



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Scott D. Jackson
Mayor

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MINUTES: The Arts Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 in the Activity Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

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

Commissioners Absent (Excused): Evelyn Skelly, Willa Horowitz, Stacy Sandler

Others in Attendance: Steve Graham - Auxiliary Member, Raymond Roche - Guest, Mimsie Coleman - Arts Coordinator, Gerry Tobin - Commission Clerk

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Page 4, Second Paragraph. 4th line, after free, put a period and remove "on Google."; next line, after things, and "change Oates to Hall"; and last line change Darryl Oakes' programs to Daryl Hall's availability and interest.

Ms. Elkin made a motion to approve the minutes of December as amended. Mr. Peel seconded the motion. The vote was ten in favor, one abstained.

Treasurer's Report

Saturday Series Account as of 12/25/09 has a balance of \$12, 804.06; The Gift Fund balance is \$64,616.42; the town lines accounts report is attached. Most Town lines are depleted or will be shortly.

2010 – 2011 Budget

Ms. Coleman said she has asked for two increases in the new budget. She asked for an increase to \$10 an hour for Joanie in the Temporary Wages account. Joanie works 19.5 hours a week for 26 weeks, for which the Town pays. We did get a grant from the state that will cover her salary

for the second half of the year, but could be revoked because of the Governor's cutbacks. The other increase is in the professional/technical account. That account was cut to \$1,000 last year but police extra duty was moved to finance department. We are required to pay music performance copyright fees to three organizations every year which came to \$825 last year. The fees for this year are being increased, so she asked for \$1,500. We also have to pay for Horizon Sound, Tom Conway for Salute to Young Artists, and piano tuners from that account. Sometimes we ask Mr. Conway to help with security hooks, and we pay him for that. The budget request needs commission approval and she needs commission feedback. Ms. Schiff asked if we can ask for \$2,000 in that line because of the fees. Several commissioners feel that we should ask for increases in our program lines too. Four summer concerts will be planned instead of five. We would ask for more funding to keep up the quality of our programs. We have spent up to \$150,000 and last year we spent \$131,000, but more than half of that was from sponsors. Ms. Nista said perhaps Ms. Coleman can ask for an increase in Professional/Technical.

Ms. Schiff made a motion that the Commission asks the Town for \$75,000 for summer concerts due to the reduction in donations from sponsors. No one seconded. Several commissioners felt that would be too much to ask for. There was further discussion, and Ms. Coleman said the Commission should be sensitive to the state of the economy. She suggested a \$3,000 increase would be enough.

Ms. Brown made a motion that the Commission ask for \$1,500 in professional/technical and an increase of \$3,000 for programs. Mr. Mirabilio seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. Coleman said the Mayor has met with Quinnipiac and when they asked what they could do to help this year, he asked them to help the Arts Commission.

Old Business

Silver bells Comments

The Commission did not make money on Winter Wonderland. It is a very expensive program. It brought in \$470 and the Commission paid out \$1,200. Next year's group is \$1,000 and the performance will be Dickens Christmas Carol.

January 9, Pumpernickel Puppets

Ms. DeGrand will be there at 12:30. Ms. Jason, Ms. Brown, Ms. Coleman, Mr. Roche and Ms. Iris will help. .

Sunday Series

January 24, Guastavino Trio

This is a trio with a soprano with musical selections from Europe and the Americas. Peter Hereld will attend and is still raising money. We got a check this week from Rick and Jane Levin, president of Yale, and a check from Orchestra New England, Mr. Hereld is also getting \$50 from his daughter which is what he asked for for his birthday. Ms. Jason, Ms. Elkin, Ms. DeGrand, Mr. Roche, Ms. Coleman and Ms. Iris volunteered. Ms. Brown is not sure, so she will email Ms. Jason. Ms. Schiff will be leaving for Florida on Saturday, but she will be home at her daughter's in Norwalk the weekend of the March performance.

Movie Night January 15th Ice Age

Friday Night Series

A meeting was held earlier this evening, and several suggestions were made. A list of scheduled Friday evening events was distributed. The film festivals are films made by, about or performed by people with disabilities. The Commission is collaborating with VSA Arts and Young Audiences. MMOA had some of these films on display for a weekend. The package costs \$1,500 and Community Foundation will give us a small grant. We will have a reception afterward.

Newington Children's Theater's performance might be Secret Garden. It might be held at the Middle School. We get the gate receipts and pay them.

Ms. Jason said we welcome suggestions for the Friday night series, but probably can't implement anything until after the summer. She feels we should work on some kind of a fund raiser. There was discussion on silent auctions, wine tasting, etc. Back to this subject later.

Summer Concert Update

There was nothing new to report. We have two concerts confirmed. The first concert will be the Turtles, and the last one will be Tower of Power. Mr. Peel sent out an email to his contact for Hall and Oates on December 14th, but hasn't heard back yet. A concert committee meeting should be scheduled before the Commission's February 3rd meeting. 1/13/2010 at 4:00 p.m. was decided upon.

Coordinator's Report

Mayor Jackson's New Year's Party will be held on Friday, January 8th from 3-5:30 p.m. Ms. Coleman reported that the Arts Commission received a \$1,500 grant from the Rotary Club.

New Business/Ideas

Ms. Jason asked commissioners for ideas for a fund raiser at the next meeting. Ms. Dozier mentioned perhaps we could hold a cooking demonstration at some point. Ms. Nista said Bentara is doing a Japanese Pechakucha 1/27.

Good & Welfare

Ms. Jason said she ran into Ms. Skelly and her sister.

Ms. Schiff thanked everyone for the can tabs for Ronald McDonald House. She also mentioned an amazing art project at John Slade Ely House, a cultural heritage artist project of the Orchard Street Schull. There are 33 artists participating. Ms. Coleman told commissioners about Ms. Schiff's daughter who sold one piece of her art at a New York Gallery.

David Chevin, who has played here several times (The Afro Semitic Experience) is being sponsored by local churches doing a concert to raise funds for Columbus House.

Ms. Brown mentioned that on the first Saturday of every month at Hamden High School, Mr. Syzdek's group is collecting bottles and cans for the music department.

Mr. Mirabilio said for the last year or so he has been pursuing the idea of opening a gallery. He was recently reacquainted with a friend from college who is trying to do the same thing in Cheshire. They met yesterday and swapped business plans, which he said overlap quite well. His friend has a culinary background and is a potter. They are looking into real estate for a café type gallery.

Mr. Moore felt it would be a good idea to find out what the impact is of the summer concerts on the businesses in town.

Adjournment

Ms. Jason made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk