

**Minutes:** The Arts Commission held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on May 4, 2011 in the Activity Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

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

Commissioners Excused: George Moore, Evelyn Skelly, Stacy Sandler

Guest: Maureen from Hamden Patch Online Newspaper

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

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

Approval of Minutes

**Ms. Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2011. Loraine Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported balances as follows: Gift Fund as of 4/26/11 \$56,349.15; Saturday Series \$15,634.21. Mr. Kortsep also reported on the Town line accounts.

**Ms. Brown made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Old Business

Ms. Coleman said at the last Commission meeting we were discussing our office location. We are staying where we are, and Recreation is going to stay where they are. Our proximity to Thornton Wilder and the summer concerts make this office more convenient. Mayor Jackson has consolidated Arts, Culture and Recreation as one department, which Ms. Coleman will head up. Mr. Henriquez

looked at the budget the other day. The salaries are the last issue to be taken up and they have to wait for personnel issues to be taken up. Logistics have to be worked out. Ms. Coleman has met with department staff and will meet with them again next Tuesday. This Commission is still intact and separate from recreation. Park maintenance is now under public works.

#### Cultural Resource Directory Update

Mr. Peel reported that the subcommittee (Ms. Elkin, Mr. Kortsep and himself) have met a couple of times and have approved 50–60 entries between the resource directory and notables from Hamden. Nominations were solicited primarily via email and we will have to continue those efforts. The web page design is next and prototypes should be ready in the next two months.

Ms. Coleman said Mr. Peel is very skilled at paring down the information. This will be an on line concept because of the maintenance that will be required. The Directory will always be a work in progress.

#### Salute to Young Artists May 20<sup>th</sup> with May 12<sup>th</sup> Rehearsal

Volunteer Sign ups – students arrive on the 12<sup>th</sup> between 3 and 5 p.m.

Volunteers are needed in the office accept art work, and in the auditorium to time performances, mike, and lights, with Tom Conway. This is an annual event honoring Hamden Students who are extraordinarily gifted in the arts. Students are nominated by teachers. This is a one night event, and students receive a citation from Senator Crisco. There are 19 performers and visual arts. Ms. Elkin, Ms. Jason and Ms. DeGrand will be in the office accepting visual art and Ms. Brown, Ms. Dozier and Mr. Peel will be in Thornton Wilder on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Derek Mirabilio will help with hanging visual art on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### Summer Concerts

Ms. Jason contacted Stop & Shop and will contact Shop Rite regarding donations of food. Ms. Schiff has the Costco letters and needs one for BJ's. The Veterans Commission will provide cake for the military band. Tonino's provided dinner for the military band last year and we will request that again this year. Mr.

Henriquez needs donation request letters for the CWA Union and the Operating Engineers.

The Quinnipiac donation was used for deposits on groups (\$19,500). Mayor Jackson will approach Yale for sponsorship. Ms. Coleman will have a list of sponsors at our next meeting. UI, SCGC, Arden House, First Niagra, Press Cuzzo, TD Bank, Wells Fargo, Wepawaug, Avalon are on the list.

#### Challenges

A digital sound system is needed for two of our concerts and our sound company will rent digital boards.

**Ms. Coleman asked for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$37,800.**

**Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$37,800. Ms. Dozier seconded the motion.** Mr. Henriquez objected to the expense, because if all of the groups request this next year it would become too expensive. We should encourage him and we should explore other sound companies. Ms. Coleman said there is only one in the state of Connecticut and they are three times more expensive than Horizon. Mr. Henriquez said they should have the equipment, and not be having to rent it. Ms. Coleman will have the discussion before next year's concerts. **The vote was unanimous in favor.**

#### Sponsorships

Ms. Coleman sent the summer concert information to Ms. Sandler for input to the Commission's web site. The concerts are set up and we are waiting for confirmation from our sponsors to include in the first press release, hopefully by the end of next week.

#### Opening act

The Committee will meet to discuss opening acts in Ms. Coleman's office Tuesday, 5/24 at 4:00 p.m. The Spinners do not want any of the open channels on their boards to be used.

Coordinator's Report

Donald Hall, U. S. poet laureate, will be coming on September 16<sup>th</sup>, to Thornton Wilder.

Ms. Coleman announced a new member of the Arts Commissioner will be submitted to the Legislative Council for approval at its next cycle.

New Business/Good & Welfare

Ms. Jason has two friends that will volunteer at concerts.

Mr. Mirabilio is going to be on TV. June 19<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Today Show.

Adjournment

**Mr. Peel made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

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