

**Hamden Arts Commission  
Minutes of a Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
7pm**

**Minutes**

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairwoman Howard called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
- 2. Attendance**
  - a. In Attendance:** Lushonda Howard, Chairwoman; Charlotte Lefland; Charles Kortsep; Peggy Craft; Alex Mickens; Donna Elkin; Susan Cutillo; Siobhan Carter- David
  - b. Absent:** Sandy Schiff (excused); Marita Gargiulo; George Moore; Lisa Morrison; Diane Brown
  - c. Also in Attendance:** Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk; Alisha Martindale, Arts Department/Economic Development
- 3. Approval of Past Minutes:** April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - a.** Ms. Lefland made a motion to approve the April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Cutillo. All were in favor.
- 4. Report of the Chairwoman**
  - a.** Chairwoman Howard noted that some progress with moving the AC accounts from Webster Bank to Liberty Bank. There was some discussion regarding this move. Ms. Martindale explained that there is some pushback, as all of the TOH's accounts are currently with Webster. Chairwoman Howard noted that an official vote will be conducted to assure that this change in banks, is wanted by a majority of the commissioners. Chairwoman Howard announced that Commissioner Ms. Lorraine Bornholdt-Brown has resigned from the commission after 13 years. She has enjoyed her time bringing the arts to Hamden, and will enjoy now focusing on her family moving forward. Finally, Ms. Martindale outlined her new role in the Economic Development Department, as the digital media coordinator. She will continue to oversee several lingering Arts Department projects during the transition.
- 5. Old Business**

A discussion was held to confirm commissioners' final placements on the committees for the Saturday/Sunday Series and the Silver Bells event.

- a. Saturday Series**
  - i.** Chair: Donna Elkin
  - ii.** Members: Marita Gargiulo, Charles Kortsep, Lisa Morrison, Peggy Craft
- b. Sunday Series**
  - i.** Chair: Alex Mickens
  - ii.** Members: Sandy Schiff, Susan Cutillo, George Moore, Alex Mickens
- c. Silver Bells**
  - i.** Chair: Lushonda Howard
  - ii.** Siobhan Carter-David, Charlotte Lefland, Diane Brown, Charles Kortsep
- d. MLK Mural Project**
  - i.** Ms. Martindale was happy to announce that she was successful in securing the grant she has been pursuing from SustainableCT. She explained that with this grant, SustainableCT will match whatever is raised for the mural. Currently, \$6000.00 has

been raised- \$5000.00 pledged by the AC, and \$1000.00 from a GoFundMe created by Ms. Martindale. She is hopeful that when the final “push” is made with the crowdfunding, the project will be easily funded. She also confirmed once again that the estimated cost for the mural is \$15,000.00. Ms. Martindale hopes to continue to oversee this project, despite her change in role.

**e. Summer Concert Planning**

- i.** Ms. Martindale confirmed the following concert dates: July 1<sup>st</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, and July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioners are needed to begin set up at 5pm. The opening act starts at 7:30 pm, and the main act starts at 8pm. At this point, she has sent the contracts to the main bands. She only has to fill in the slots for the opening acts. Ms. Martindale distributed a sample sponsorship letter for stores/shops, so that commissioners can begin to seek donations. She will distribute other sample letters prior to the next meeting. Ms. Martindale will directly contact the large organizations who have donated previously.

**6. New Business**

**a. Hamden Arts Festival- Amplify the Arts**

- i.** Ms. Mickens gave an overview of the upcoming Amplify the Arts festival, which will be held at Town Center park on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 1pm-7pm and at the Keefe Community Center on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 2pm-5pm. She was excited to announce that local artists/talents have signed up or submitted work to participate in the event. Ms. Martindale noted that a commission presence at this 2 day event would be beneficial in lending support, connecting with Hamden artists, but also to help publicize other upcoming events, such as Hamden Pride on June 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am- 2pm. Chairwoman Howard agreed with Ms. Martindale, and asked commissioners to let her know their availability to man the AC table at both the Amplify the Arts and Hamden Pride events.

**b. Hamden Pride Day**

- i.** (Please see above.)

**7. Action Items**

- a.** Chairwoman Howard requested that all commissioners let her know their availability for the upcoming events, so the AC table is manned at all times.

**8. Announcements**

- a.** There was a discussion regarding meeting in person versus meeting via Zoom. Ms. Craft made a motion to hold the next meeting in person, socially distanced, with masks strongly encouraged. Ms. Lefland seconded the motion, all were in favor.

- 9. Adjournment:** At 8:09 p.m., Ms. Elkin made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Carter-David. All were in favor.

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