

**Hamden Arts Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
7pm  
Via Zoom/ Telephonically**

**Recording Info:**

**\*To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:\***

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/a8jPly3exARS8VHK3h9Rou7Q1xSVwDFJsx4eAUKuKUlJHjXfmwGi3rOixBVRfkeZ.DAYJtUNrQJZqa6HP>

**\*\*Access Passcode: \*30GWw!G**

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**Minutes**

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairwoman Howard called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.
- 2. Attendance:**
  - a. In Attendance: Lushonda Howard, Chairwoman; Charlotte Lefland; Alex Mickens; Lisa Morrison; Donna Elkin; Diane Brown; Marita Gargiulo; Loraine Bornholdt-Brown; George Moore; Sandy Schiff; Susan Cutillo
  - b. Absent: Charles Kortsep; Peggy Craft; Siobhan Carter-David
  - c. Also In Attendance: Alisha Martindale, Arts Department; Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk
- 3. Approval of Past Minutes:** February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022
  - a. Ms. Lefland made a motion to approve the February 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Bornholdt-Brown. All were in favor.
- 4. Report of the Chairwoman**
  - a. Chairwoman Howard notified the commission that she has made several attempts to contact Commissioner Margaret Craft, who has not attended any meetings since 2021. She has not heard back from her, and therefore asked any commissioners who know her, to inquire about her interest in actively participating on the commission.
  - b. Chairwoman Howard notified the commission that Ms. Mendes resigned, which leaves a vacancy for the vice-chair position. Chairwoman Howard moved to hold an election to fill the vacancy, which was seconded by Ms. Lefland. All were in favor. Chairwoman Howard asked for any nominations. Ms. Gargiulo nominated Ms. Elkin. Ms. Lefland nominated Ms. Brown. Chairwoman Howard asked for any other nominations, and no additional names were volunteered.
  - c. A vote was first held for Ms. Elkin with the following results:

Marita Gargiulo  
Loraine Bornholdt-Brown

Yay  
Yay

Donna Elkin	Yay
George Moore	Yay
Sandy Schiff	Yay
Susan Cutillo	Nay
Charlotte Lefland	Nay
Lushonda Howard	Nay
Alex Mickens	Nay
Diane Brown	Nay
Lisa Morrison	Nay

d. A vote was then held for Ms. Brown with the following results:

Marita Gargiulo	Nay
Loraine Bornholdt-Brown	Nay
Donna Elkin	Nay
George Moore	Nay
Sandy Schiff	Nay
Susan Cutillo	Yay
Charlotte Lefland	Yay
Lushonda Howard	Yay
Alex Mickens	Yay
Diane Brown	Yay
Lisa Morrison	Yay

Ms. Brown is the newly elected vice-chair for the Arts Commission.

## 5. Report of the Treasurer

- a. Ms. Lefland reported the current balances in the Webster accounts:
  - i. Gift Fund: \$48,843.79
  - ii. Saturday Series: \$12,729.67
- b. Ms. Lefland notified the commission that along with Ms. Martindale, she is working on getting her name added as a signatory on the commission bank accounts. Chairwoman Howard requested that this task be added to the “Action Items” agenda item for the April meeting.

## 6. Old Business

### a. MLK Mural Project

- i. After discussing with a representative from the mural project, it was suggested that instead of a straight cash donation, the commission could purchase materials for the project. Commissioners discussed the amount they wished to put towards the project. Several questioned other potential funding sources for the project as well. Ms. Martindale clarified that the \$15,000 cost of the mural includes a five year maintenance plan and an anti-graffiti coating, community paint days, an unveiling event, and media coverage. She detailed her efforts to secure a grant match from Sustainable CT, which could potentially cover roughly half of the costs of the mural. Ms. Martindale urged the commission to support the project with a definitive monetary amount, which would offer credibility when applying for the grant. Ms. Brown made a motion to participate in the MLK Mural Project by donating \$5,000 to the cost of the mural, which was seconded by Ms. Cutillo. Some commissioners expressed concern regarding the potential political nature

of the mural and discussed the content. Ms. Martindale made the commissioners aware that RiseUP, the organization spearheading the mural project, is conducting an online survey with the Hamden community, in regards to the mural content and aesthetic. After a brief discussion, the motion was revisited. The results were as follows:

Marita Gargiulo	Yay
Loraine Bornholdt- Brown	Yay
Donna Elkin	Yay
George Moore	Abstained
Susan Cutillo	Yay
Charlotte Lefland	Yay
Lushonda Howard	Yay
Alex Mickens	(had left meeting prior to vote)
Diane Brown	Yay
Lisa Morrison	Yay
Sandy Schiff	Yay

Therefore the motion carried.

**b. Summer Concert Planning**

- i. Ms. Martindale reviewed the collaborative Google Doc containing the preliminary line up for the summer concert series. She has begun contacting potential acts and will distribute the letter templates, which are used to secure vendor donations.

**7. New Business**

**a. Salute to Young Artists**

- i. Ms. Martindale explained that this event is a gallery show case, in which awards are given out to young artists by the commission. It is typically held during the first week of May. She asked the commission if they wished to move forward with the event, as in-person events are becoming more possible. Chairwoman Howard asked commissioners if they wished to move forward with the event. All commissioners present were in favor of moving forward with the Salute to Young Artists.

**b. Saturday Series- Donna (Chair)- Need committee members -(tabled)**

**c. Sunday Series- Loraine (Chair)- Need committee members -(tabled)**

**d. Silver Bells- Chair/Committee members needed -(tabled)**

**8. Vote on Future Art Commission Event (short/long term) -(tabled)**

**9. Action Items-(tabled)**

10. **Adjournment:** Chairwoman Howard tabled agenda items #7b-9 until the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. She made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm, which was seconded by Ms. Schiff. All were in favor.

**Submitted by:** Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk