

# HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, December 7, 2011

7 pm: Miller Center Activity Room

Commissioners in Attendance: Mark Peel, Marita Gargiulo, Lisa DeGrand, Lois Jason, Donna Elkin,  
George Moore, Sandy Schiff, Tracy Nista

Commissioners Excused: Evelyn Skelly, Loraine Brown, Deb Dozier, Charles Kortsep, Derek  
Mirabilio, Stacy Sandler, Ricardo Henriquez

Also in Attendance: SCSU Student Michael Bellemore, Arts Coordinator Mimsie Coleman,  
Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

Call to Order: Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioners in Attendance: change Etkin to Elkin

**Ms. Jason made a motion to approve the minutes of October 5, 2011. Mr. Peel seconded the motion.**

**The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Treasurer's Report

In Mr. Kortsep's absence, Ms. Coleman reported a balance of \$15,813.49 in the Saturday Series Account and a balance of \$27,061.72 in the Gift Fund. In the Town accounts, the temporary wages account will be depleted by January. There is still a balance in Special Programs. Ms. Coleman said the Administration is going to request the Arts allotment from the Quinnipiac donation. We received \$19,500 last year.

Old Business

## Silverbells Critique

Ms. Jason said box office was very busy. We made \$18! There was discussion regarding the acceptance of \$100 bills at the box office. Ms. Jason was concerned that a \$100 bill could be counterfeit. Ms. Coleman will pick up a pen that you can use to check the validity of paper money. Ms. Nista said many people use \$20's, which is what they get from ATMs. Ms. DeGrand wondered if we could find the line separators to keep the ticket line more orderly. Ms. Nista said the Library has one. Ms. Jason said it was almost a full house – 300?. Mr. Peel worked outside making buttons. He said Ms. Sandler ran the face painting. There was a large backup, we need more than two face painters. Parents were getting antsy. We need a longer table too. There was an enormous crowd, and long lines. The line for the hayride went all the way across the field. Next year it might make sense to rent another tent and another heater. Santa was great. This event will be on Comcast 26 or 27, but Ms. Coleman is not sure when. Hamden school kids were invited to participate in the carol singing. The temperature started to drop after 4:30 p.m., and volunteers were there until 7:00 p.m.

## Saturday Series

Robert Rogers (Dec. 3) cost: \$700/ticket sales: \$718

Pirate School (Jan. 21)

Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Jason?, Ms. Coleman, Mr. Peel?, Iris and Ms. Nista will work.

## Sunday Series

Raymond Suintino (Jan. 22)

Mr. Suintino will make the ladies swoon! He hands out roses and sings romantic songs.

## Summer concerts

Although there are no contracts signed at this point, the following acts will be contacted. Ms. Coleman will make an offer to Three Dog Night tomorrow. The committee is making an effort to stay within the budget this year because donations seem to be lower than in the past.

1 Doo Wop (Shirley Alston Reeves, Belmonts, Duprees) \$17,000-\$17,500

2 NRBQ	\$10,000
3 Southside Johnny	\$17,500
4 Chuck Negron of Three Dog Night	\$15,000

Volunteer Fire Fighters have not yet decided to plan a fireworks display next summer. Duane Wetmore, one of the founders of the fireworks and a long time volunteer firefighter passed away recently, and Ms. Coleman can't see them not having it this year.

Ms. Schiff said even if we don't have the fireworks, we should still go ahead and have a military band. (June 27). Commissioners agreed.

#### Fundraising Discussion

Ms. Nista mentioned the auction of painted and decorated objects, furniture, birdhouses, etc. to be held at the Eli Whitney Museum in November. Ms. Nista had a shoreline newspaper showing a similar event in Stony Creek. We have to start accumulating abandoned furniture. We also need to start a list of people/artists that would like to participate. Ms. Schiff suggested contacting Paier School of Art. Ms. Coleman said the museum will hold the date for us. The event will be planned for Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Schiff said Ken Souse is very excited to be working with us. He plans to write out the itineraries for the three bus trips. They are: May 19<sup>th</sup>, Taste of Connecticut; October 13<sup>th</sup>, Salem; and December 15<sup>th</sup> Newport at Christmas.

Ms. Schiff presented information on accepting donations from individuals. She described the titles given to donors by various organizations. Ms. Nista said we are a Town commission which makes us different. Ms. Coleman said cold mailings have a very low return.

#### Coordinator's Report

Ms. Coleman asked Ms. DeGrand to share her idea called a pumpkin blaze. Artists carve pumpkins and people pay to walk through the display.

Ms. Coleman reminded commissioners that we have to think about our budget for next year.

New Business/Ideas/Good & Welfare

Adjournment

**Ms. Jason made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Peel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk