

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
Meeting of Wednesday September 2, 2015
7pm Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in attendance: Ms. Jason, Ms. Torrello, Ms. Elkin, Ms. Riello, Ms. Russo, Mr. Korstep, Mr. Henriquez, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Brewster, Ms. Gargiulo

Others in attendance: Auxiliary Member Steve Graham, Director Mimsie Coleman, Acting Clerk Peggy Craft

Ms. Jason congratulated Mr. Henriquez on the book he wrote, and the contest he participated in. Mr. Henriquez explained that he lost by only one vote. He explained that if he reaches 500 pre-ordered copies of the book the publishing company will publish his book digitally, if he reaches 1000 copies they will do a full publishing of the book. Everyone present was very happy for Mr. Henriquez and wished him well. All present will make an effort to help Mr. Henriquez reach his goals.

Call to Order

Ms. Jason called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Henriquez motioned to approve the Minutes as presented. Ms. Gargiulo seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kostep reported the amount of funds in each of the Arts Commission Accounts.

Old Business

Ms. Jason said the Banjo Jamboree was very well received. She added that it was a standing room crowd wallowing in nostalgia. She also said it bothered her that there was not a cross section of the population in attendance. Ms. Coleman said the crowd was wildly happy. She added that there were 300 chairs tied together, and more chairs were brought in. \$1,400 was brought in at this event. The Commission paid for the group's lunch. There was no fee for this performance.

Ms. Coleman said this group, Your Father's Mustache, has played in the White House, on the Ed Sullivan Show, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Carnegie Hall and many clubs across the country.

Saturday Series

Ms. Russo discussed the line-up for the Saturday Series. She said December is usually the most costly event, but she got a good price this year. Pumpernickel Puppets and Mathias the Magician are among the artists that will be appearing.

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Ms. Jason called for a motion to approve the expenditures for the Saturday Series. Ms. Gargiulo motioned to approve the expenditures for the Saturday Series. Mr. Henriquez seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Volunteers for the October 17th performance of the Gerwick Puppets, include Ms. Russo, Ms. Jason and Mr. Henriquez. Ms. Coleman noted that three more volunteers are needed.

Sunday Series

Ms. Jason said there is a terrific roster for the Sunday Series.

Ms. Coleman discussed the performance scheduled for October 18th. Anthony Nunziata will be performing. Mr. Nunziata usually performs with his twin brother. When Ms. Coleman contacted them she was told that they charge between \$7,500 and \$10,000 per performance. Anthony contacted Ms. Coleman, and said he could perform alone for less. Ms. Coleman offered him \$1,500, and he accepted.

Ms. Jason called for a motion to approve the expenditures for the Sunday Series. Ms. Elkin motioned to approve the expenditures for the Sunday Series. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Ms. Coleman discussed the group String of Pearls. She said this group is affordable. They are a trio of women who perform Mills Brothers and Andrews Sisters type music.

There will be no Sunday performance in December.

Cultural Resource Directory Progress

Ms. Coleman said that two summer interns made a little progress on the directory. Susan Riello has been hired to work on this. The allocation in the budget for this work has been approved by the Legislative Council. Ms. Coleman met with Ms. Riello last Friday. Ms. Coleman reported that they have finished one section. They will meet with former Commissioner Mark Peel. Ms. Coleman added that this is in good hands, and she feels good about it.

Next, Ms. Coleman discussed the Hamden Jazz Concert. She said this will be held next summer. The organizer has it all worked out, but will need help finding sponsors.

Coordinators Report

The Mayor has approved Dawn Kuntz to serve on this Commission. This has also been approved by the Legislative Council.

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Ms. Coleman discussed securing membership to the Greater New Haven Arts Council. She explained that we skipped a year, but would like permission from the Commission to join this year. She and Ms. Russo listed the benefits of belonging to this group. Ms. Jason asked if there were any objections to Ms. Coleman's request. Hearing none, Ms. Jason asked for approval from the Commission members present. **Approval was unanimously granted to Ms. Coleman to join the Greater New Haven Arts Council.**

New Business

Haiku Contest

Ms. Gargiulo discussed the Haiku Contest. She said she hopes people will join her in this event. She explained Haiku, and added that she thinks it would be fun. Ms. Johnson asked how she would get contestants. Ms. Gargiulo said this is an idea in its beginning, and would like suggestions from the Commissioners. Ms. Coleman suggested that the details could be worked out by committee. Mr. Henriquez suggested holding this contest April and limiting it to Hamden residents. Ms. Gargiulo said this will be the first time we have done this, and we will learn from the experience. All present felt it was a good idea. Ms. Coleman agreed that April would be a good month to hold this event. Ms. Gargiulo said she would prefer that submissions be mailed in, not submitted online. Ms. Coleman said the submission could be mailed or e-mailed to the Arts Commission.

Ms. Torello motioned for the Arts Commission to hold a Haiku Contest. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Ms. Coleman, Ms. Torello and Mr. Henriquez will be on this Committee along with Ms. Gargiulo. Ms. Gargiulo will send e-mails to the Committee members. Ms. Elkin suggested holding the contest at Hamden High School.

Ms. Johnson discussed the group at 1253 Whitney Avenue, the former Parish House of Whitneyville Church. She further discussed the couple who are running this group. She said they are great folk dancers. She discussed the type of dances that are held there. She feels we should establish a rapport with them. She added that this a very exciting place. She said rooms can be rented there, and there is also a kitchen facility. Ms. Colman suggested that the Commission visit this venue as a group. She will plan this.

Good & Welfare/Adjournment

Ms. Gargiulo motioned to adjourn. Ms. Torello seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Ms. Jason adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.

Submitted by _____
Peggy Craft, Acting Commission Clerk