

**Hamden Arts Commission Minutes**  
**Meeting of Wednesday, December 7, 2016**  
**Miller Cultural Center Activity Room**

Commissioners in Attendance: Lois Jason, Ruth Johnson, Nancy Torello, Jim Brewster, Cheryl Riello, Donna Elkin, Marita Gargiulo, Tracy Nista, Ricardo Hernandez, Loraine Brown

Commissioners Excused: Sancy Schiff, Janet Hunter, Dawn Koontz, Charles Kortsep, Doug Riccio

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes of November 1, 2016

**Ms. Elkin made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Ms. Gargiulo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Treasurer's Report

There was no treasurer's report

Old Business

Commissioners congratulated Ms. Torello on her project to feed the Police and Fire Departments for a day to show appreciation for their service. Ms. Jason said it was a great event and she enjoyed being part of it.

Haiku Happening Reviews – Ms. Gargiulo said she received many compliments about this event. It went very well and everyone was very positive and happy. Commissioners congratulated Ms. Gargiulo on this event.

Saturday Series:

Silver Bells Reviews: Ms. Johnson provided an email synopsis chronicling the Silver Bells event. Commissioners congratulated Alicia for her efforts. Ms. Coleman has established a great working relationship with Public Works and Parks Departments that provided their services. There was discussion on the long lines waiting for face painting. It was recommended that going forward six or eight face painters should be on hand. Two was just not enough. Ms. Johnson said no one seemed to mind waiting. Also, the puppet show was very successful. Three people are recommended for the box office/lobby. Ms. Johnson said the work of the volunteers seems to be much more than anticipated and recommended some kind of stipend/reward be available for them. Ms. Riello mentioned that she gave the volunteers hot chocolate which she purchased on her own.

Ginga Brasileira – This exciting event will be held on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Johnson read a description of the performance group. Ms. Brown, Mr. Hernandez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Torello and Ms. Jason will be there.

Sunday Series:

Elm City Girls' Choir – January 9<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that risers might be needed for this event. Mr. Brewster will check on the risers from Hamden High School.

New Business/Ideas

Ms. Jason mentioned that Ms. Johnson received an honorable mention from the Hamden Art League for her work. The piece is hanging in the social hall if people want to see it after the meeting.

Ms. Nista passed around a photo of the brick that was placed in front of the Rotary Pavilion in honor of Ms. Coleman.

Ms. Nista reported that the Thornton Wilder writing competition is now open. High School students in New Haven County are eligible. Announcements have gone out and submissions must be made by February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The judges are lined up and the awards event will take place in Miller Library Rotunda on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Gargiulo suggested this commission be involved with other arts organizations for event planning and other items.

Ms. Riello suggested that the commission hold a Valentines Day Dance. She will head a planning committee for a February 11<sup>th</sup> dance. Several venues were discussed and Ms. Riello will call for availability. Ms. Elkin and Ms. Torello volunteered for the committee.

Ms. Jason mention that Ms. Dozier and Mr. Moore would like to officially be on the Arts Commission auxiliary. Commissioners would welcome their assistance. There was discussion regarding the provisions of the Ordinance governing the Arts Commission. Mr. Henriquez wondered if it mattered what we called them.

**Ms. Brown made a motion to welcome Deborah Dozier and George Moore as official volunteers to the commission. Mr. Brewster seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Report of the Chair

Ms. Jason had nothing to report.

Nominations of Officers for January election

Following discussion on the procedure, the following nominations were made:

Ms. Elkin nominated herself to serve as chair.

Ms. Jason nominated Ms. Johnson to serve as chair.

Ms. Nista said she does not wanted to be considered as vice chair, the position she currently holds.

Mr. Henriquez nominated himself to serve as Vice Chair

There was discussion on the duties of the Treasurer.

There was discussion on whether or not the commissioners that were not in attendance could make nominations via email prior to the January meeting. It was decided that write-in votes would be allowed on the ballots at the election.

Ms. Brown nominated Mr. Kortsep to serve another term as treasurer. Mr. Kortsep was not in attendance. Ms. Jason will check with Mr. Kortsep to see if he is willing to serve another term.

Good & Welfare:

Ms. Jason congratulated Mr. Henriquez on his book signing event at Miller Library. Mr. Henriquez thanked commissioners for their support.

Ms. Jason read a letter that Ms. Coleman sent to Senator Crisco thanking him for his service to his constituents and especially for securing the \$100,000 grant for the commission.

Ms. Jason congratulated Ms. Johnson on her third consecutive award from the Hamden Art League.

Adjournment

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

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