

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA
Meeting of Wednesday, July 7th, 2021
Via Zoom/ Telephonically

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** At 7:16 pm, Vice Chairwoman Elkin decided to host an informal meeting, as a quorum was unable to be met.
 - a. In attendance: Donna Elkin, Vice Chairwoman; Loraine brown; Siobhan Carter-David; Sandy Schiff
 - b. Absent: Diane Brown; Marita Gargiulo; Lois Jason; Charles Kortsep; Jennifer McGarry; Alex Mickens; George Moore; Margaret Craft
 - c. Also in attendance: Alisha Martindale, Arts Department; Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk
2. **Approval of Minutes- N/A**
3. **Treasurer's Report- N/A**
4. **Old Business- N/A**
5. **Chair's Report- N/A**
6. **Director's Report- N/A**
7. **Summer Concerts**
 - a. Ms. Martindale recently got confirmation to proceed with planning a smaller summer concert series on the following dates: 8/13, 8/20, and 8/27. Some potential performers include: Boogie Chillun, The Rahsaan Langely Project, and The New London Big Band. The goal of the August concert series is to feature local talent, thereby putting money back into the community. It will also complement the Food Truck Festival on 8/6, which is being put on by the Mayor's Office. The festival will also feature entertainment from a DJ and a rock band. A special meeting will be held at a later date, so the commission can vote on the lineup.

Comments/Suggestions from the Commissioners:

Ms. Elkin questioned the price range of each band. Ms. Martindale commented that the quotes are in the \$1500-\$2000 range, and confirmed that they will be paid by the Arts & Culture department. Ms. Schiff commented that the commission should play a more active role in planning these types of events. Ms. Brown suggested making hospitality baskets for each performer, and mentioned the potential of getting some local items donated.

8. Farmers Market Performers

- a. Ms. Martindale confirmed that the Farmers Market performers are paid through the Arts & Culture budget line.

9. Art kits update

- a. Ms. Martindale announced that 200 kits can be arranged and donated this year. In an effort to avoid demand exceeding supply, the amount of assembled kits has been fixed this year. The public will be made aware that only 200 kits are available.

Comments/ Suggestions from the Commissioners:

Ms. Diane Brown (and friend), Ms. Loraine Brown, and Ms. Carter-David volunteered their time to assemble the kits. Ms. Elkin asked for clarification on what is inside each kit. Ms. Martindale said each kit contains the following: markers, crayons, colored pencils, a pencil sharpener, an eraser, sketch pads, and some additional supplies. Ms. Martindale also clarified that the kits will be placed in the Thornton Wilder Hall in the Miller Library and the Hamden Youth Center, and will be available for pickup on the honor system. The clerk was asked to clarify that the commission previously voted to spend up to \$3500.00 for the art kits.

10. New Business/Ideas:

- a. Account balances

- i. Ms. Martindale confirmed that the balance of the Saturday Series account is \$12,238.00 and the Gift Fund is \$52,151.00.
- b. Silver bells
 - i. There was general excitement regarding the upcoming Silver Bells, and several commissioners expressed interest in planning early.
- c. Restaurant Week
 - i. Ms. Martindale confirmed that Hamden Restaurant Week will be taking place this year and there is a potential for a collaboration with the Arts Department, in regards to the performers. She explained that the commission has to vote to spend money to be the main sponsors, and this can be placed on an upcoming agenda.

11. Pop-Up Events / new cultural events and ideas- N/A

12. Good & Welfare- N/A

13. Adjournment: The commissioners adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk