

Arts Commission Minutes
May 19, 2009

I. Call to Order

Meeting commenced at 7:50 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Attendance

Present: Frank Alcorace
Lisa D'Andrea
Marianna Hanley
Aldona LaPorta
Charley Marengi
Dave Santamauro
Ty Smith
Melissa Teator

Absent: Suzanne Crean
Craig Malone
Margie Paul-Gaston

IV. Officer's Report

A. Secretary's Report

Minutes for the April meeting were read and approved.

B. Treasurer's Report

The account has a present balance of \$304.27.

V. Public Comment

Kara Euvino, representing St. Michael's, discussed having some type of food booth on the Green at the summer concerts. She was looking for advice so that they could coordinate with what is already being served.

VI. Old Business

A. Veterans' Concert

All of the acts are set. Ty asked that commissioners be there at 6:15 to help.

B. Recital Series

About 2 dozen people attended the premier recital and were very pleased with the variety of entertainers. Another recital is set for June 10 with different acts.

There was discussion about providing a paid accompanist for vocalists. It was decided that we should not be responsible for an accompanist. Rather, we could have a list of possible accompanists from which the vocalist would choose and secure themselves. Further discussion was tabled until the June meeting.

C. Poetry Reading

The April 30th reading went well. Rachel's Coffehouse is willing to make the event a monthly happening. Melissa will coordinate with Rachel's and Anthony Sorge of NHS to have a poetry reading every 1st Thursday, beginning June 4.

D. Harvest Moon

Ty reports that all the acts are booked for September.

E. Summer Concert Letter to Police

Craig Malone was asked to draft a new letter to the police for the summer series. He has sent the letter.

F. Scholarship

Ty passed around the 4 applicants' information and essays. It was decided to award each student \$300. That leaves enough in the account to start for next year.

G. Summer Concerts

All the summer concerts are covered with commissioners in charge. Ty will make copies of the schedule for the next meeting.

We discussed Kara Euvino's mention of having a prayer box at the concerts. We will ask

that they not walk through the crowd, but keep the box at the booth.

H. Photo Contest

We discussed several ideas and settled on Charley's suggestion of architecture. We opened it past Naugatuck to be "Architecture in the Naugatuck River Valley", with an address required for verification of the location. The contest will begin at the 1st summer concert on June 16.

I. Mural Grant

We will not vote on the Central Ave. artwork by Nancy Haack this year. Charley has seen her work and says it is very well done. Marianna will follow up with Nancy for the Fall.

J. Event Checklist

Tabled for a future meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Future Events/Ideas

Several commissioners are still in favor of working on the Senior Prom idea for real seniors.

We discussed holding it in the Fall at the old Elks hall in the Neary Building or the American Legion hall. We will book a DJ and promote it at the summer concerts.

B. Event Sign Letters

Ty will return the event sign letters to Aldona.

C. Library Piano Tuning

We discussed covering the cost of the library's piano tuning as small compensation for use of the Reading Room for the recital series. Dave made a motion – "*Motion to allocate \$90 for the piano tuning at the Howard Whittemore Library.*" Charley seconded.

Motion passed.

D. Pens

More pens are needed for the scholarship "bucket" nights at the summer concerts. Melissa made a motion – "*Motion to allocate \$250 for the purchase of pens for the summer concert series.*" Marianna seconded. Motion passed. Frank suggested we try getting coupons from Duchess, Cumby's, etc. to give away on "bucket" nights also.

E. Library Grant

The Whittemore Library is requesting a grant to buy books, because their budget was cut and they have no money to purchase any. Charley reported that the staff is doing such things as bake sales to make money. The library has now initiated a monthly donation "Best Seller Program". A \$100 donation for the month purchases best sellers for the adult section. That person or organization will have their name put on a plaque in the library and inside the book. Melissa made a motion – "*Motion to allocate \$400 to the Howard Whittemore Library. \$200 is for 2 months of the Best Seller Program and \$200 is for the purchase of arts-related books for children and adults.*" Dave seconded.

Motion passed.

F. June Meeting

There was discussion on the amount of activities near the June meeting date. There is nothing pressing in June that we cannot resolve through e-mails or at the weekly concerts. We are looking into finding a file cabinet for all the commission materials.

G. Miscellaneous

The remaining monies in the Arts treasury need to be spent by June 30th, which is before the next meeting. Melissa made a motion – "*Motion to allocate \$150 for WalMart gift cards as prizes for the Photo Contest.*" Charley seconded. Motion passed.

Lisa requested an invoice from the Community Choir for the \$100 summer concert ad in their Spring concert program booklet. Aldona will get that to her, so they can be paid.

Marianna made a motion – "*Motion to use the remaining monies to pay the "pARTicipate" Posters bill and then purchase a WalMart gift card for purchase of future supplies.*" Frank Seconded. Motion passed.

VIII. Roundtable

Charley – "Nice to be back."

Marianna – Posters available for June 20 pARTicipate event. Please put them around town.

Lisa – Next meeting will be **Tuesday, July 16 at 7:30 p.m.**

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was called to a close at 9:15 p.m.