

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, November 6, 2015

7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Loraine Brown, Nancy Torello, Tracy Nista, Lois Jason, Donna Elkin, Cheryl Riello, Charles Kortsep, Dawn Kountz, Marita Gargiulo, Ruth Resnick Johnson, Jim Brewster, Lisa Russo

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

Commissioners Excused: Sandy Schiff, Ricardo Hernandez, Janet Hunter

Call to Order

Ms. Jason called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Welcome New Commissioner

Commissioners welcomed new member Dawn Kountz.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Torello made a motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2015. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Approval of 2016 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Coleman checked to make sure meetings were not scheduled on holidays. **Ms. Elkin made a motion to approve the 2016 meeting schedule. Ms. Torello seconded the motion. The schedule was approved unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported the balances in the Commission Accounts as follows:

Gift Fund \$30,664.89

Saturday Series \$18,878.33

Peter Herreld Account \$86,679.05

The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Old Business

Saturday Series

Oct. 17: Gerwick Puppets –

Ms. Russo reported that Gerwick Puppets was paid \$800 and we took in \$308. Ms. Jason commented that it was the first time in 15 years that we had such a small audience.

Nov. 21: Yo-Yo Show –

Ms. Russo asked for volunteers for the yo yo show. This is a world champion yo yo artist.

Sunday Series

Oct. 18: Anthony Nunziata

This program was a big success. Everyone was very happy and we thank Ms. Russo for finding Anthony. Commissioners commented how wonderful he was and also how great the pianist was. We paid him \$1,500 out of the Peter Herreld fund and took in \$1,088.

Nov. 22: String of Pearls

This is a trio from New York that performs swing and material from various female groups.

Silver Bells 12/5

Silver Bells starts with a puppet show in Thornton Wilder, then outside, we have a carousel, girl scouts singing, crafts, hayrides and some food vendors. We need lots of volunteers. Ms. Riello's daughters and her husband will be there. Susan Riello will be doing face painting. She needs to bring the face painting supplies home to check that we have enough. The arts commission will supply hand and foot warmers for volunteers. We have two or three vendors – one selling hot chocolate, one selling kettlecorn, and one other. The rain date is the 6th, but the puppet show goes on as scheduled unless the governor closes the roads. Ms. Coleman asked for permission to order more button making materials. Permission was granted. Ms. Coleman passed around email announcements for the Saturday and Sunday series designed by Susan Riello.

Thornton Wilder Writing Competition

Ms. Nista and Ms. Coleman met with Betty Mettler who was the chair of the Thornton Wilder writing competition for many years, and she will make all of her information available. Ms. Nista has not sat down yet with Marion Amodeo, Library Director. One of the women who participated in the past gave her a memory stick with a lot of information on it. It is open to high school students and there is a prize for prose and poetry, plus second place and honorable mention for each. Judges are lined up and there is a little ceremony. At the ceremony in the past, the judges have read some of the entries. Thornton Wilder's family might put additional funds into the account for prizes. There was discussion on judges and other details.

Haiku Contest

Ms. Gargiulo has a few people interested in the Haiku contest, and she said if anyone on the commission wants to be involved, they should email her. We don't have details together yet, but we have to figure out a date, place, volunteers, etc. People would submit their Haikus by a certain date and then they could be read during the event. Kids and adults would be included. Haiku is traditional Japanese poetry.

PayPal

Mayor Leng has given the commission permission to have PayPal on its website. We have to present a Paypal contract to the Town's finance Director for review. There was discussion on being able to use PayPal in the Recreation Department for program registration at some point.

Survey

Ms. Coleman asked commissioners to please fill out the survey she sent out. The town planner is trying to show the value of the arts in Hamden.

“The Catcher’s Trap” Update

Mr. Hernandez's book is going to be published. Ricardo came here from Chile 15 years ago and didn't

Speak English. This was a contest, and if he sold enough copies they would agree to publish his book. If you buy the book you also get the digital version.

Rochford/Villano Park Tile Project (CT DECD/NEA grant)

The Arts Commission was able to get a \$1,500 grant for this tile project. The tiles will be made by neighborhood children. The project is a collaboration among P.L.A.C.E, the ceramics teacher at the High School and others. The Arts Commission agreed to donate \$1,500. Ms. Coleman said we are behind schedule on the project, but we will start by ordering the products necessary. This has to be approved by the Legislative Council and then the State will send us the money.

Coordinator's Report

Approval of \$106 expenditure for Booking Agency Directory

Ms. Coleman is asking for approval of \$106 for the purchase of the Booking Agency Directory. **Ms. Elkin made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$106 for the purchase of the Booking Agency Directory. Ms. Torello seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Approval of small reimbursements to director

Ms. Coleman said there are a few additional expenses. She provided lunch for Mr. Nunziato and his pianist at a cost of \$54.12. **Ms. Elkin made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$54.12. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Commissioners signed a get well card for Ms. Schiff and a thank you card for Ms. Dozier.

1253 Dance Night schedule

There was discussion on the dances being sponsored at 1253 Whitney Avenue. Ms. Johnson reported that the group is fun and laid back. You bring your own snacks and drinks. This Friday's dance benefits the New Haven Farm Group that puts farms on vacant lots, etc. The schedule was attached to tonight's agenda.

New Business/Ideas

Good & Welfare/Adjournment

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

Submitted by: _____

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk