

HAMDEN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
 Regular Meeting
 Wednesday, October 6th, 2021
 7pm

Minutes

1. **Call To Order:** Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
2. **Attendance:**
 - a. **In Attendance:** George Moore, Chairman; Loraine Brown; Lisa Morrison; Donna Elkin; Charlotte Lefland; Siobhan Carter-David; Sandra Schiff;
 - b. **Absent:** Jennifer McGarry; Charles Kortsep; Diane Brown; Margaret Craft; Alex Mickens; Marita Gargiulo
 - c. **Also In Attendance:** Alisha Martindale, Arts Department; Julie Smith, Keefe Center; Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk
3. **Approval of Past Minutes:** September 8th, 2021
 - a. Ms. Schiff made a motion to approve the September 8th, 2021 minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Elkin. All were in favor.
4. **The Zakiya Harris Book event with Miller Library (Siobhan)**
 - a. Ms. Carter-David gave an overview of a potential spring 2022 event, honoring esteemed author and Hamden native, Zakiya Harris. Ms. Harris is the author of "The Other Black Girl," which gives insight into the unique experience and challenges that women of color, specifically Black women, face in the corporate environment. The goal is to hold an outdoor event in May, which could involve a live reading and discussion, a panel, and a book signing. Ms. Martindale explained that Ms. Canham-Clyne, the Library Director, suggested an all-town read of "The Other Black Girl." There may be a possibility for the library to apply for a grant to purchase copies of the book and distribute them to Hamden residents. The library would also produce programming and events around the book. Ms. Smith suggested tying in the event with Goldenbells, in spring 2022. Ms. Carter-David volunteered to be the point of contact for this event. Chairman Moore emphasized the importance of honoring Ms. Harris, regardless of whether or not the book selection qualifies for grant funds.
5. **Restaurant Week Recap**
 - a. Ms. Martindale reminded commissioners that they had previously voted to sponsor restaurant week performers. Because there was only one week between Hamden Fest and Restaurant Week, there was an inherent challenge in securing performers and getting the word out. A total of three restaurants had live music: Aunt Chilada's, Ixtapa, and Donato's. Two of the bands were Hamden based. Ms. Martindale expressed a hope that in 2022, this event planning will be more fruitful.
6. **MLK Mural with CT Murals**
 - a. Ms. Martindale updated the commission on the status of the MLK Mural Project. After narrowing down 15 potential mural locations, the Miller Library wall, facing Dixwell Ave was selected. Ms. Martindale explained that the library has already begun research into some Hamden figures of importance,

to be featured alongside MLK in the mural. The community will also be surveyed regarding these potential featured individuals. Ms. Martindale emphasized that this project is a collaborative opportunity between the Arts and Culture Department and the Arts Commission. Chairman Moore questioned how the commission could support the project. Ms. Martindale suggested the commission assist with publicizing the project and also with fundraising efforts. She suggested commissioners set up tables at some of the upcoming AC events to explain the project and collect donations. Ms. Martindale explained that organizations can donate up to a certain amount, but the project is heavily relied on through small donations from individuals.

7. Menorah Lighting

- a. The Menorah Lighting will be held on November 29th at 5pm in Freedom Park. The basic lighting and ceremony will be conducted by Rabbi Moisha Heckt. Ms. Schiff commented that it would be beneficial to incorporate this event with Silverbells, as the AC typically supports many Christmas themed events/activities.

8. Tree Lighting

- a. Ms. Martindale explained that due to Covid restrictions, the traditional Silverbells event will look a little different this year. She is confident that the tree lighting, a smaller scale luminary walk, and caroling will still be enjoyed. Ms. Smith suggested that instead of children sitting on Santa's lap, kids could bring their letters to a distanced Santa. Ms. Martindale said the Rotary Club may be interested in distributing hot cider. Ms. Smith also reminded commissioners that the toy drive will be taking place over three days, beginning 12/4. There is a possibility that a food drive will also be held during the same three days.

9. Goldenbells (Spring)

- a. Ms. Martindale expressed interest in reviving the Goldenbells event in spring 2022. Ms. Brown explained that historically, this was a town wide event, with heavy contributions made from Hamden businesses and organizations. Ms. Martindale explained that she is envisioning a calendar of events, including art activities, possibly in conjunction with the Zakiya Harris event. Ms. Smith suggested getting all town departments involved.

10. Comments/ Suggestions:

- a. After questions arose at previous AC meetings, Ms. Martindale put together a presentation which gave an overview of the differing roles, functions, and purpose of the Arts and Culture department vs. the Arts Commission. A discussion ensued regarding the respective roles and functions of each group. Overall, the discussion highlighted a need for the commission to come together as a cohesive group, and reexamine the bylaws and mission statement, prior to the next meeting.

11. Adjournment: At 9:12 pm, Ms. Brown made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Maloney.

Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk