

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, November 2, 2011

7 pm: Miller Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Lisa DeGrand, Loraine Brown, Lois Jason, Stacy Sandler, Donna Etkin, Mark Peel, Charles Kortsep, Derek Mirabilio, Deborah Dozier, Sandy Schiff

Commissioners Excused: Ricardo Henriquez, George Moore, Tracy Nista, Evelyn Skelly, Marita Gargiulo

Others in Attendance: Mimsie Coleman, Arts Recreation & Culture Coordinator,
Steve Graham, Auxiliary Member, Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

The Fund Raising Committee met prior to the Regular Meeting, and will schedule another meeting.

Ms. Jason called meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Ms. Schiff introduced Ken Sause, who presented information regarding fund raising bus trips. If the Commission sells the full bus out, it will receive \$1,300. Mr. Sause is a colleague of Ms. Schiff, and he plans individual trips for groups. The fund raising committee is very enthusiastic about these trips.

Ms. Sause said he tries to recreate a seven day trip in one day. His suggestions were a 5/19/12 Salute to Connecticut Tour. He would put details into a brochure. We would tour the Griswald Museum, an architectural tour of Guilford, Goodspeed Opera House and Chester for lunch. He also mentioned a tour of the Thimble Islands. The cost would be all inclusive. People pay one price and it includes everything except drinks and souvenirs. A second trip would be to Salem, with a walking architectural tour, a tour of the witches museum, Nathaniel Hawthorne house, Pickering Wharf, and lunch at Finn's restaurant. There would be audience participation in mock witch trial. We would return home about 8. A third trip would be 12/15/2012 Christmas in Newport. We would have a behind the scenes tour at The Elms (upstairs/downstairs), a Marble House Tour, carol singers during the day, lunch, downtown for free time, back to The Breakers for caroling. In addition, we would have punch, Italian pastry, and Subway and chips for the way home. The Cost would be approximately \$139 per person, but Newport will be a little more. We would be on the road at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Kortsep agreed to

collect the money and be the liaison to Mr. Sause. Mr. Sause sells 53 seats on the bus.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Etkin's name was spelled wrong in the October minutes. A change was made at Mr. Peel's request in his comments regarding the Donald Hall evening.

Ms. Sandler made a motion to approve the minutes of the October Meeting. Mr. Peel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Charles reported that as of 10/25 , there was a balance of \$16,097.09 in the Saturday Series Account and \$27,581.02 in the gift fund. He then reviewed the Town lines accounts.

Fund raising Ideas: Bus Trips discussed earlier

Some ideas were Sleepy Hollow for the Jack O'Lantern blaze and Courtland Manor, where they have 3,000 carved pumpkins with different themes. Newport, Madison and Keene do this on a smaller scale. Perhaps we could do something like this at the Skiff Street tunnel. Ms. Sandler said we have to consider the amount of work compared to the potential profit.

Dr. Levitt (per Mr. Mirabilio) expressed interest in donating through his business to the Hamden Arts Commission. This is an example of an independent local business owner that is willing to support the Arts. Commissioners could visit local businesses and show them our advertising. Mr. Mirabilio would be willing to do this if it if he had something tangible to hand them. There was discussion on using titles based on the amount of the donation, i.e. gold member, silver, patron, etc.

Ms. Schiff said at our last meeting the fund raising committee discussed having artists paint pieces of furniture and have a function with a silent auction She has two pieces of furniture and an object in her garage that she would donate, but we would need someone to pick up the items and a place to store them.

Old Business

Saturday Series

Airborne Jugglers (Oct. 22) Pd \$500, brought in \$337, not sure why it was not better attended, but it was a beautiful day to be outside.

Magic with Scott Jameson (Nov. 5)

Lois Jason and Mark Peel volunteered to work.

Sunday Series

Brian Gillie (Oct. 23) cost \$200, took in \$780

Trumpet Man (Nov. 6) postponed to April 22, 2012 due to death in performer's family

Silverbells (Dec. 3) weather permitting with Sunday 12/4 as the rain date.

Ms. Sandler designed the flyer last year and will do this year's. The Girls Scouts do caroling, then we have community caroling. CTB is coming, Bill Lastromerski will collaborate with Amy Goldberg, Hamden's Director of Fine Arts. The Girl Scouts would like us to move our puppet show up an hour so they can attend, so that will be at 2:30. Santa is Mr. Goldberg again. Santa will come at 4:25. Ms. Coleman said we can rent a heater that we can use inside a tent. Commissioners decided to start the event at 3:00 p.m. The Rotary Club will do munchkins and cider. Hopefully we can get the popcorn man. Soup Lady was suggested. We will have the carousel again, and Matt Fitch will pay for part of the cost.

Salute to Young Artists: date set: May 18

Summer Concert Committee report

Ms. Coleman presented a list of possible summer concert groups. The summer concert committee will take this up at their next meeting.

Coordinator's Report

Franz Dousky is a poet who does a local, program on WQUN. He is married to former commissioner Sarah Heath. Mr. Dousky is on a long nomination list for a Pulitzer Prize for his last book of poetry. He donated \$100 toward the cost of Donald Hall's hotel room. Perhaps we can have a night of poetry for him, and perhaps he could sign and sell some of his books.

Ms. Coleman reported that the Commission received the State grant that helps pay for Joanie's salary, and she can use some of that to Pay Ms. DeGrand for helping out in the office. Ms. Coleman reported that she feels good about what she is doing for the Recreation Department, but doesn't feel she is putting in enough time for the Arts Commission. Commissioners want to help out. Ms. Coleman will try to think about what kind of work can be shared.

There was discussion on Facebook and the Commission's Web Site.

2012 Meeting Calendar

The 2012 Schedule of Meetings was distributed. One of the Regular Meeting dates would fall on the July 4th Holiday, so it was moved to June 27th. **Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the 2012 meeting schedule. Ms. Etkin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

A birthday party in honor of Lois Jason will be held on Saturday, November 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Ms. Coleman's home at 57 Swarthmore Street. Everyone will bring food to share.

New Business/Ideas/Good & Welfare

Ms. Schiff reported that the US Army Band of Liberty is performing at SCSU, Lyman Hall on November 12, 2011.

Fund raising was covered above. Ms. Dozier will send her press kit to Mr. Mirabilio. Commissioners liked his fund raising idea.

There was discussion on working with Hamden Chamber members and discussion on planning an additional bus trip in August.

Other fund raising ideas were discussed. Chili's would donate 10% of the proceeds if the Commission planned an evening there. Other restaurants offer similar plans including Friendly's. Raffles were also mentioned. Ms. Coleman mentioned that you need permission from the State of CT to hold a raffle.

Adjournment

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

Submitted by: _____

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk