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THE ARTS COMMISSION

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Commissioners in Attendance: Loraine Brown, Lois Jason, Derek Mirabilio, Charles Kortsep, Mark Peel, Lisa DeGrand, Lois Jason, Tracy Nista, Donna Elkin, Deborah Dozier

Excused Absences: Evelyn Skelly, George Moore, Willa Horowitz, Stacy Sandler

Mr. Kortsep called the meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners introduced themselves to new Commissioner Derek Mirabilio and to guest, poet Elizabeth Cleary, who is back living in Hamden after several years elsewhere. Ms. Cleary is a published poet. She runs venues, currently a monthly series in New Haven. She was co-host of a long running series in Bethel, Performance Poetry Troupe. Ms. Cleary showed the Commissioners a poetry community newsletter, the current edition of which is 35 pages long. Ms. Cleary described venues as associated with a person. She is looking to fill the gap in Hamden. She hopes to build the club by meeting with local clubs and organizations and would like to partner with the Arts Commission. She would like to see poems and art paired up and create broadsides to place in business waiting rooms throughout Hamden, and on-line for people to

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download. Sometimes the poetry is published and the artists then create the art to pair with the poem. On some occasions poets write to the piece of art.

Ms. Cleary said the next issue is sponsorship of poetry events. Sometimes there is a featured poet and open mike. Other times, open mike and poetry readings. She would like to have intermittent performances perhaps on Friday night. She would also like to get the CT Poetry Society to have one of their meetings at Thornton Wilder with a proclamation from the Mayor. A poetry slam could be developed. Perhaps Hamden would be a good place for the regional competition. She would do the work, and wouldn't propose anything that she couldn't accomplish. The concept is a volunteer army to promote poetry. She met with Library Director Bob Gualtieri and he is very enthusiastic about having poetry from students posted in the Library. Ms. Coleman has reserved April 16th, a Friday night, at Thornton Wilder. Ms. Cleary would also like to do a February event. There was discussion on number of events to plan. Ms. Coleman has also reserved the display cases in the Library for the month of April. The Arts Commission enthusiastically embraces this idea.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2nd meeting. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported the following balances:

Gift Fund – \$59,824.79

Saturday Series – \$11,880.50

Town Lines – see attachment

Old Business

Saturday Series

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Oct 3, Airborne Jugglers canceled due to death in family and not ready to reschedule at this time

Nov. 7: Improv 4 Kids – Mr. Peel, Ms. Brown, Mr. Mirabilio and Ms. Nista volunteered. Arrival time is 12:30 p.m.

Sunday Series

Oct. 18: Rich DePalma – Ms. Elkin, Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Jason and Ms. Coleman volunteered. Cost is \$450

Nov. 8: Airborne Jazz – this group plays at Leon's, and Cherry Street in Wallingford. Ms. Coleman, Ms. Jason and Ms. Elkin volunteered. Cost is \$450

Jan. 24: Guastavino Trio	\$450
Feb. 21: St. Luke's Steel Band	\$800
March 7: Berkshire Big Band	<u>\$1,500</u>
	\$3,650

Ms. Dozier made a motion to approve the above Sunday Series expenses. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Friday Nights Committee

The Committee will schedule a meeting. The lineup is as follows:

October 23: Bullying Musical & Workshop, Michael Maricondi

Dec. 12: Christian Sands concert has been postponed. Mr. Sands has been nominated for a Grammy.

Feb: Dance Event – probably not happening

April 9: Disability Film Festival

April 16: Poetry Evening

April 23: Disability Film Workshop

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Visual Arts: Government Center/Dr. Nugall Cardiology Group Office

Ms. Coleman said Ms. DeGrand is assisting with the Government Center art.

A doctor in a cardiology group has made his office ready for art and wants the Commission to be responsible for changing up the art. Mr. Mirabilio is going to go with Ms. Coleman to see if it is manageable and come up with a scheme.

Artists would hang their own work.

We have an Art Gallery in Hamden – David Apuzzo Art Gallery on Whitney Avenue.

Web Page

Ms. Sandler is still working on the web page and is waiting for profiles on Commissioners. If you go to the Town web site, Arts Commission, the new web site comes up.

Coordinator's Report

Ms. Coleman said she needs a new answering machine.

New Business/Ideas

Ms. Schiff gets gets two new knees at 7:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Ms. Schiff gave Ms. Coleman the Costco gift card, which has a small balance remaining. The Commission should be in touch in April for another donation.

Good & Welfare

Adjournment

Ms. Nista made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Jason seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

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Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk