

MINUTES of the Hamden Arts Commission Informal Session 4/7/21

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Informal Notes of the Arts Commission meeting of April 7, 2021. A quorum was not available.

Commissioners in Attendance: Ms. Elkin, Ms. Schiff, Mr. Kortsep, Ms. Carter-David

Commissioners Excused: Ms. LBrown, Ms. Gargiulo, Ms. McGarry

Commissioners Absent: Ms. DBrown, Mr. Moore, Ms. Jason, Ms. Mickens

Others in Attendance: Arts Manager Ms. Martindale, Commission Clerk Ms. Tobin

Ms. Elkin called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

The Minutes of the March meeting were tabled to the May 4, 2021 meeting

When asked about the possibility of fireworks this July, Ms. Martindale responded that she met with Fire Chief Merwede, Public Works employees and others and the decision was no. Up to 20,000 people normally attend Hamden's fireworks and Connecticut has limits of 200 on the numbers of people that can attend outdoor events. Also, the addition of two wings to the Middle School to accommodate sixth grade students is scheduled to begin this summer.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Martindale reported the following account balances: Peter Hereld Account \$69,572; Gift Fund: \$52,149; and Saturday Series \$12,238.

Salute to Young Artists:

Ms. Martindale reported that she sent the nomination forms to all of our partner schools and has received a few back. She is working with Eric Nyquist who will send the information to the Hamden High School teachers. Students will be going back to full time in school or full time remote after their April vacation. When asked what teachers are responsible for, Ms. Martindale explained that they can nominate up to three students and write up a brief summary of the reason the students deserve the nomination. After that Ms. Martindale will contact the students. Mr. Nyquist suggests that students submit photos of their art or videos of their performances.

Ms. Martindale's vision for summer and fall 2021 is instead of large events, we can have smaller events spaced around Town at different venues, such as smaller scale concerts featuring local bands, which will be affordable on our limited budget. She has a list of area bands, some of which performed at our Farmer's Markets. She will send the list to Commissioners to make selections. She has not spoken to anyone yet, but would like to have Thabiza. We had a contract with her last summer, which

we had to cancel. Other thoughts are an 80's night, a rock band, someone suggested a swing band, etc. In response to Ms. Tobin's question, Ms. Martindale said we might have musicians entertain at restaurants like we did last summer. Concerts at the Keefe Center's outdoor space are also a possibility. Ms. Schiff brought up the subject of the lights and sound we use at Town Center Park. Ms. Martindale said we will do our regular concerts on the green. The typical expense for lights and sound for summer concerts is \$50,000. We currently have less than \$40,000 in our budget and we won't know what our budget starting on July 1st will be. Ms. Smith has asked for \$75,000. The budget for 2021-2022 is still being deliberated. In previous years we got our concert lineup together before we knew how much of a budget we were getting.

Ms. Martindale said our major concerts were paid for out of a Town Line budget. There was lengthy discussion on the the budget process and the donations received by the Arts Commission toward the concert expenses.

Ms. Carter David said while she is in attendance tonight, she is the mother of two and a full time professor. She will continue to support the Commission as much as she is able. Ms. Schiff mentioned that she mentioned a country singer whose name she doesn't have at hand, but wondered if we could have a Country Music event. She also mentioned a singer that has virtual concerts which she enjoys.

Ms. Martindale said she was hoping everyone could come tonight with an idea that members could take the lead on, such as a poetry reading, organizing an art kit, etc. She would assist with the projects. Ms. Carter-David mentioned pandemic related art. Ms. Schiff mentioned that her daughter is willing to do a virtual art project. A summer book club was suggested. The Library has a book club and has wanted to have a Town wide Connecticut focused book club with a universal theme. Ms. Schiff had previously mentioned local artist Lois Golia. Ms. Martindale said perhaps Ms. Schiff could take the lead on that and she would help support it. Ms. Schiff mentioned that people do an art project at home with a theme and show their work at the end of their driveways. We could have a list of addresses like has been done for holiday decorations and people could drive around to see the work.

Ms. Tobin told Commissioners that this would be her last time clerking for the Commission. Liana Paglia who works at Government Center will be taking over as clerk. She wished everyone well with their endeavors.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk.