

MINUTES: The Arts Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

ARTS COMMISSION

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

Commissioners in Attendance: Lois Jason, Donna Elkin, Derek Mirabilio, Deb Dozier, Ricardo Henriquez, Mark Peel, Lisa DeGrand, Evelyn Skelly

Excused: Stacy Sandler, Loraine Brown, Tracy Nista, Sandy Schiff, George Moore, Charles Kortsep

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Elkin made a motion to approve the minutes of January 5, 2011. Mr. Henriquez seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Coleman said Page 2 of the packet she distributed is the remainder of Town accounts showing \$385 in Temp Wages, \$57 in advertising, and \$1,150 in special programs.

There are a balances of \$55,194 in the Gift Fund and \$15,044.99 in the Saturday Series.

Old Business

Saturday Series

January 22: "Fairy Circus" brought in \$936.90 and \$495 cost for a profit of \$441.90

February 5, Airborn Jugglers was canceled due to the threat of bad weather.

March 5, Sir George & the Dragon by Pumpnickel Puppets, which are life sized puppets. Ms. Coleman and Iris will be in attendance. Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Jason, Mr. Peel, Ms. Dozier and Joanie will help. Arrive at 12:30 for the 1:00 show, which will run for approximately 50 minutes.

Sunday Series

January 23 - Pages from an American Songbook took in \$819 and cost \$725 for a profit of \$94. Ms. Jason felt the program was a success.

February 6, Raymond Suintino brought in \$690 and cost \$600 for a profit of \$90. This was a very successful show. Mr. Suintino had a female singer with him that was excellent. Ms. Jason said people loved him.

March 20 - Celebration of Irish Music with the Kerry Boys. Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Jason, Mr. Mirabilio, Ms. Coleman and Iris will help at the 2:00 p.m. program. This group has been performing together for 20 years. Mr. Mirabilio will put a flyer up in his store window and others will distribute flyers.

There was mention of Roberto Iarussi doing a commercial for an Italian Liquor.

February 4 - Premier of the Disability Film, "Aha"

Ms. Coleman said this film was a beautiful wonderful experience, and she is glad the Commission participated with the Disabilities Commission on this event. It was great to meet the performers and to see their parents. This was a video of people with disabilities with gifts in the arts. Ms. Coleman said this was a wonderful program and the videographer made the participants feel good about themselves. About 80 people attended.

March 18 – Newington Children’s Theater “Beauty & the Beast”

This program is an annual collaboration with Recreation Department and will take place at Thornton Wilder at 7:00 p.m. on March 18th. This is a touring children’s theater with professional lighting, costumes, stage sets, etc.

Cultural Resource Directory Update

Mr. Peel announced that we have received the first 10 submissions for the Directory. We need to do a second follow up on initial responses. A sub-committee meeting will be scheduled soon and the design phase will begin. Mr. Peel has an IT consultant that will be working with him, and this will happen concurrently with the data gathering. We will be looking for nominations for inclusion in the directory from other sources. This project will be ongoing for a good while. Ms. Elkin and Mr. Kortsep are members of the sub-committee.

There was discussion on having Ernest Borgnine come or send a video or something. We should let him know we are getting a directory together. This will take a while to launch. Ms. Coleman said the exciting part of this project is uncovering the talented individuals that live among us.

Connecticut Commission LAA visit

Ms. Coleman said we received a Local Arts Agency grant from the State of CT, which wants to do things for the state like we do locally. The state gives this grant to 10–20 arts organizations around the state. We use the grant funds to pay for Joanie and Ms. DeGrand who helps out in Ms. Coleman's Office. We did

not do well last time because they give 0 points for program presentation. They only consider service. Mr. Peel was at the meeting. This program has been protected because the director was in place and our evaluator said as long as this director was in place, we would be safe. She lost her job yesterday. Our low ranking doesn't impact our getting our grant. Mr. Peel found the meeting very interesting and feels Mr. Cusano is an arts advocate and is in a position where he has to crack the whip and justify everyone's existence. He indicated we would have to justify our existence. We might not fit a mold that they use in Hartford, but that doesn't mean we are doing a bad job. The grant we receive is \$7,700. The New Haven Arts Council, which is a regional arts council, receives much more, and is a service program and does not do programs. Arts and Ideas attracts visitors and helps the city of New Haven, and is separate from the Arts Council.

There was discussion on having a movie made in Hamden. New Haven has had Indiana Jones and a movie with Robert DeNiro. Other towns large and small have had movies made within their boundaries. Discussion followed.

Salute to Young Artists (May 20)

Letters were sent out to teachers requesting nominations. Mr. Henriquez said he loves that we have this program and that we encourage young people.

Ms. Elkin remarked that Hamden High School will be putting on Chicago this year. Every year they have a drama and a musical.

Whitney Players is up and running and will have a program in August. They also have a teen and a youth production, Jungle Book and Pippin.

Summer Concerts

July 1, Looking for military band

July 8 Doo Wop Show (Duprees, Chiffons, Legendary Teenagers)

July 8, Steve Augeri of Journey

July 22, Spinners

July 29, Guess Who

Ms. Coleman said she found out that people audition before going into the service for the top military bands, and most do not travel outside Washington DC. For the lower ranked bands, they audition after they enter the military. Ms. Coleman said she is in the contract negotiation stage with the above listed bands.

Ms. Dozier made a motion that the Commission accept the concert lineup as noted above. Mr. Peel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Coordinator's Report

Ms. Coleman noted that Page 3 of the packet is the song list of the bands noted above.

Arts Council Membership – The Commission becomes a member of the Arts Council every year. If your budget is over \$100,000 you are supposed to pay \$150. Two commissioners offered to put in \$50 each, leaving a balance of \$50 for the Commission to pay.

There was discussion on the New Haven concerts.

Ms. Coleman will be out of Town for the April Arts Commission meeting.

New Business/Ideas

Good & Welfare

Mr. Mirabilio announced he will be having a woman's day exhibition at his 128 Center Street location, with the opening reception from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Mirabilio said he started a scholarship through the gallery and will applications will be open from 3/1 through 4/1. If it is not taken, he still wants to donate it. He said perhaps it can be presented during Salute to Young Artists.

Ms. Jason spoke to the owner of SBC who is willing to help again this year with concert refreshments.

There was discussion on the art fair at the park in Whitneyville and other fund raising ideas. There was a lengthy discussion on a Talent and No Talent show for adults for the end of January 2012.

A poetry night with Eli Cleary is being planned but is not scheduled yet. Donald Hall, poet laureate, and former Hamden resident, has been contacted by Friends of the Library and if that works out, the Arts Commission will collaborate.

Ms. Coleman had her budget meeting with Mayor, who asked for zero growth. She is confident that the Commission will do well.

Adjournment:

Mr. Peel made a motion to adjourn. Ms. DeGrand seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk