

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, October 5, 2011

7 pm: Miller Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Marita Gargiulo, Donna Etkin, Charles Kortsep, Mark Peel, Evelyn Skelly, Loraine Brown, Lois Jason, Stacy Sandler, Lisa DeGrand, Derek Mirabilio, Tracy Nista, Ricardo Henriquez

Commissioners Excused: George Moore, Sandy Schiff

Others in Attendance: Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts, Recreation and Culture
Steve Graham, Auxiliary Member
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

Call to Order Ms. Jason called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes Ms. Dozier made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 7th meeting as submitted. Ms. Elkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report Mr. Kortsep reported a Saturday Series balance as of 9/25/11 of \$15, 079.70. He also reported a balance in the Gift Fund of \$26,498.36.
The Town Line accounts report was distributed and reviewed.

Old Business

Brief Reports:

Outdoor Movie Night - Ms. Coleman reported that Ms. DeGrand and Ms. Elkin attended and it was a great movie and a beautiful night. ET was shown in Town Center Park on an inflatable screen. Ms. Coleman had to call in Tom Conway to help with the sound. The Mayor was ready to speak into the mike, and they couldn't get the volume up. This company has offered to come back free of charge next year. The cost was about \$900 plus licensing fees. The inflatable screen would cost between \$11,000 and \$15,000 to purchase. Ms. Brown said if you already have the speaker system, it costs much less. She will check. It was Matt Fitch's idea to give the community a chance to vote on what movie to show. Ms. DeGrand mentioned that in NYC, there are many locations where they have outdoor movies.

Celebrating Donald Hall - Ms. Gargiulo said it was really a nice night and Ms. McNicol worked very hard to set it up. It was a standing room only crowd. It was a very good, positive evening. This all began with Nancy McNicol reading one of Mr. Hall's poems about Hamden. Connecticut's poet laureate did a nice job with the introductions. Mr. Peel mentioned that it was kind of odd that others were reading Mr. Hall's poetry, but it worked out well.

Saturday Series

Schedule as follows: 10/22/11 Juggling with a Comedy Twist

11/5/11 Magic

12/3/11 The Steadfast Tin Soldier

1/21/12 Pirate School

2/4/12 Yo Yo Show

3/3/12 Sleeping Beauty

Ms. Sandler volunteered to make name buttons for the commissioners and volunteers. Ms. Coleman will supply Ms. Sandler with the correct information.

Sunday Series

Schedule as follows: 10/23/11 Broadway, Hollywood & Swing Era Song & Dance

11/6/11 The Trumpet in Your Life

1/22/12 That's Amore: An Afternoon of romantic Italian & American Songs

2/26/12 The Joyous Sounds of the Caribbean

3/4/12 Giacomo Gates

Ms. Coleman asked Ms. Brown to help with some publicity ideas for Brian Gillie, whom she knows personally.

There was discussion on the Arts Commission Web site and Facebook page

Ms. Gargiulo will put the Saturday and Sunday series schedules at the Neighborhood Music School.

Several Commissioners volunteered to help at the Saturday and Sunday Series.

Free Family Movie Series

Schedule as follows: 10/21/11 Rango

11/18/11 Zookeeper

12/16/11 Kung Fu Panda 2

1/20/12 Smurfs

2/17/12 Mr. Popper's Penguins

3/9/12 Cars 2

Fundraising Ideas

The commission liked the fund raising ideas Tracy Nista presented at the last meeting. One idea is to ask area artists to make cast off tables and chairs beautiful again and hold an evening where we can have wine, cheese and auction them off. Perhaps they would do old frames too. We would charge admission. Mr. Mirabilio suggested that participating artists get their names in the data base that Mr. Peel and his committee is creating. Mr. Peel will give that idea some consideration. Ms. Sandler suggested a \$25 ticket price. Ms. Gargiulo suggested Ms. Sandler might invite student artists. Mr. Henriquez said he will donate the rental fee for the Eli Whitney Museum. Ms. Coleman will try to get the price of \$300 lowered.

Idea #2 is an appraisal event. This would have a lower admission price, perhaps geared to senior patrons. The ticket would get them two appraisals from local appraisers that would donate their time. Perhaps we would have live music, cookies & coffee.

Ms. Nista mentioned that the Unitarian Society is asking for stray pieces of sterling that people no longer want, and they just raised \$6,000 at the drop a hat.

Ms. Coleman mentioned the talent and talentless variety show.

Other suggestions were another Hawaiian Night, bus trips, a direct appeal/membership drive, etc. Ms. Brown mentioned gifts for donations such as a mug, umbrella, and/or a tote bag, all with the Arts Commission logo. We might also offer discounts from Hamden vendors for a contribution.

Summer Concert Committee Report

The Committee met and came up with about thirty names, which Ms. Coleman will email to everyone.

Coordinator's Report

Ms. Coleman reported that Ms. Jason will be turning 80 on November 14th, and Ms. Coleman will host a party at her house on Saturday, November 19th, starting at 6:00 p.m. Ms. DeGrand will coordinate the food.

New Business/Ideas/Good & Welfare

Ms. Jason will have a table at the Whitneyville Fall Festival. Mr. Mirabilio will help. They will have a donation bowl, and hand out program flyers and counter cards. We have to make our presence known. The festival will be along the street and on the church grounds, etc. From 11:00 a.m. To 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 15th.

Adjournment

Ms. Nista made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk