

## The Arts Commission, Town of Hamden

Held a Regular Meeting via Zoom, on Wednesday, June 3, 2020. The following items were discussed:

### MINUTES

Commissioners in Attendance: Ms. Johnson, , Ms. LBrown, Ms. Schiff, Ms. Gargiulo, Ms. McGarry, Ms. DBrown, Ms. Carter David, Ms. Elkin, Mr. Fernandez, Ms. Torello  
Commissioners Excused: Ms. Hunter, Ms. Jason, Mr. Moore, Mr. Kortsep  
Others in Attendance: Ms. Buggie, Mr. Graham, Ms. Martindale, Ms. Tobin

Mr. Fernandez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report – Account balances are as follows: as of 4/30/20 the Peter Hereld Fund - \$69,437.28; as of 5/25/20 the Gift Fund - \$53,795.59 and the Saturday Series as of 5/25/20 - \$12,137.56.

Review of Minutes of March 4, 2020

**Ms. LBrown made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4th meeting. Ms. Gargiulo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Review Minutes of May 13, 2020

**Ms. McGarry made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Old Business

Chair's Report

- Summer event updates

Nancy: Ms. Torello has spoken with the Mayor about collaborating with Nancy from the Chamber

Marita:

- Mayoral poetry programming
- CT Poetry Society and Arts Paper interview

Siobhan:

- Classic Film Netflix Watch Party and Zoom Discussion - collaboration with Best Video
- Paint and Sip Party – Collaboration with PLACE? Any other Hamden organizations that do Paint and Sip collaboration with a local package store
- Zoom Artist discussion and art presentation
- Fashion collaboration with Fashhionista in New Haven – Owner is Hamden residents

Ms. Carter David has some ideas to take the place of our summer concerts. Her sorority chapter is working on getting canvases and putting together paint kits, then the artist helps with Paint and Sip program. Ms. Buggie knows an art teacher who does these. Ms. Schiff mentioned a Take it Easel program in Florida.

Miss Carter David also mentioned a Netflix watch party. Ms. Schiff mentioned that she saw Hamilton with the original cast on Disney Prime. Nancy from the chamber thought this was a great

idea and we could do it like the Police Department storytime. This would help more people know about the commission.

Ms. Martindale said she knows the owner of Fashionista and perhaps we could collaborate with her. She thought the owner was a Hamden resident, but Ms. Johnson said she lives on Clark Street in New Haven. Ms. Johnson said she has lots of positive energy. Ms. Martindale said Sandy of Liberty Bank has a fashion background. There is also a young man that works at Best Video who makes his own clothing. Ms. LBrown mentioned that Liberty Bank is non-profit oriented. Ms. Schiff mentioned tht Lois Goglia of Hamden creats silk scarves and has major shows.

Nancy:

- Report on Chamber Business happenings – Back to Business initiative

Director's Report

New Business/Ideas

- Idea: Summer Art Kit Subscription for kids and families
  - June/July/August
  - One kit per family per month
  - \$5 cost per family, Arts Commission funds the rest
  - Different Art prompt each month with the corresponding art materials
  - Kits get ordered on the Hamden website then we drive out and deliver
  - Collaborate with Hamden Youth Services, Hamden Fine Arts, Hamden Department of Arts and Culture and Connecticut Arts for Learning
  - Help needed every month shopping for supplies and putting kits together
  - We could have a maximum number of kits
  - Work with Hamden Public Schools and Arts Department and ask them what would go along with their curriculum
  - Maybe dispense kits at the Hamden Drive Through Farmer's markets this summer

Ms. LBrown mentioned that she is working with Susan Rubino of Hamden's Youth Services Department on a project with kids making posters and going around to local nursing homes so patients can look out their windows to see the posters. Hanging the posters in the nursing homes was also mentioned. Ms. Rubino is looking into funding.

Ms. Schiff inquired about Ms. Martindale's project on graduating students decorating their mortar boards. Ms. Martindale said she started this project to see if she could get people to join an online project. She got one response, and then others saying the Hamden seniors had not received their caps and gowns.

Ruth:

- How art was used during the Spanish Influenza

Ms. Johnson mentioned that the Spanish Flu pandemic happened at the same time as America's involvement in World War 1. The pandemic killed more Americans in World War 1 than the fighting did. She said many art movements may have grown out of that time. Cubism, Bauhaus, abstracts, as opposed to realism were popular. The Commissioner of Health in New York didn't want to close things down and didn't want to stifle the benefits of art. Theaters remained open. During times of trouble art is necessary.

Ms. Gargiulo mentioned that participation in online gatherings is important to her as she lives alone.

Ms. Johnson said we should talk with Debbie Chavoya, of P.L.A.C.E. She is a Hamden Resident and might want to do programs with Zoom.

- How can we collaborate with the Hamden Arts League

Ms. Johnson has not had an opportunity to speak with the chair of the Hamden Arts League as yet. HAL is in summer recess. They have talked about having things via Zoom but they are now on hold.

Ms. Buggie mentioned working with Hamden artists to do workshops on line, for an hour or two and the Commission could pay them an small amount. She mentioned drama, dance, yoga, writing. Ms. LBrown said she has a whole list of artists/performers. Ms. Buggie will work with Ms. LBrown and Ms. Gargiulo on this project.

Ms. Martindale said she has been working with different departments. She would like to sponsor Arts Kits and work with Sue Rubino and Arts for Learning and the arts departments at Hamden Public Schools. Families could register and sign up for the programs. The Arts Commission and Youth Services could purchase materials. Ms. LBrown mentioned that someone is already making packets and the program is already in the works.

Ms. Schiff said the kits are a great idea and she recommended the items be put together in zip lock bags. The kits could be handed out at the drive through Farmer's Market.

Ms. McGarry mentioned a Hamden coloring book. Ms. Martindale will look into illustration artists. Ms. Johnson said we could help with the Keefe Center project and make it bigger if we can put some funds in, and this project is geared to holder and DCF kids. The art kits would be geared to younger kids. The art work would be hung in nursing homes. Ms. LBrown and Ms. Torello will help with this project. Ms Martindale and Ms. LBrown know illustrators. Ms. Johnson said this is a great idea. We have no idea of costs yet, and Ms. Martindale should talk to Ms. Rubino. Ms. Schiff mentioned that a courtesy of note be placed in the kits.

Ms. Brown mentioned a local (CT) company called S&S that sells school supplies.

**Ms. Schiff made a motion that the Arts Commission donate up to \$2,500 in support of the following three projects: Art Kits for kids, the program with Sue Rubino for older kids involving local nursing homes; and a Hamden coloring book. After additional discussion on whether the dollar amount would be sufficient, it was decided that additional funds could be donated at a later date if necessary, Ms. McGarry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Good and Welfare

Updates on Ms. Jason, Ms. Hunter and Mr. Moore were provided and addresses and phone numbers were provided.

Adjournment

**Ms. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. LBrown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk