

**MINUTES  
HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING OF JULY 1, 2015**

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

Commissioners Excused: Mr. Henriquez

Others in Attendance: Director of Arts Recreation & Culture Mimsie Coleman, Auxiliary Member Steve Graham, Guest Dawn Kountz, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

**Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 3rd meeting. Ms. Dozier seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

**Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Kortsep reported the following balances in the Arts Commission Accounts as of June 25<sup>th</sup>: Gift Fund \$24, 928.26; Saturday Series \$18,877. Town line accounts are shown as an attachment to the agenda. **Ms. Dozier made a motion to approve the report of the Treasurer. Ms. Hunter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Ms. Coleman reported a balance of \$2625 from vendor fees. Ms. Russo reported that the concert vendors signed up for all four events.

**Election of Officers**

Ms. Dozier nominated Ms. Jason as Chair if she is willing to serve. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. **Ms. Schiff made a motion that the current slate of officers be nominated to serve another term. Officers are Ms. Jason, Chair; Ms. Nista, Vice Chair, and Mr. Kortsep, Treasurer. Ms. Dozier seconded the motion. Officers all expressed their willingness to serve. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

**Old Business**

Joan Replacement – Alisha Martindale works for an arts and crafts store, has an interest in photography, and will focus on doing some of the things that Joanie did. She will start on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. All of the art was removed from the walls so the walls could be painted. She will inventory and rehang the art and write new labels. She will be paid \$15 per hour and work seven hours per week, which is all that will be covered by the \$5,000 budgeted. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Jason mentioned that Yale announced that they might be hiring 500 new people, but she is not sure if they will be full time jobs.

Guest Dawn Kountz said she is attending tonight because she might be interested in joining the Arts Commission. She has time now that her kids are grown and would like to do something that is worthwhile and fun. She has attended many of the Arts Commission's programs.

### Fireworks Update – Band?

Ms. Coleman brought up the subject of perhaps not having a band in the future. The band felt no one was paying attention to their presentation. Ms. Schiff said that the DJ is more fun. Ms. Brown said it is a fun family event and people are busy talking and greeting friends and family. Ms. Coleman mentioned that the audience is mostly young families. Ms. Schiff feels it is a patriotic event, and she would enjoy continuing the band, but probably a larger group.

Ms. Riello felt there wasn't a finale to the fireworks this year. Ms. Coleman said the same fireworks company was used as last year, they used the same number of shells, and the presentation was supposed to be the same as last year. No one was sure what happened, but there will be at a meeting and a representative from the fireworks company will be in attendance.

Police reported about 10,000 people there early in the evening. There were even more people watching from parking lots along Dixwell Avenue. There was discussion on Police presence at the event. Ms. Elkin reported that her daughter had a problem trying to get out of the Government Center lot onto Evergreen Avenue because there was no police presence at that location. Ms. Coleman said the Police Chief pays all officers to be on duty the night of the fireworks. Ms. Schiff commented that the hospitality was amazing with food donated by Cafe Amici and Giovanni's. The band was blown away by the food. There was a lot left over, which Ms. Schiff refrigerated overnight. She told the story of donating the food to a Church on Beer Street in New Haven.

### Summer Concerts

#### Badges and Buttons

Back stage badges designed by Kristen Riello were discussed and distributed. Ms. Brown printed the inserts. Ms. Dozier provided parking tags to be used by commissioners at the concerts. Ms. Coleman mentioned that volunteer Dave Richards is bringing an RV to the concerts that can be used as a dressing room, but the bathroom will not be available for use. There is a cord to connect the RV to power and Ms. Coleman has agreed to purchase the cord at a cost of \$68.47 **Ms. Gargiulo made a motion to approve the expense of \$68.47 for the purchase of a power cord. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.** There was discussion on who should get the lanyards. Buttons have been designed and will be ready for the first concert.

#### Updates

George Moore will act as emcee at our concerts

Ms. Coleman reported that the performer plans are going well. The Clarion Hotel has been sold but will give us the same discount. The rate will be \$70 per room. Performers have to get here early for sound checks, but room check in time is 4:00 p.m. She is working on this.

Taylor Dane is doing signing after the concert and will have her picture taken with any group for \$20. She will also have a meet and greet. Kansas might have a small meet and greet.

Opening act XYZ Revisited – we voted to have XYZ open for Kansas, but some of us had concerns about the vocalist. They have replaced the vocalist.

Sponsorship information is attached to the agenda.

Ms. Coleman showed the summer concert flyer, which has the Town Center Park schedule on the

reverse. Some people felt it was political because the Mayor's name is at the top. Also, the generous ION bank sponsorship is not listed on it. She wants to get it reprinted, but there are still many on hand. She explained what is promised to the sponsors, which includes mention on the flyers. Sponsors for \$1,000 or more are announced at the events. There was discussion on newspaper coverage of the concerts.

There was discussion on the fact that the bucket donations from the fireworks go to the Volunteer Fire Department, which hosts the event. This year their collections fell short, so the Town actually paid the \$16,000 to the fireworks company. The Arts commission pays for the sound, but there are also many other expenses that are paid for by the Volunteer Fire Department. The bucket collection helps to defray their costs of about \$13,000.

Volunteer Sheet – the signup sheet for the concerts was passed around.

### **New Programs**

Ms. Coleman mentioned the concert by Your Father's Mustashe, which will be held at Hamden High School on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The Commission previously discussed making it part of its Sunday Series. Due to the advertising required, and the fact that the Commission's Sunday Series Program will not be lined up in time to include advertising for this program, it was decided not to include it in the Sunday Series. It will be treated as a separate event, but the information will be sent to the Commission's mailing list. We will charge \$5 - \$7 for this event. We will pay the High School charges for maintenance and technical services. The band does not charge.

Ms. Nista asked if any of the commissioners would be interested in doing a Harper Lee Readathon at Barnes and Noble on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Nista also mentioned she might be able to announce a new sponsor by January.

Ms. Jason mentioned the Whitneyville Festival. She will have an informational table and hand out Arts Commission information. There is no cost. It takes place on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Jason said this is a terrific event and gets more people each year. It is held on the church grounds, which is now being used for events.

Ms. Dozier suggested the Commission do an event in the fall, similar to the beach themed event held a few years ago.

Good and Welfare

Adjournment

**Ms. Gargiulo made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.**

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