

Minutes of the Meeting of the Arts Commission June 1, 2016

Commissioners in Attendance: Lois Jason, Nancy Torello, Charles Kortsep, Donna Elkin, Cheryl Riello, Sandy Schiff, Loraine Brown, Marita Gargiulo, James Brewster, Janet Hunter, Ricardo Henriquez, Tracy Nista, Ruth Resnick Johnson

Commissioners Excused: Dawn Koontz

Others in Attendance: Auxiliary Member Steve Graham, Arts Recreation & Culture Director Mimsie Coleman, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Nista made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2016 meeting. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported that as of May 25th, there is a balance of \$19,177.72 in the Saturday Series Account. The Gift Fund has a balance of \$24,394.94, and the Peter Hereld Account has a balance of \$81,324.99.

A report on the Town Lines is attached to tonight's agenda.

Ms. Coleman said she is figuring out what bills remain for this budget year and will ask for a transfer into the Summer Concert account of any excess funds.

There was discussion on having monitors at the Salute for Young Artists. It seems that monitors are available but they were not used.

Old Business

Salute to Young Artists

Ms. Brown commented that we need a commissioner in the back of the stage with a headset on at future events. She can't see what is going on from her position and needs someone communicating with her about opening and closing the curtains. She was alone backstage for most of the evening. Last year she had a wireless headset, but this year she had a wired one, which she had to keep taking off and putting back on. Mr. Brewster said he can help with that next year. Ms. Coleman and Ms. Jason sent the program went very smoothly looking at it from the front. Some commissioners said this was the best Salute to Young Artists ever. They reported that the show was phenomenal.

Summer Concerts

Ms. Coleman passed around a sign up sheet. She also wondered who might be willing to help at the fireworks, passing buckets, etc. The Hamden symphony Orchestra will perform at the fireworks, and Maya Butler will sing the National Anthem.

Update on performers and status of contracts.

Ms. Coleman reported that there was almost a problem with Eric Burdon and The Animals, but she is

confident that it has been resolved. Some changes are being made to the band's contract rider. Ms. Coleman let them know that our sound company was unable to provide some of the equipment. Ms. Coleman said this is the most expensive series we have ever had. The Animals just finished a tour in Australia and learned some things there. Everything else is fine.

We have \$24,000 in the bank, \$10,000 from Quinnipiac, and we have already received some of the donations promised. We will get \$2,500 from Yale, \$1,000 from Rotary, \$750 from Press Cuozo, and some others. Ms. Coleman has contacted several area banks and businesses and hopes for positive responses.

Ms. Coleman said she needs approval of an expenditure of \$57,143.50 for Horizon Sound. This covers sound equipment, stagehands, the back line, etc. There was discussion regarding the amount, which some commissioners felt was high. Ms. Coleman mentioned that we have a 5th concert this year, and we traditionally provide sound for the fireworks.

Mr. Hernandez made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$57,143.50 for Horizon sound for five concerts and the fireworks. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Opening acts.

Ms. Elkin announced the following opening acts: for the Temptations, Loki (Ralph Anthony); For Eric Burdon, Doug Wallburg; for Rock of 80's, Wing It (Doug Riccio); for Marshall Tucker, Rivermud. She said we chose Wing It for Rock of 80's because Doug Riccio is a Hamden High School graduate and it is the night of their reunion. He was in Nancy Torello's class and they plan to gather at the concert to hear the band. We will provide the opening act band members vouchers for the vendors.

There was discussion on purchasing Rack Cards. Ms. Coleman said rack Cards are part of the benefits that we offer to our sponsors so she feels we should do them. **Ms. Gargiulo made a motion to approve the purchase of Rack Cards for this concert season. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Fireworks July 1 with a rain date of July 2nd

The Haiku Event is planned for 11/16/16 from 4:30 to 10. Ms. Gargiulo and Mr. Henriquez have been working on this. Submissions will be accepted between August 1st and September 1st. While students can participate, this event is targeted for adults. They hope to engage an older crowd. Ms. Gargiulo said marketing will be done through various Haiku groups, and Mr. Henriquez will get the word out via social media. Anyone who wants to be involved should let Ms. Gargiulo know. She doesn't want it to be particularly a contest, but there are some small prizes. Hamden Haiku Happening was decided upon as the name of the event. Ms. Johnson mentioned Daily Nutmeg email newspaper as a good source for publicity. Ms. Coleman said she believes that you have to pay for ads in the Daily Nutmeg. Ms. Nista mentioned using the Library newsletter. There was discussion on having an email address for the haiku entries.

On June 6th Mr. Henriquez is giving a presentation at the Library to a group of aspiring authors. His book is coming out on election day.

Villano Park Tile Project

Ms. Coleman said that the tile project for Villano Park is actually in process with over 100 students from two schools participating. The students live in the neighborhood of the park. Debbie Chavoya of P.L.A.C.E. Brought her trolley and the students made the tiles, which are coming out beautifully. They are 6" tiles and will be placed in a frame of sculptstone for a finished size of 8". There is a glazing party coming up. The project will be unveiled at the National Night Out annual celebration on August 2nd. There will be a plaque explaining the tiles and the participation of the neighborhood kids.

Coordinator's report

Lisa DeGrand has resigned from the Commission and Doug Riccio will replace her.

Ms. Coleman said the family that helped build Larry's Playground has donated \$750 for events at that location.

Ms. Coleman mentioned the idea of honoring Franz Dousky as our poet laureate. She believes that poet laureates are expected to participate in civic events on occasion.

Eli Whitney Museum asked us to collaborate with them on some events at their barn for their anniversary year.

Budget – 2016/17

Ms. Coleman reported that the budget has been approved and Arts Recreation and Culture has not been divided as of now, although the Mayor says it will be.

New Business Ideas

Ms. Jason received an email from Legal Grounds. They had a copy of our summer concert notice that they sent out to their entire email list. They are an independent bookstore and coffee shop and it would be nice if commissioners could stop in. Also, Whitneyville will be having their 6th Fall Festival in September. It is held on the Whitneyville Church grounds, and is a fun event. She always has a table at this event and Ms. Elkin and others have helped out.

Ms. Jason's husband is at Arden House and the director asked if they could borrow artwork that they could hang in the halls. Ms. Johnson said we can ask members of the Hamden Arts League. She will mention it to the Brush and Pallet Club and the Paint and Clay Club. Ms. Brown suggested that we could ask next year for the students that submit art work for the Salute to Young Artists loan temporarily or donate a piece for Arden House's display.

Ms. Johnson mentioned that the Brush and Pallet Club will have a show on 6/26 at the reopened John Slade Eli house at 51 Trumbull Street, New Haven from 2-5:00 p.m. The building was saved from development due to the efforts of many.

Hospitality Committee – will set a date for a meeting.

Ms. Nista made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Submitted by: _____,

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk