

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, December 2, 2015

7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Ms. Torello, Ms. Nista, Ms. Elkin, Ms. Riello, Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Resnick Johnson, Ms. Gargiulo, Ms. Brown, Mr. Kortsep, Mr. Henriquez, Ms. Kountz, Ms. Schiff

Excused: Mr. Brewster, Ms. Jason, Ms. Hunter

Others in Attendance: Auxilary Member Mr. Graham, ARC Director Ms. Coleman, Clerk Ms. Tobin

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Ms. DeGrand seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported that as of December 1st, there is a balance in the gift fund of \$34,373.17 and a balance of \$19,099 in the Saturday Series account. He also reviewed the Town Line accounts.

Old Business

Saturday Series

Nov. 21: Yo-Yo Show – Ms. DeGrand said we had about 200 people in attendance and took in \$441.

This was a great show but with a smaller audience than usual. There was discussion regarding putting signage up in the Library. Ms. Schiff suggested we put signs at the street and at the door saying “Children's Concert Today at 2:00 p.m.” Ms. Coleman said in an early survey for the Saturday Series, most people said they heard about the program at the Library.

Dec. 5: Robert Rogers Puppets

Several commissioners volunteered to work at Saturday's puppet show.

Sunday Series

Nov. 22: String of Pearls

This was a great program performed before a full house. The commission took in \$1,120.

Silverbells

Volunteer confirmations

This year the weather is supposed to cooperate with temperatures around 50 degrees. Ms. Coleman reported we have had front page coverage in the Journal and Chronicle. Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Elkin, Ms. Resnick Johnson and Ms. Torello volunteered to help at the puppet show. Events start at 2:30, and volunteers should arrive by 2:15. Ms. Brown and Ms. Nista will work on letters to Santa. Mr. Kortsep and his sister will work on button making with help from Susan and Luke. Kristin and Jesse will do face painting.

Mr. Graham said he will be available to help between 6:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Ms. Coleman said tables and chairs will have to be put out on Saturday because they are being used Friday evening. Ms. Coleman has the Breakfast with Santa event at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Ms. Nista mentioned that there are no lights on the tree yet. Ms. Coleman said they will be done on Thursday and Friday

Thornton Wilder Writing Competition -

Ms. Nista reported that she, Ms. Coleman and others have been working on the Thornton Wilder Writing

Competition. Mr. Wilder's nephew has donated \$1,000 toward the prizes. Ms. Nista has a mailing list for all the high schools in the Greater New Haven area, and the letter is ready to go. A reception for the winners, their families and teachers will be held on Wednesday 4/13 at 7:00 p.m. The competition deadline is early February, and the judges will select, winners in both prose and poetry. First prizes are \$500, second place winners will each get \$300 and there will be honorable mention prizes in the amount of \$50 each. There were several names mentioned as possible judges. This is the first year the arts commission has been involved. We are asking Eric Nyquist to do the readings at the reception.

Haiku Contest

Ms. Gargiulo is still working on the Haiku Contest for Hamden residents only and for all ages. The event might be held in the activity room, but she is not sure what time of year to plan for. Commissioners interested in working on this project should stay after the meeting for a short discussion.

“The Catcher’s Trap” Update

Mr. Henriquez has reached the required number of orders and got the publishing deal. His book will be published in paperback and an electronic version with a target date of August 2016. He has submitted his manuscript for an overview. His book is currently about 240 pages. Commissioners applauded Mr. Henriquez and wished him well on his first book.

Coordinator’s report

Ms. Coleman mentioned that Ms. Resnick Johnson submitted a painting for the art contest and won a prize. Her painting is hanging in the cafeteria and is #83. Commissioners congratulated her on this honor.

Ms. Coleman requested approval of the \$199 cost of a Christmas Tree.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$199 for the purchase of a Christmas Tree. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Commissioners approved the nomination of Franz Dousky as the Town's Poet Laureate, and Ms. Coleman would like to plan a reception in his honor. She asked for suggestions. Ms. Gargiulo mentioned that Wallingford recently had a reception for their Poet Laureate and Ms. Coleman will contact them for information. There was discussion on the term of the appointment. The state's term is five years. Ms. Coleman will do some research.

New Business/Idea

Summer Concert Suggestions

Various names were suggested for the 2016 summer concerts including: Squeeze, Marshall Tucker Band, Billy Idol, Earth Wind and Fire, Kool and the Gang, Michael Bolton, Peter Frampton, America, Tower of Power, Rockapella, Doo Wop Group, Pointer Sisters, Dion and the Belmonets. There will be a summer concert meeting on December 6th at 6:00 p.m. in Ms. Coleman's Office.

Good & Welfare/Adjournment

Ms. Schiff thanked everyone for sending a get well card after her recent surgery.

Ms. Schiff said she spoke to Mr. Henriquez about speaking to her book club once his book is published, and he has agreed.

Ms. Schiff reminded everyone to watch The Wiz on NBC on Thursday from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. She also mentioned the making of The Wiz was on last week and well worth watching if you can find it on demand.

Ms. Schiff's artist daughter Karen has been teaching a class at Rhode Island School of Design, and she has been offered a course to teach to graduate students starting in January.

Adjournment

Ms. Gargiulo made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk