

# HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, March 2, 2016

7 pm: Miller Cultural Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Lois Jason, Nancy Torello, Donna Elkin, Cheryl Riello, Ruth Resnick Johnson, Dawn Kountz, Lisa DeGrand, Loraine Brown, Tracy Nista, Ricardo Henriquez, Marita Gargiulo, Janet Hunter

Commissioners Excused: Sancy Schiff, Charles Kortsep, Jim Brewster

Others in Attendance: SCSU Journalism Student (and reporter for the Hamden Journal Natalie Barletta, Auxiliary Member Steve Graham, ARC Director Mimsi Coleman

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 February 3, 2016 meeting. Ms. Resnick Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Treasurer's Report

In Mr. Kortsep's absence, Ms. Coleman said a report on the Town Lines accounts was attached to the agenda. The Saturday Series account has a balance of \$18,821.43. The Gift Fund has a balance of \$35,879. Ms. Coleman also reported an approximate balance of \$85,000 in the Peter Hereld Sunday Series account.

Old Business

Saturday Series –

Feb. 6: Magic - Ms. Coleman reported that we paid \$759 for this program and took in \$459. This was a very good program.

March 5: Peter Rabbit – volunteers needed – Ms. Hunter, Ms. Resnick Johnson, and possibly Ms. Jason volunteered. Volunteers should arrive at noon for the 1:00 p.m. show.

Sunday Series

Feb. 7: Sambeleza – Excellent program. We took in \$894 and paid \$700

March 13: Echoes of Sinatra – a flyer for this program was distributed

April 10: Rescheduled St. Luke's Steel Drum Band

Ms. Torello, Ms. Jason, Ms. Riello, Ms. Brown, Mr. Henriquez and possibly Ms. Elkin volunteered. Volunteers should arrive at 1:00 p.m. for the 2:00 show. Attendees arrive very early. If it is okay with the performers, we can let attendees into the auditorium early.

Salute to Young Artists

Ms. DeGrand reported that letters went out to the high schools and they have until the March 18<sup>th</sup> deadline to respond. After that a questionnaire goes out to the students. Candidates have to be Hamden residents but can attend any high school. There was discussion on two of our Young Artists, one of whom is a dancer and is performing in a Broadway show. The other is a musician. Ms. Resnick Johnson and Alicia Martindale, who works on Fridays for the Arts Commission will help hang the visual arts.

May 5: Rehearsal – 5-7 (Thursday evening)

Several commissioners volunteered to help with the rehearsal. Mr. Henriquez volunteered to work the curtain. Ms. Brown will work backstage for the rehearsal and the program.

## May 13: showcase

### Thornton Wilder Writing Competition; update

Ms. Nista said February 5<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for submissions, and 139 entries were received. Ms. Coleman, Ms. Amodio, Ms. Nista and Ms. Mettler met last week and got the judges finalized, and the judges have divided up the entries and are reviewing them. Each judge will choose the top ten, and then they will choose the winner, and runner up and honorable mention in the two categories (Prose and Poetry). Winners will be notified by April 1<sup>st</sup>. An informal reception will be held in the social hall on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Snacks and desserts will be provided by Ms. Mettler's friends that belong to Friends of the Library, and Commissioners if they wish. Judges are Judy Spack, Greg Feeley (a Hamden author), Mary Mitchell (former chair of the English Department of Hamden High School), and Mary Davis. Six prizes will be awarded – two first place, two second place and two honorable mentions.

### Haiku Contest; update

Ms. Gargiulo said she has moved the Haiku Contest to the fall and is still trying to work out dates. She and Mr. Henriquez are working on this.

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

Ms. Coleman said the park is amazing and the lights are up. She applied for a grant to do a tile project with the kids from the neighborhood and received \$8,800. Ms. Chavoya of P.L.A.C.E. will be there with her trolley. They have found a tile that will hold up outside. This is a multi layered project. The Arts Commission will help to present a community day probably in May. Games will be played on Rochford Field beginning on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Albertus will be playing their games on Rochford Field. There is a press box at Rochford and a gazebo on the Villano Park side. Rochford is now Hamden's premier field.

### Summer Concerts –

Ms. Coleman reported that all of the groups that we discussed previously are available for the same date. The Bruce Springsteen tribute band Tramps Like Us is all set for August 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Coleman has the contract back from the Marshall Tucker Band (\$30,000) for July 29<sup>th</sup>. Eric Burton and The Animals agreed to July 15<sup>th</sup> (\$30,000) but since they backed out on us previously, they are questionable. None of the groups we discussed are available for July 8<sup>th</sup>. The Diamonds are available for July 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>. We made Rock of the 80's an offer of \$30,000 for the 22<sup>nd</sup> and are waiting to hear back. They usually get \$35,000. Ms. Coleman will let everyone know if they want more money. We still have nothing for the 8<sup>th</sup> and perhaps we could have another doo wop group for that date. There was discussion on various doo wop groups that we have had previously. Commissioners mentioned the Temptations which would cost \$30,000 plus. Commissioners suggested Ms. Coleman put some pressure on The Animals for an definite answer.

Ms. Coleman suggested if The Animals don't come, we could see if the Temptations are available. We still don't have anything for July 8<sup>th</sup>, but we can use a doo wop group and we would then have a motown and a doo wop group. Mayor Leng increased the line item from \$80,000 to \$120,000, partly due to the hotel issue. The following line up was suggested: 7/8 Doo Wop; 7/15 Eric Burton and The Animals or the Temptations (or Four Tops; 7/22 Rock of the 80's (or another 80's group); 7/29 Marshall Tucker Band; 8/5 Tramps Like Us.

Ms. Coleman said that Debbie Gibson's agent got back to her today. She performs to tracks with musicians on the stage and doesn't do 90 minutes.

The fireworks will take place on July 1<sup>st</sup> with a rain date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Hamden Symphony Orchestra and a DJ.

Ms. Martindale is putting the information on the web site.

We will have a Jazz Day in August. Ms. Coleman said we try to be responsive to residents' requests and we have had many for 80's music.

### Coordinator's report

There was discussion on a "donate now" button for the Arts Commission's web site. The Library has a

good system but it is not through the Library but through the consortium. Our IT person told Ms. Coleman he would help with this. Mayor Leng said we are not quite there yet. Pay Pal makes sense because people trust it and it is secure. Hopefully this will be done in March.

Budget meeting with Mayor-Ms. Coleman had her budget meeting with the Mayor today.

Poet Laureate – Ms. Coleman said April is poetry month, so perhaps we should have a proclamation and a reception for our Poet Laureate in April. There was discussion on where to have the reception.

Facebook – Ms. Martindale is posting to the Commission's Facebook page.

New Business/Ideas

Good & Welfare/Adjournment

**Ms. Gargiulo made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

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