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East Haven Arts Commission Minutes

June 20, 2023

Zoom Meeting

PRESENT: Chairperson Cindy Genzano

Director Michael Moore

Director Mike Enders

Director Debra Giordano

Director Kari Collins

Director Sharon Collins

Director Robert Genzano

Chairperson Cindy Genzano called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Roll call was done and a quorum was present.

Item #2: Minutes Of Last Meeting

Director Mike Enders made a motion to accept the previous minutes; it was 2nd by Director Michael Moore. All in favor.

Item #3 Financial Report

Chairperson Cindy Genzano explained that we currently have a balance of \$28,781.16. This amount includes the \$3,500.00 from the LeFevre foundation and participation fees from the shows. We still need to get the \$4,870.17 in our Town account. A grant has been applied for from CT Humanities for our Artwalk, we are waiting to hear if we are getting it and hoping for \$2,000 to \$4,000 for an amount.

Item #4: Status of Non-Profit

We have submitted all documents for our nonprofit status and received a startup binder; we need to put in copies of our minutes, agendas and financial reports from January 2023 to present.

5. Theater Committee:

The shows are both currently working on rehearsals and it is going well. We need to promote the shows and we will have posters, lawn signs, A boards and banners available soon. We are going to look into purchasing 3 more larger A boards to further get the word out.

6. Visual Arts Committee:

We are still looking at doing an Artwalk with the Chamber of Commerce and more details need to be worked out as they have not been working with us on dates. We may have more resources through the town to help with this and other events. The Chamber would like us to attend the July meeting. We also are looking at a pop up art exhibit for artists to display their work in town.

7. New Business:

We unfortunately have to address an issue we are dealing with concerning our use of Hays for rehearsals, etc. On Thursday June 15 our staff and participants arrived to rehearse only to be told that they were installing fans and the all purpose room was unavailable. They were told that due to Counselor training there was not a classroom available either and that the only available space was a hallway. The hallway space could not accommodate the number of participants present, so the Summer Theater team held rehearsal outside on the concrete. We were not advised of this change to our schedule and had we been made aware it might have given us a chance to look for an alternate location. Messages were sent to Michelle Benivegna, Liz Franco-Spano and Andréa Kenney. We have since received several responses. While some of the responses were supportive of concerns, others were not very accommodating. We need to work on communication with the Rec Department staff and will make that a priority for the future. At the present time we are not granted any use of the building except for the All purpose Room, Hallways and our room 5 which is currently filled with our set pieces, etc. Chairperson Cindy Genzano hopes to improve communication and clarify some items and perhaps get a better relationship with the use of Hays.

Our next meeting would be July 18, 2023 but as that is during tech week we will likely cancel it and instead meet on August 22, 2023 at Hays.

Mike Enders made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42p.m.; it was 2nd by Sharon Collins. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Giordano