In addition, there is some extra money because one of the Saturday programs was cancelled.

Old Business

Salute to Young Artists – Although Ms. Brown said she was concerned the night of the rehearsal, she was impressed the night of the event. Mr. Hicks was great as usual. Ms. Coleman thanked everyone for helping with this event. Ms. Johnson hung all of the art work with the help of Ms. DeGrand. It was noted that they did not have the wireless mikes this year. Ms. Schiff complimented the Middle School students for their food service. Ms. Coleman said the food service began with Ms. Schiff's home economics class. Ms. Jason thanked everyone who participated.

Summer Concerts

Updates -Ms. Coleman doesn't have performer updates. Deposits have been paid on three of the groups. Ms. Coleman used part of the vendor fees that have been collected over a few years to pay one of the groups. Because the Town paid \$16,000 for the fireworks up front, we can't get our \$25,000 Quinnipiac money until July. The Kansas money is due at the end of the month - \$15,000. Ms. Coleman advised that the Commission's budget was increased to \$80,000.

Vendor update – Ms. DeGrand said we have all of the same vendors as last year and have added a barbeque and a slushies vendor. We have not collected any vendor payments to date. We will still consider the possibility of offering opening acts tickets for vendor food.

Sponsor Update – Ms. Coleman announced that we have raised \$41,000 to date, which includes the

Quinnipiac money. Ms. Jason received a \$50 gift card from ShopRite today. She needs a letter for Giovanni's. Ms. Schiff delivered letters to Cosco and BJ's. She needs one for Tonino's. Ms. Schiff also delivered a letter to Amici's.

Badges and Buttons – This is a Kristen Riello project, and Ms. Coleman showed commissioners the inserts. Ms. Coleman will make the buttons. Commissioner buttons include names and others say Volunteer.

We are doing the rack cards and Stacy has the information except for the sponsors.

There was discussion on printing lanyard identification tag inserts, and it was decided to print both sides. Ms. Brown will print and cut them.

Additional stage units and hardware cost – The total cost for 12” and 24” legs for our floor units is \$515.80. This will eliminate having to rent the risers, which have cost \$1,200 per concert.

Ms. Dozier made a motion to approve the expense of \$515.80 for the purchase of 12” and 24” legs. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Opening acts – Ms. Coleman said that Debbie Chavoya of Place has this new wonderful trolley. She holds Art classes in it and has been to fourth grade students in Hamden schools this year. She would like to come to the concerts and set up near Josh's Jungle. Frontline Christian Church also wants to set up a tent in that area for arts and crafts. Commissioners agreed this would be a good idea.

Ms. Coleman wondered if anyone is free tomorrow afternoon to hear some music. She is considering a group that has been strongly recommended called Alpaca Gnomes. An Indie band (Makula) and another group called XYZ. Alpaca Gnomes would be a good opening act for the doowop show. Ms. Schiff recommended a group that is playing in Wallingford on 6/20.

Ms. Coleman said we want to get the flyers out with the opening acts on them by next week.

There was discussion on a DJ playing 80's music before the Taylor Dane concert.

Ms. Elkin requested sizes for commissioner shirts for those who need them.

Hospitality – there was discussion on hospitality. Ms. Coleman said we will make it as easy as possible.

There was discussion regarding the tile wall being planned for Peter Villano Park. There is a grant for this project. Kids in the neighborhood will design ceramic tiles to put on it. Mary Murphy will be a consultant on this project. A donation is being requested from the Arts Commission in the amount of \$1,500. Stantek, an amazing international firm, is working on this project.

Ms. Elkin made a motion that the Arts Commission donate \$1,500 toward the mosaic wall project for Peter Villano Park. Ms. Dozier seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

New Programs

Banjo Jamboree date – Sunday, September 20th at Hamden High School.

Recreating Retirement for Women – this group will meet at the Recreation Department and perhaps the Arts Commission can help them come up with ideas. To help make retirement more meaningful.

Coordinator's Report

New Business/Idea

Ms. Elkin mentioned that tomorrow is the Chalk Festival at the High School. This year's theme is book covers. It can be viewed after 2:00.

The Spoken Word event will take place at the High School on Friday from 5th period on (10:45 a.m.). Students perform their own poems and stories in the library.

There was discussion regarding the commission doing something in honor of Amy Golda.

Ms. Nista mentioned the commission partnering with the Library for the Thornton Wilder contest. Everything is in place and Ms. Amodio is in favor. We will start working this in the Fall. Ms. Torello and Ms. Gargiulo would like to be involved in this project.

Good & Welfare/Adjournment

Twitter update – Ms. Riello reported that the commission's twitter account has many people following it including Nick Fratiani and Taylor Dane. Susan Riello does the Twitter Account.

Adjournment

Ms. Gargiulo made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk