

# HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, January 6, 2015

7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

## Commissioners in Attendance:

Tracy Nista, Lois Jason, Donna Elkin, Cheryl Riello, Ricardo Hernandez, Lisa Russo, Ruth Resnick Johnson, Dawn Kountz, Loraine Brown, Charles Kortsep, Marita Gargiulo

Commissioners Excused: Janet Hunter, Sandy Schiff, Jim Brewster, Nancy Torello

## 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 December 2, 2015 meeting. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

## Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported the following balances in the commission's accounts as of December 25, 2015: Gift Fund \$34,834.40; Saturday Series \$18,300.10. He also reported a balance of \$83,621.99 in the Peter Herrreld Gift Fund. There was discussion on the Town Line Accounts.

## Budget 2016-2017

A copy of the proposed Arts Commission Budget was presented. The proposal remains the same as last year's budget with the exception of the Special Projects line, which has been increased from \$80,000 to \$120,000. There was discussion on the rising costs of the summer concerts due to increases in the cost of the entertainment, a fifth concert, and increases in the cost of hotels and transportation for the entertainers. There was discussion on alternative hotels due to issues at the Clarion. Ms. Coleman plans to meet with the owners of the Clarion to discuss these issues. Ms. Coleman said in spite of our meager budget, we are doing okay. The advertising budget works because we get good coverage from WQUN for a \$300 donation, and we are not doing newspaper advertising for the concerts. We continue to do the rack cards and flyers.

**Ms. Elkin made a motion to approve the 2016-17 budget request. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

## Old Business

### Saturday Series

Jan. 23: Puppet People: "The Fire Bird"

This program begins at 1:00 p.m. and volunteers should arrive by 12:15. Volunteers are Ms. Russo, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Jason, and Mr. Hernandez.

### Sunday Series

Jan. 24: St. Luke's Steel Drum Band

This program begins at 2:00 p.m. Volunteers should come early because the attendees arrive very early for these Sunday programs. Ms. Kountz, Ms. Brown, Ms. Gargiulo, Ms. Jason and Ms. Elkin volunteered for this program. There was discussion regarding this program and how vibrant and uplifting it is. Ms. Kountz said this is her church and has been for about 30 years, and she plays in the adult band on Tuesday evenings.

#### Thornton Wilder Writing Competition; update

Ms. Nista reported five entries to date. She has a reminder letter ready to go out. She sent information to the Director of English for all high schools in New Haven County and will send information to commissioners. The information will be posted on the Arts Commission's web site and on the New Haven Arts Council's site. There was discussion on emails getting through to the schools.

#### Haiku Contest Update

Ms. Gargiulo said plans are underway for this event to take place on November 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> depending on which facility is being used. There will be a deadline of October 7<sup>th</sup> for submissions. Anyone interested in helping with this event can stay for a few minutes after tonight's meeting for a short discussion.

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

There was discussion on the tile project for the wall at Rochford Field/Villano Park. The type of clay that could be painted and could withstand the New England weather was discussed. Ms. Johnson suggested that Ms. Coleman call a gentleman who is a potter and works at the Peabody Museum.

#### Summer Concert Update

Ms. Coleman said the list of suggestions keeps growing. We are not that far along in the process. We made an offer to Tower of Power, but they are playing at the Palace in New Haven in April and November, so we aren't sure that will happen this summer. There was discussion on the Ridgefield Playhouse schedule. It is helpful to try to get groups that are on tour in our area. There might be a summer concert committee meeting before the February meeting of the full commission.

#### Coordinator's report

#### New Business/Ideas

##### Poet Laureate

Ms. Coleman said the commission has approved Franz Dousky as Hamden's poet laureate. April is poetry month, so perhaps we will celebrate Mr. Dousky then.

There was discussion on the use of Pay Pal to accept donations for the summer concerts. Pay Pal was approved by the finance department, but it is being held up to study its potential use by all Town departments. Ms. Nista mentioned the program that the Library uses, and Ms. Coleman will look into that.

Ms. Coleman mentioned that the Hamden Symphony Orchestra wants to perform at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. Discussion ensued.

There was discussion on the possibility of having umbrellas or mugs with the Arts Commission's logo on them to sell.

#### Good & Welfare/Adjournment

**Ms. Gargiulo made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

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