



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Craig B. Henrici  
*Mayor*

**MINUTES:** The Arts Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 in the Social Hall, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

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

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

Guest Raymond Roche

Others in Attendance: Mimsie Coleman, Arts Coordinator  
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Kortsep called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced Mr. Roche. Mr. Roche said he is a Hamden resident who is retired from his 36 year position with the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Art. He would like to be involved with the Commission. He is also an artist whose works are displayed in the New Haven Public Library and at the Knights of Columbus Building in New Haven.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

There was no report because the bank statements were not available.

## **Old Business**

### **Web Site**

Mr. Peel thanked Commissioners for submitting their profiles, and he has sent them on to Stacy Sandler for Hamden Arts Commission.org. The new site is not quite up yet but the regular site is current.

### **Saturday Series**

Improv for Kids – took in \$302 and cost \$600

Commissioners thought this group was a little old for our audience, although all agreed they were good.

Winter Wonderland is on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at Thornton Wilder.

### **Sunday Series**

Airborne Jazz – Ms. Jason said it was very good and well attended although we did not have a full house. The audience enjoyed this group. Ms. Jason said they play in the bar at Goodfellas. We paid \$500 and brought in \$787. Approximately 125 people attended.

Ms. Schiff mentioned that she didn't notice the Big Band in March in the publicity. Ms. Coleman said she put everything in.

### **Movie Night**

Friday, December 4th, Race to Witch Mountain

Mr. Mirabilio volunteered to help out at Movie Night if needed. A movie review website rottentomatoes.com was mentioned.

### **Silverbells**

Ms. Coleman announced that setup starts at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Ms. Coleman had a list of volunteers. Unless it is dangerous to be on the road, the Saturday program is still on. A schedule of Silverbells events is attached. Ms. Coleman will check with Mayor Jackson and if things look awful she will call

people. Sunday is the rain date. Web site Wunderground.com is a weather web site. Ms. Brown and Ms. Dozier will help with button making.

There was discussion on the tents. Ms. Dozier found a good deal on heaters and purchased two on behalf of the Commission.

Ms. Coleman gave Commissioners her new home telephone number.

Mayor Jackson has the name of a potential new Commission member, Ricardo Henriques. Mr. McGarry has decided not to become a Commissioner.

Ms. Coleman said the Commission will use \$1,900 from the Town Event line to cover the carousel and miscellaneous expenses. Ms. Coleman replaced some lights at a cost of \$124. Ms. Dozier purchased heaters for approximately \$200. **Ms. Jason made a motion to reimburse Ms. Coleman and Ms. Dozier. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

### **Visual Arts**

Mr. Mirabilio has been playing phone tag with the Doctor's office and will continue his efforts. He spoke to Mr. Apuzzo of the Apuzzo Gallery, who is very appreciative of the information presented. He is interested in working with the Commission in any way. From May on, he will need artists to occupy some of his gallery space. He would not have other photographers, since that would complete with his business. He does have gallery shows, typically on Friday nights.

The Government Center project is moving along. Ms. DeGrand will be making labels for the art pieces.

### **Friday Night**

Ms. Coleman will schedule a meeting before our next Commission meeting and will distribute a new commission list and the 2010 meeting calendar.

Suggestions for the Friday night series were a guitarist, Abbot & Costello impersonators, poetry night (2), Disability Film Festival and VSA Arts Workshop.

### **Summer Concert Update**

The Turtles are confirmed although the contract is not back yet. Tower of Power has also been confirmed.

Mr. Peel had an idea. He knows musical director for Hall & Oates and if you watched Saturday Night Live in the late 80's and early 90's he was the bass player Mr. Hall is streaming live from Darryl's house – a monthly jam session free on Google. While they still perform as Hall and Oates, they also do separate things, and Oates likes to feature young artists. Mr. Peel wanted to explore the possibilities. **Ms. Dozier made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mirabilio, that Mr. Peel pursue information on Darryl Oakes' programs.**

Other bands were mentioned for Ms. Coleman to check, and the Summer Concert meeting will be held in January.

### **Coordinator's Report**

At the last Arts Commission meeting we discussed a cultural resource directory. Mr. Peel is going to write and edit the director, and Mr. Kortsep will do some research. Ms. Coleman was approached last week by a man last week who is writing a history of art in Hamden, and he wanted photo of ghost parking lot for a book he is writing. A former Hamden resident, a writer now living in Florida, contacted Ms. Coleman looking for photo of the Strand Theater. He also thinks Hamden is a great place for art. He is the creator of Alf, and is willing to help the Commission. He also said maybe Julian Schlossberg would be a great source. There are so many unbelievably talented people in Hamden that we don't know about.

### **New Business**

Ms. Jason delivered the food collected last month to the food bank at the Keefe Center.

Unwrapped toys will be brought on Saturday for visits with Santa.

Mr. Mirabilio mentioned advertising to younger generations. He wondered if tweets and blogs would be allowed. It would be free, and he would be willing

to manage them. Ms. Coleman will check with Dave Richards in IT and Town Attorney Gruen. If it is allowed, Mr. Mirabilio will work on it.

Ms. Brown wants to get someone in to talk about the tee shirts.

Ms. Coleman reminded Commissioners to bring in their can tabs.

### **Adjournment**

**Ms. Dozier made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.**

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