

Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2006

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

Attendance

Present:

Frank Alcorace

Suzanne Crean

Lisa D'Andrea

Aldona LaPorta

Margie Paul-Gaston

Ty Smith

Nancy Wilcox

Absent:

Officer's Reports

Secretary's Report

Suzanne Crean made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 18, 2006 meeting. Margie Paul-Gaston seconded. All in favor, the motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report

Suzanne Crean made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Margie Paul-Gaston seconded. All in favor, the motion was passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Old Business

Oil Drum Art

This idea has been tabled for future consideration. Lisa will continue to try to contact the new superintendent of schools.

Octagala

This event took place at the Whittemore Library as the "Connecticut Trio". To date no contract or paperwork has been received with the changes. The bill has not been paid.

Photo Contest

There were only five submissions with a total of eleven entries. The event was advertised in the newspaper and flyers were distributed to the schools thanks to the Mayor's Office. Due to the small amount of entries, the contest was judged by the commission members. There were

three places awarded and two Honorable mentions. The photos and winners will be announced in the newspaper, on the website, and placed on display, probably, at Town Hall. Lisa will contact the winners and award the prizes.



"Hidden Beauty"
- **First Place** -
Kimberly Harman
Grade 11



"Guntown Cemetery"
- **Second Place** -
Joshua Claffey
Grade 11



"My Town, Your Town"
- **Third Place** -
Ryan Hoang
Grade 7



"Bird's Eye View"
Honorable Mention
Jessica O'Conner
Grade 7



"St. Michaels Church"
Honorable Mention
Ashley Perssico
Grade 8

An idea was proposed to put the photos into a calendar. Ty Smith will look into online possibilities and Marge Paul-Gaston will look into printing options, prices, etc. This would need to be done quickly since it is the end of the year. The Arts logo would be placed on the front cover with the winner's photo. Credit to each photographer would be given in the captions for each picture. The calendars would be distributed free to the public from Town Hall. Discussion included making a calendar available to real estate agencies as well. Information and proposals will be shared at the next meeting. The idea may be planned for next year's photo contest.

Summer Concerts

The Summer Concert series for 2007 has been booked. Ty Smith reports that the schedule will be "very exciting". The Series will be advertised in the CT Tourism Magazine. New performances include *Blueberry Pie*, a blues R&B group, the return of *Vinnie Carr*, and *John Geski* polka music. The approximate total expense will be \$6000.00. The first concert is scheduled for June 26, 2007.

Ty Smith noted that many bands are not willing do book rain dates. The Concerts may have to use the High School patio as in previous years. Ty will follow up with more information.

The Green vendor rules continue to be in question. Apparently mixed messages have been conveyed. Further discussion on vendor rules/regulations will continue.

New Business

“Serious Coyote”

A discussion regarding the possibility of hiring “Serious Coyote” back as teaching artists was presented by Ty Smith. We would not be able to schedule until late spring. Marge Paul-Gaston said she would contact the middle schools to look into possible dates.

Senior Center

Marge Paul-Gaston will look into ideas for entertainment events with the director.

Signage

There will be a need to stop the signage ads from December to spring due to freezing and cracking. The back sign on Meadow St. will be empty due to needed repairs. The Church St. sign will refer to the website for information.

November 15: “Our Town” Photo Contest Ends

November 19: Octagala at the Library

December 7: Photo Display at the Historical Society

Cemetery Walk and Talk

A bill was submitted by Susanne Crean for reimbursement of \$22.00 in expenses. A larger amount had been previously approved.

New Business

Commission Vacancies

The Commission is still in need of four people. Susanne Crean will draft an article about the Arts Commission for submission to the newspaper.

Publicity

Lisa D’Andrea proposed an ad for the Community Choir/Band program book for \$100.00.

Lisa will design an ad.

EDC Meeting

Ty Smith and Franl Alcorace attended the Economic Development meeting. Any impact on the Arts Commission was not evident at this time.

Christmas Event on the Green

On December 9, 2007 there will be a hayride, tree lighting, choir and carols. A motion was made by Aldona LaPorta to expend \$250.00 for the DJ. Ty Smith seconded. The motion was passed.

Siruis Coyote

Sirius Coyote will be performing at City Hill for two sows on April 3, 2007 during the school day at the cost of \$1200.00. This is a positive impact for the schools using arts in education programs. The event will be coordinated with the curriculum. Marge Paul-Gaston and Ty Smith are planning to attend. Marge Paul-Gaston made a motion to spend \$1200.00 to book the event. Frank Alcorace seconded. The motion was passed.

Event sign for winter

The sign on the green has been set to refer to the website for winter event information. We will need to purchase extra punctuation. The Meadow St. sign was left blank because repairs are needed. The letters are "Gemini" style. Ty Smith will look into this.

Senior Events

Marge Paul-Gaston has been in contact with Harvey and he is planning to list some possible events, costs and a calendar for consideration.

Future Events

Ideas proposed include a K-3 puppet show. Marge Paul-Gaston will investigate brochures and productions. An idea to extend the concert series to earlier in the year in June or on Saturdays was discussed.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on the third Tuesday in January. There will be no December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Wilcox
Secretary