

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
Meeting of Wednesday, Jan 6th, 2021 at 7 pm
Via Zoom MEETING ID: 987 1996 0008
PASSWORD: music
PHONE IN: 1 646-558-5686

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Moore, Ms. Elkin, Ms. McGarry, Ms. Gargiulo, Ms. Schiff, Mr. Kortsep, Ms. Hughey, Ms. Carter-David
Commissioners Excused: Ms. Jason, Ms. Hunter, Ms. LBrown
Commissioners Absent: Ms. DBrown
Others in Attendance: Ms. Buggie, Ms. Tobin

Call to Order

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. New Member Alex Hughey was introduced

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Gargiulo made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2020 meeting. Ms. McGarry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Martindale reported the following balances: Gift Fund - \$52,149; Saturday Series ; \$12,238. The balance of the Peter Hereld Fund was not available.

Old Business

Chair's Report

Mr. Moore would like to have a brainstorming session to decide who we are as a Commission and how we move forward in the current COVID-19 climate. Commissioners agreed, and there was lengthy discussion. Ms. Tobin noted the requirements of Commission Meetings, stating that they have to be posted and be made available to the public. Commissioners are trying to figure out how the proceed.

Director's Report

Switching Banks to Liberty Bank

Ms. Smith was not in attendance at the meeting due to medical issues. Ms. Martindale noted that some Webster Bank branches are closing. The Commission would like to move its accounts to Liberty Bank. They have been a great sponsor of our events and we would like to do more with them. Ms. Martindale thanked Ms. Schiff for making the connection.

Cultural Asset Mapping

Ms. Martindale has been working on cultural asset mapping. This is the same idea as our directory but bigger. The Austin Texas Model invites districts to list cultural assets in their area inviting community input. She is moving forward with this and will have some work for the Commission members at some point.

Salute to Young Artists Planning

This year the event will probably be virtual. Ms. Martindale mentioned that every year we ask students to participate and tell them they are winning an award, but they don't get the award unless they perform in the showcase where they get their certificates from the Town and the State. She has been thinking about a

scholarship. The event is normally held during the students' busiest time of the school year, with proms, finals, etc. occurring at the same time.

Ms. Schiff said when she started working on that program there were money gifts for each person, but as more awards were given, it became too expensive. Merle's Records paid half and the Commission paid half. Then we got involved with a state senator, and certificates from the State as well as certificates from the Town were presented. We are not bringing in any money this year, but she doesn't think at this time we should be giving monetary awards. Commissioners asked about the process. Ms. Martindale said we have to get the teachers involved in recommending students. Last year we had about 20 performers. Ms. Gargiulo thinks certificates are worth more than \$25. New Commissioner Ms. Hughey agreed. She said she is a junior at Southern Connecticut State University working toward becoming an art therapist. She would like to show her work. She is a former honoree.

New Business/Ideas:

Ms. Buggie reported that the Hamden Symphony Orchestra presented a fall video compilation. Everyone did their solo performance and they hired someone to put it all together. They raised \$400 for the Hamden Food Bank. They are currently developing plans for the spring. She also gave Commissioners the link to a video she created for her mother's birthday. Ms. Buggie called Ms. Gargiulo and did a piano performance for her.

Ms. Schiff was impressed with the toy and food drive held in Hamden. Ms. Martindale designed a bumper sticker for the event, and it was advertised on Channel 8. Ms. Martindale explained that this was a major learning experience for her. She didn't realize that this was actually two separate events. The food drive was started by the Hamden Volunteer Fire Department with donations going to the Keefe Center. The toy drive was started twenty years ago by Chris and Don Buchele with the Keefe center as the beneficiary. Ms. Martindale did some promotion, but would like to start with the initial planning next year. The toy drive was started as an opportunity for the Hamden High School cheerleaders and was held every Saturday for six weeks. The next weekend the toy drive was for the Marine's Toys for Tots program, and that one was heavily covered by Channel 8.

Ms. Martindale worked with the Hamden Police Department and designed be safe and community of car lawn signs which have been placed around Town.

Good & Welfare

There was discussion on the reading of children's books, which was being done by two Hamden Police Officers, but is no longer being offered.

Adjournment

Ms. Gargiulo made a motion to adjourn. Ms Schiff seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission.