

Hamden Arts Commission

Meeting of January 5, 2011

Commissioners in Attendance: Lois Jason, Lorraine Brown, Charles Kortsep, Evelyn Skelly, Mark Peel, Lisa DeGrand, Donna Elkin, Tracy Nista, Deb Dozier

Commissioners Excused: Derek Mirabilio, Sandy Schiff, Stacy Sandler, George Moore, Ricardo Henriquez

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Tabled to next meeting

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balance of \$53,721.07 in the gift fund. Other account information was not available.

Old Business

Review Programs

Silverbells – Mr. Brown said it was an amazing day, with the carousel and hayrides going the whole time. Ms. Coleman said if we had a lot of money she would suggest renting a larger tent. The puppet show also had a good attendance. Ms. Coleman thanked those who worked, some all day for set up and tear down. Lots of toys were collected according to Ms. Elkin. Santa Goldberg did a great job. There was discussion regarding moving the Silverbells to the Memorial Town Hall once the building is completed. The Commission didn't make any money on Silverbells, but also didn't expect to. This program is always a loss, and the most expensive entertainment group of the year.

Saturday Series

January 22, 2011 – Fairy Circus – This is a very well known program featuring 20 marionettes.

Sunday Series

January – Pages from an American Songbook (classics from American Songwriters, Fryer/Balaban Swingtet

Disability Film

Friday, February 4th in Thornton Wilder at 7:00 p.m. This is the film we made with Craig Norton. There will be snacks in the lobby. Disabilities Commission and Young Audiences of CT will be working with us.

Poetry Night

This is a collaboration with Eli Cleary. She will do all the work. The date is to be announced.

Cultural Resource Directory

Mr. Peel said he made the pitch at the last meeting. Mr. Kortsep and Ms. Elkin will join him on the committee.

Highwood Square Artist Housing

Ms. Coleman said this project is coming along and they are hoping to have one building ready for occupancy by February 1st. Ms. Coleman said the Arts Commission is part of the committee that interviews potential tenants. They have to go through all kinds of background checks, fill out an application, be interviewed, etc. Ms. Jason participated in interviews yesterday and felt it was a large burden, not negatively, but emotionally. 1/3 of the applicants are not eligible because of credit checks or the results of other background checks. Councilman Ozzie Brown has also been participating. There are 24 or so units.

Summer Concert Update

Ms. Coleman has not started research for the summer concerts yet. Ms. Jason mentioned she watched Winton Marsalis on 60 Minutes last Sunday, and he said he wants to bring jazz to the people. We can write him a letter at Lincoln Center, and see what happens. Ms. Coleman said the commission would have to vote to offer one of the three concert slots to him. **Ms. Dozier made a motion to offer one concert slot to Winton Marsalis. Mr. Peel seconded the motion. The vote was eight in favor, one abstained.**

Spyro Gyro was mentioned. Tower of Power is routing around us, but Ms. Coleman has not received the contract yet. Ms. Coleman said the Commission should schedule a summer concert meeting. Ms. Brown mentioned a local musician that might be a good opening act. Ms. Jason mentioned Chris Jenson might be interested in opening. Christine Oldham was also mentioned. 80's music was suggested. Ms. Elkin had a list of groups from her daughter. Ms. Coleman asked Commissioners to send her suggestions.

Ms. Coleman said the Rotary Club didn't send out applications for grants this year because they didn't raise much money. They had \$6,000 and gave the Arts Commission \$1,000. The Commission has been told by Mayor Jackson that they would receive \$19,500 from the Quinnipiac donation.

There was discussion on the Commission's web site.

Coordinator's Report

Budget - Mayor Jackson would like each department to cut 10% from its budget, but she thinks we will be okay.

One of the options for the fireworks is to cosponsor with the volunteer fire department for insurance purposes. We pay for the sound, set up, golf cart rental, etc. The Commissioners should be thinking about this in case it comes up.

The Boy Scouts have formed a new troop and need to raise money. They would like to sell something before our programs. Commissioners felt this might open a whole can of worms, especially since food is not allowed in Thornton Wilder, and if they are allowed to sell anything before Arts Commission programs, others will also want to.

Budget Discussion – Pages 2 & 3 are line items. Ms. Coleman said she asked for capital improvement for additional stage lights, replacing the mesh curtains, and for replacing the stage skirt (\$13,563.75). There are no changes to budget line items. The deadline for budget submission is Friday,

Mr. Peel made a motion that the Commission adopt the proposed operating budget. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Mr. Peel made a motion that the Commission endorse the Capital Projects budget request. Ms. Dozier seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Coordinator's Report

Peter Hereld, in his small apartment at Whitney Center, had bookshelves from his parents, which his son said none of the family members could take, and he asked if the Commission would we take them. They have to be removed by tomorrow. There are four cabinets, which Ms. Coleman agreed to accept. This will have to be approved by the Legislative Council.

There being no further business of the Commission, Mr. Peel made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk