

Arts Commission Minutes
October 21, 2008

I. Call to Order

Meeting commenced at 7:45 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Attendance

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Present: | Frank Alcorace | Suzanne Crean |
| | Lisa D'Andrea | Marianna Hanley |
| | Aldona LaPorta | Mindy Fragoso |
| | Margie Paul-Gaston | Ty Smith |
| | Melissa Teator | |

IV. Officer's Report

A. Secretary's Report

Minutes for the September meeting were read and approved.

B. Treasurer's Report

The account has a present balance of \$3948.92. The Arts took a 2% hit from the budget cuts.

The scholarship fund had a deposit of \$360 from the sale of the photo notecards at the Town Hall and Harvest Moon, and the sale of bears at Harvest Moon. That brings the account balance to \$1511.39.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Old Business

A. Commission Vacancies

There are two vacancies remaining on the commission. Lisa has a possible interest and Mindy has mentioned it at the Burgess meeting.

B. Senior Event

All of the paperwork has been submitted for the *Frank Porto Band* to entertain at the Senior Center on Thursday, November 20. Margie will be there to take pictures.

C. Photo Contest

The contest was started at the Harvest Moon Festival, with lots of applications being taken. It has also been in the newspaper and applications have been in the Town Hall lobby. It will run through November 15th. One entry has been received so far.

D. Harvest Moon Festival

The booth looked great, drawing in many people. Lisa complimented the ladies, because they walked around the booth with the visitors and explained our events. Everyone participated, and had several ideas for next year. We discussed having more pictures of events, and doing corn-on-the-cob or baked potatoes (profits for the scholarship fund). We would donate any leftover food to St. Vincent DePaul Shelter, the Salvation Army, etc. Frank suggested getting a donation from a business that would match whatever profit we make at the festival next year.

E. Cemetery Walk

Suzanne reported that the Historical Society increased their profit from last year. The good weather helped. Craig filled in last minute as an historical town figure and did very well! The Society is planning on using the Irish Cemetery next year. Sue will get some pictures from this year for our board.

F. Poetry Reading

The Poetry Reading was held on Thursday, October 16th at Rachel's Coffee House. It went well, the atmosphere was good, and Rachel would be willing to host another one. There were 8 readers (adult and high school) and one guitarist. Although there were 25-30 in attendance, people did not seem to want the snacks we offered. They did, however, purchase several items from Rachel's menu, so it was beneficial for her business. We will hold another reading in January, as people expressed interest. We also discussed possibly offering menu items at a discounted price, rather than purchasing ahead, having leftovers.

G. PARTicipate

The art event will be this Saturday, October 25th on the Green. The theme is "Current Events: Express Your Thoughts". Posters were available tonight to put around town. Mindy will take a poster to WATR and ask them to do some publicity for us. Lisa offered Marianna a digital camera for pictures. We discussed looking for a venue to be able to display any artwork that people do not take home.

H. School Event

Margie has not heard anything yet from the parent liaison at Maple Hill Elementary School. She will contact her in November and have something for our next meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Future Events

Some were discussed earlier.

B. New England Winds

This woodwind quintet is part of the Air Force and will be touring in our area in March of 2009. They do not charge the Arts Commission, but would like us to find them a venue to perform in. Mindy suggested we ask people attending to bring a donation for the Food Bank. The concert is one hour, with no intermission. The quintet's available dates are March 3,5,6. Melissa will contact the Methodist Church about that Friday night, and find a time that would not conflict with their Friday Night Coffee House.

C. Waterbury Youth Symphony

Ty explained that there are different performance levels of the Youth Symphony. They are always looking for places to perform. If we can find them a venue, they will perform a concert at no charge to us. We discussed possible venues and dates. Ty will see what they have available. Mindy will look into using the Portuguese Club.

D. Summer Concerts

Ty reported that the summer program will tentatively be starting on Tuesday, June 16, 2009. Several bands have already been signed, but he will begin listening to other band submission tapes to fill in the "empty" weeks. A good Italian or Polka band is needed to accommodate our older citizens (\$600 range). Margie recently spoke with Tom Chute of WATR and his group may be getting back together. Ty will contact him. The concert schedule needs to be completed soon, so that it can be put into the CT tourism magazines. We also discussed the need for a rain location. Ty will inquire about the use and pricing of the high school patio and City Hill Middle School.

E. Poetry Jam

Melissa will coordinate a January date with Anthony Sorge. We will plan on Rachel's again, but Mindy suggested we also open such an event up to any local business interested in hosting Arts events.

F. Veterans' Concert

The concert will be Friday, May 22, 2009. Our cost is approximately \$600. Sue suggested contacting Charley Marengi, Naugatuck Community Band, about their new sound system. If it would serve the purpose for the evening, that would save us from renting a system. The bell ringers from the Pinecrest Church are interested in performing and have some patriotic pieces.

G. Event Checklist

Lisa asked to have a brainstorming session to put together a checklist of what needs to be done and the various items needed for our different events. We offered the following ideas: time schedules for venue permission or permits, posters, press releases, picture taking, receipts, supplies, contact with event partner, contracts, payment, paperwork, weather check, volunteers and schedules, e-mail commission. Please e-mail Lisa if you can think of anything else.

VIII. Roundtable

Margie will be away all of February 2009.

Aldona – Thank you very much for the beautiful “Get Well” plant basket. It’s good to be back!

Melissa – Kudos to Lisa for finally changing the finance date to 2009!

Mindy – Maybe we could consider, once a year, honoring someone in the community that does something for the arts.

Ty – With ideas, etc. traveling through e-mails, please send a simple reply so that myself or Lisa know that you’ve received it.

Lisa – Next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m.**

IX. Adjournment

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