

Arts Commission Meeting
Wednesday, September 7, 2011
7:00 p.m. Miller Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Derek Mirabilio, Loraine Brown, Lois Jason,
Donna Elkin, Charles Kortsep, Mark Peel, Marita
Gargiulo, Stacy Sandler, Sandra Schiff, Tracy
Nista, George Moore

Excused: Evelyn Skelly, Deborah Dozier, Ricardo
Henriquez, Lisa DeGrand

Others in Attendance: Steve Graham, Mimsie Coleman, Gerry Tobin

Ms. Jason called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review Minutes of July 6, 2011

There was one correction to the minutes – the spelling of Ms. Elkin's name.

Ms. Elkin made a motion to approve the minutes of July 6th as corrected. Mr. Peel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balance of \$15,299.31 in the Saturday Series and a balance in the Gift Fund of \$26,899.50

Page 2 of tonight's handout is the town lines account report. Ms. Coleman said we have been in this position before. We always spend ad money only on summer concerts.

Ms. Sandler suggested the Commission start a fund raising committee, and said she would be happy to work on it. Ms. Coleman agreed that it is time to start. Ms. Schiff brought up having a dinner at Chili's and they will design the flyer, have it ready for our website or email blast, that would be brought in to the

restaurant. They would prefer to host the event on Monday or Tuesday when it is less busy. We can do it more than once, and they will give back 10% of the entire bill. She also mentioned an ad book, and showed one the Whitney Players did for West Side Story. Also, she mentioned First Niagara Bank who donated \$100,000 to bring Yo Yo Ma to the New Haven Arts Festival, and sponsor the tennis tournament. Ms. Schiff said everyone that she asked to donate this summer donated. Ms. Brown collected food for the entertainers, and she found Giovanni's and Totino's overly generous. We should ask Stop & Shop earlier.

Discussion on fund raising followed. We could raise fund for Saturday and Sunday Series. A program book was suggested. Mr. Mirabilio recommended gotprint.net for pricing. We had two orders of rack cards printed, but the second arrived too late for us to use. There was discussion on collecting email addresses at Saturday and Sunday programs for our mailing list.

Old Business

Summer Concerts

Mr. Moore told a story of people who came from New York to see one of our summer concerts. He met them in Stop and Shop. He said we need to get on the phones to solicit ads and also email, a multipronged attack.

Logistics

There were only positive comments. There was discussion on concerts being moved indoors and people waiting in line for hours. We need to be more prepared for indoor concerts. Mr. Mirabilio suggested we check into Quinnipiac facilities

Sponsorship Totals

\$38,750 – including \$19,000 from the Mayor via Quinnipiac. Other donations amounted to \$5,619.25 including merchandise sales

Expense Totals

\$136,687.54 plus a couple of small bills that have not been paid to date

Concerts 2012

Ms. Coleman said Tower of Power is under new management. They called and asked if we wanted to book them for next summer. Ms. Coleman will make them an offer after next month's meeting, after the Summer Concert Committee meets.

Outdoor Movie Night

E. T. will be shown at Town Center Park at 7:30 p.m. on September 9, 2011, thanks to Matt Fitch, Tracy Nista's brother, and chairman of the Town Center Park Commission. Vendors will be there. There will be a decision by noon on Friday regarding the weather.

Celebrating Donald Hall

Mr. Hall will be at Thornton Wilder Hall on September 16 at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a presentation by Mayor Jackson. This is a collaboration of several groups, The Arts Commission, The Historical Society, the Poetry Society, Hamden High School, Friends of the Library, etc. Our assistant director of the Library is working on this and is doing a great job. We have been asked to cover the hotel expense for Mr. Hall.

Ms. Nista made a motion to approve the payment of the hotel expense for Mr. Hall. Ms. Jason seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. Coleman said on Wednesday, September 14th, a Yale professor is speaking on Donald Hall.

Saturday Series 2011-2012

The schedule was reviewed (copy attached). **Ms. Sandler made a motion to approve the Saturday Series schedule. Ms. Gargiulo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Sunday Series 2011-2012

Ms. Jason suggested Jazz musician Giacomo Gates – Loraine Brown will speak to him, Other suggestions were: Riverboat Ramblers (we had them last October) St. Luke's Steel Drums; Raymond Suntino; Broadway show tunes; Brian Gillie, The Trumpet Man; Jeffrey Barnhardt. We will have further discussion next month.

Coordinator's Report – no further comments.

New Business Ideas

Good & Welfare

Mr. Moore has a new granddaughter – 5 lbs 5 oz.

Mr. Moore went to the City Seed Farmer's Market on Park Street in New Haven, and Sarah Heath was there playing the steel drums.

Mr. Kortsep recommended The Shaksperience. They do adult and junior shows.

Boogie Chillin', who performed for us as an opening act last summer, has a program about music that they perform in schools.

Ms. Schiff and Ms. Jason mentioned Giovanni's Restaurant, 1774 Dixwell that provided such nice food for the concert and is a nice place to eat.

Adjournment

Ms. Nista made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sandler seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk