

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
Meeting of Wednesday, July 6, 2011
7 pm: Miller Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Marita Gargiulo, Loraine Brown, Donna Elkin, Lisa DeGrand, Evelyn Skelly, Mark Peel, Lois Jason, Sandy Schiff, Deborah Dozier

Commissioners Excused: Charles Kortsep, Stacy Sandler, George Moore, Ricardo Henriquez, Tracy Nista, Derek Mirabilio

Others in Attendance: Auxiliary Member Steve Graham, ARC Director Mimsie Coleman, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

Call to Order

Ms. Jason called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Ms. Jason announced how pleased everyone was with the Friday night concert and fireworks. There was an excellent job done with traffic flow, and almost no problems. There were 94 musicians on the stage and they were very gracious.

New Commissioner, Marita Gargiulo was introduced. She is a long time Hamden resident and has been involved in music and the arts, although she has her own nutrition business. She is also a former blues singer and poet..

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of June 1, 2011 was tabled to the September Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Coleman reported balances of \$15,486.42 in the Saturday Series Account and \$48,801.83 in the Gift Fund. The Gift Fund pays for some programming.

Ms. Coleman referred to the budget page in the handout and noted that the Commission budget is now merged with the Recreation Budget and she has starred the lines pertaining to the Arts Commission. Commissioners expressed concern over the budget saying if others see it they might think the Arts Commission has more funding than we actually have, especially the last line Total Arts Commission

Old Business

Fireworks Review

There was earlier discussion about the fireworks and the Army Band. The volunteers collected money, but less than last year. The Volunteer Fire Fighters thanked the Commission and Ms. Coleman passed around the letter for Commissioners to read. Ms. Schiff saw Boy Scouts collecting mostly cans and bottles, but perhaps some money.

Ms. Schiff said announcements should be made and she will talk to Mr. Moore and remind him not to talk too fast. We should ask people not to use silly string. There was also discussion on sparklers. Vendors have to get permits from the Police Department and they have a list of items that they tell vendors not to sell. Sparklers are not on the list. Mr. Moore should also announce about using the trash cans and recycling bins. Mr. Graham stays after the concerts to clean up, but Clean & Green Commission comes to clean the following morning.

Ms. Schiff mentioned the web site, Hamden Arts Commission.org – and the concerts were not up. Ms. Coleman said something went wrong with the web site. There was discussion on starting a Facebook account for the Arts Commission.

Summer Concerts

Performer updates

Opening acts officially start at 7:30 p.m. The Brandon Ferguson trio is opening for Steve Augieri (Maynard Ferguson's grandson). 101 is going to open this Friday (7:15). Boogie Chillin' will open on the 22nd for the Spinners. Ms. Coleman has asked Steve from The Space if his group can do the opening or can he fund a group for us for the 29th.

The extra audio stack all straightened out and the stack will be left on the field. There was discussion on spray paint or dayglow tape to show where wires are located to prevent tripping.

Hospitality Report

Everything is working out fine. We need volunteers for Friday the 8th. The food has to be ready at 5:30, but we need to pick up the food and drinks before that. Mr. Peel will take care of the ice. Ms. Dozier, Mr. Peel, Ms. Jason, Ms. Brown, Ms. Gargiulo, Joanie and Irene Keniry will collect.

Rack cards

We don't have the reorder yet.

DJ introductions

Vinnie Penn of WELI has expressed interest in making introductory remarks. Mimsie said he wanted to charge a fee, and Mimsie told him we can't do that. Doo Wop group asked if we could get a radio host to do introductions on Friday night, and there is a radio station that special in doo wop rockin Richard and he expressed interest but hasn't gotten back to her.

Table by entrance for bone marrow match

We have for years decided not to let groups make announcements from the stage, but a friend of a friend needs a bone marrow match and they want to set up a table near the entrance to our parking lot. North Haven has allowed them and the Elks have allowed them. Commissioners agreed this would be allowed.

Ms. Coleman said we have allowed local groups to use our stage and sound system on Sunday afternoons. We have to have a motion to co-sponsor these groups, or they would have to take out insurance. We have cosponsored in the past and would have no responsibilities.

Ms. Dozier made a motion to co-sponsor the Sunday afternoon concerts at Town Center Park. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. Coleman said traditionally we have put up an Arts Commission banner in the pavilion and the Quinnipiac banner underneath. Quinnipiac is still our most generous sponsor, but the money now comes through the Mayor, and he gave the Commission \$19,500. Ms. Coleman doesn't think Quinnipiac cares about their banner and she would like to remove it. It takes a bucket truck to straighten it out. Quinnipiac is listed as our major sponsor in all of our publicity. She would like to move the Arts Commission banner over to the Commission's tent. Ms. Brown felt it is good publicity to have the banner up because it shows in the photos that get posted. Commissioners agreed that we can eliminate the Quinnipiac banner and that the Arts Commission banner should be left on the stage. Ms. Coleman mentioned that the Spinners have requested extra spot lights so there might be some

additional cost

Arts, Recreation & Culture Report

Ms. Coleman had no report.

Cultural Resource Directory

Mr. Peel said the directory will have two different web pages. One will be the directory and the other will be called Hamden Notables (individuals who have or are contributing to the cultural arts in Hamden.) Last week he and an IT consultant that he works with met with Ms. Coleman and will be pursuing that over the summer, both the content and the design.

Coordinator's Report

Ms. Coleman had nothing further to report.

New Business/Ideas/Good & Welfare

Ms. DeGrand mentioned she visited Quebec and they have a three year grant for entertainment. She said there were arts programs going on all over the city. It is an amazing place for the arts. There was a Cirque de Soleil performance going on under a highway.

Adjournment

Ms. Brown made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Dozier seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk