

MINUTES: The Arts Commission, Town of Hamden held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Activity Room, Miller Library Complex. The Following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: George Moore, Charles Korstep, Mark Peel, Ricardo Henriquez, Loraine Brown, Lois Jason, Lisa DeGrand, Donna Elkin, Evelyn Skelly, Sandra Schiff, Deborah Ann Dozier

Commissioners Excused: Derek Mirabilio

Commissioners Absent: Stacey Sandler, Tracy Nista

Others in Attendance: Mimsie Coleman, Peggy Craft (Acting Clerk), Shiela Creed

Call to Order: Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Ms. Brown motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Korstep presented the Treasurer's Report, and noted the amounts in each account.

Ms. Coleman reported the balance in the Longevity, Special Projects and Professional/Technical Accounts. She added that the Advertising budget has been exhausted.

Old Business

Programs

The Columbus Day Parade Concert was discussed. Ms. Coleman said that four towns rotate hosting the parade. The host town sponsors a free concert which is usually held in August. Ms. Coleman said there are two well known performers, Eric Caruso who was selected to play Mario Lanza on Broadway, and Raymond Sontino, a soprano and a band who would be available to perform. They will charge \$2,000 and they will provide sound by a sound company. Ms. Coleman has spoken with Mayor Jackson, and reports that he would like to see this performance take place. He has assured her that he will find a way to provide \$1,000 toward the cost of this performance. The Parade Committee will provide \$800. Ms. Coleman requested that the Arts Commission donate \$200 toward this event. Ms. Coleman added that it will be necessary to have

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two port-o-lets available for the evening, and added that if the performance was moved inside due to inclement weather it would be necessary to pay custodial fees. Ms. Coleman said the concert will be held on Sunday, September 19th at 6:00 PM in Town Center Park. JRooos and a fried dough vendor will be there.

Ms. Schiff asked how long the concert would last. Ms. Coleman said approximately 75 minutes. Ms. Schiff suggested that the concert be held at 4:00 PM so that it would still be light out as people were leaving.

Ms. DeGrand and Ms. Elkin suggested that the concert be held at 5:00 PM. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the time the concert should begin. Ms. DeGrand asked if this is totally the decision of this Commission. Ms. Coleman said she believes it is. Ms. DeGrand noted that September 19th is the same day that the Edgerton Park Fair will be held. After further discussion, Ms. Coleman said she will set the time of the concert at 5:00 PM. She will also ask the performers if this time is agreeable.

Next, Ms. Coleman read an e-mail from the Mayor confirming that \$19,500 will be allocated to the Arts Commission pending receipt of the funds from Quinnipiac University. Ms. Coleman added that the Mayor was very pleased with the summer concerts.

Next, Ms. Coleman discussed the Disability Film Festival which will be held on September 24th. This event showcases the talents of people with disabilities. This is the first time they have come to Hamden. Ms. Coleman has been working with the Disability Commission on this event. She said that this Commission is asked to provide some things but not money. Young Audiences is also working on this. She said that we may be asked to help with the reception after. The Film Festival will start at 7:00 PM, and will be held in the Thornton Wilder Auditorium. Ms. Brown, Ms. Jason, Ms. Schiff, Ms. Elkin and Ms. Dozier volunteered to help with the reception. The menu was discussed, and it was agreed that the volunteers will further discuss what should be provided for the reception. Ms. Coleman discussed the films that will be presented. She added that there will be Disability Film Workshops held on October 12th, 19th, 26th and November 2nd. Ms. Schiff asked about advertising this event. Ms. Coleman said it would be advertised on Friday, September 3rd. Ms. Elkin will bring flyers to the High School.

Saturday Series

The Saturday Series performances were discussed. The planned performances are:

October 2nd : Howlarious Halloween
November 6th: Bubblemania
December 4th: Crabgrass Puppets: “Mr. Punch’s Christmas Carol”
January 22nd: Tanglewood Marionettes: “Fairy Circus”
February 5th: Airborne Jugglers
March 5th: Pimpernickel Puppets: “Sir George and the Dragon”

Ms. Elkin motioned to approve the Saturday Series Budget. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Sunday Series Report

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Ms. Jason said there is a definite date for the Riverboat Ramblers. This performance will be held on October 17th.

Ms. Jason is looking into the Air Force Band for a March 5th performance. She is also looking into having an Irish group perform possibly in March or earlier.

Ms. Coleman discussed a dancing postman who has performed before. Ms. Coleman suggested that another Sunday Series meeting be held next week, possibly on Tuesday.

Ms. Schiff shared information about Willie Nininger, a performer that she really likes. She said that he has performed all over, including Europe. He performs country music, folk songs, rock and roll, Irish tunes and his own songs. Her friend went to one of his concert last night and will e-mail her a tape of the performance. Ms. Schiff will forward the e-mail to the Commissioners. She told the Commissioners where he will be performing in the near future. She said he may be able to do an Irish program.

Summer concerts

Mr. Moore said he has been told by several people how great the concerts were, especially Tower of Power. There was a discussion regarding the Tower of Power concert. It was noted that this was the biggest crowd ever. Mr. Peel said he was stopped by a music teacher who told him that our concerts are the best in the state.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the amount of money collected at the concerts. The discussion included how to improve the collection process. Ms. Schiff said that since the concert goers have donated the most money, they should be included in the list of sponsors. The Commissioners present agreed.

There was a discussion regarding advertising and how people learn about the concerts. There was also a discussion regarding the website. Ms. Brown will find out how to place certain words that will cause the newer website to come up first.

Ms. Schiff discussed switching the concerts to inside. She feels that we need to know exactly what, when and how to proceed. Ms. Coleman has a procedure that she will send to the Commissioners. There was a discussion of the time when the decision must be made. Ms. Coleman said that if it becomes necessary to move the concert inside, it is announced on radio stations WEBE 108 and WQUN. It is also posted on the website. There is also a message on the answering machine, and an announcement on News Channel 8. The Mayor's office and the switchboard operator are also notified. Ms. Coleman discussed the weather watches and weather update equipment that is utilized.

Mr. Peel said that Tom Conway is very impressive and this Commission is lucky to have him. All agreed. It was suggested that he have an understudy. Next, it was noted that the vendors were great.

Ms. Coleman asked if the Commissioners felt that Tower of Power should be invited back next year. It was noted that they are the most requested group, and drew the biggest crowd. Ms. Coleman said they were very nice, and they thanked us for having them. She added that since they were paid last year but were rained out, they performed for free this year.

After further discussion, **Ms. Dozier motioned to invite Tower of Power to perform at next year's Summer Concerts. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote was six in favor and three abstentions. The motion carried.**

Ms. Coleman said that the entire series was great. She added that she has received many compliments on the performance by Darryl Hall.

Ms. Shriff said she found the Turtles discussion of drugs to be inappropriate and in bad taste. Ms. Coleman said that she received many complaints regarding this.

All the Commissioners said how wonderful Blessing Offers performance was. It was also noted that the CERC volunteers were excellent.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the cleanup. Ms. Coleman said that the field was in bad shape after the Tower of Power concert. It took several hours to cleanup. All the other concerts were fine.

There was a discussion regarding the necessity for more port-o-lets.

Ms. Coleman said that everyone has been reimbursed, but she has not been reimbursed for \$150 for pizzas that were purchased.

Ms. Dozier moved to reimburse Ms. Coleman \$150 for the pizzas. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. Coleman said that December 1st is the first night of Hanukkah, and asked if the meeting should be moved. It was noted that the meeting has already been changed to Tuesday, November 30th.

New Business

Hamden Restaurant Week will be September 20th to 26th. Information regarding this event can be found at www.Hamdenrestraurantweek.com. There will be a pre fixe menu. Lunches will cost \$12.00, dinner will be \$20.00.

Ms. Brown corrected her email. Ms. Coleman will send out corrected list

Adjournment

Ms. Brown made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Acting Commission Clerk