

Town of East Haven, CT
East Haven Arts Commission Minutes
22 January 2013 7PM
200 Tyler St. East Haven, CT

A special meeting of the East Haven Arts Commission was held on January 22, 2013 at 7PM at 200 Tyler St, East Haven, CT.

PRESENT: Chairperson Cindy Genzano
Commissioner Jordyn DiNatale
Commissioner Ted Salmon
Commissioner Daniel Schmidt
Commissioner Aquino Valentino

PUBLIC: Sharon Collins

ABSENT: Commissioner Vincent Tiroletto

Chairperson Cindy Genzano called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

ITEM # 1 Introduction of New Commissioners

The Arts Commission has five new members. Each member introduced him/herself and talked of arts background and interests, as well as ways they might be of benefit to the Commission. Sharon Collins, the sixth new member attended the meeting as a member of the public, as she had not yet been sworn in at that time.

ITEM # 2 Summer Youth Theater Proposal

Chairperson Cindy Genzano updated the Commission on the successful outcome of the First Annual Summer Youth Theater program sponsored by the Arts Commission, the E H Youth Services Bureau, and the LaFavre Foundation in the summer of 2012. Chairperson Genzano distributed a financial report and shared anecdotal information about the 2012 production of *Xanadu* in an effort to propose an expansion of the program for the summer of 2013.

The 2013 proposal includes a request for financial support from the Arts Commission for two productions this summer which will include a Junior Division for youth in grades 7-11 and a Young Adult Division geared primarily toward grades 12-Adult. The proposal included verbal commitments from the

Mayor's office for rehearsal, performance and construction space to be determined depending on the needs of the group, and financial support from Youth Services and potentially from the LaFavre foundation. Personnel commitments include volunteer directors, choreographers, a music director, and technical directors. The youth division will be directed and coordinated by a group of college students under the producer-ship and supervision of Chairperson Genzano. Chairperson Genzano will produce and direct the Young Adult division.

ITEM # 3 Discussion of Youth Theater Proposal

Chairperson Genzano called for discussion of the proposal. Commentary from the Commissioners involved unanimous support for the project. Commissioner Daniel Schmidt spoke of his ability to help with sets and costumes. All Commissioners agreed with commentary by Commissioner Salmon that financial support from the Commission was appropriate to whatever extent was needed. Commissioner Val Valentino spoke of the worthy goal of "breaking even" on the production as presented by Chairperson Genzano.

ITEM # 4 Vote on Youth Theater Proposal

A motion to accept and support the Summer Youth Theater proposal as presented by Chairperson Genzano was made by Commissioner Daniel Schmidt, and seconded by Commissioner Jordyn DiNatale.

Vote: Unanimously approved

ITEM # 5 Discussion of Future Projects

Chairperson Genzano opened the floor for discussion of projects that the members of the Commission envision for the future. Commissioner Salmon described a vision for a sculpture trail along the Shoreline Greenway Trail that he has been researching and pursuing for some time. Commissioner DiNatale spoke of music concerts on the town green. Commissioners Valentino and Schmidt expressed an interest in mulling over some ideas for a future meeting.

Commissioner Salmon briefly described a workshop he attended in Waterbury concerning ways in which the arts can financially benefit communities. He specifically referenced the multitude of grants that are available to organizations such as the Arts Commission. One particular grant connects the arts and historical preservation. Commissioner Salmon suggested that this might be something to look at in terms of the potential of

the Tyler St. property. He suggested this could be brought to the attention of the Mayor and offered to do so.

There was additional discussion of the need to establish a website and business cards for the Commission. Suggestions were made as to how this might be accomplished affordably. The Commission agreed to further explore this issue.

The discussion was tabled for consideration at a later date.

ITEM # 6 Next Meeting

Due to the President's Day holiday the February 18, 2013 meeting is cancelled. It will be replaced with a special meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 7PM at 200 Tyler St. East Haven

A motion was made by Commissioner DiNatale to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Commissioner Valentino. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy J Genzano