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East Haven Arts Commission Minutes

November 30, 2021

Zoom Meeting

PRESENT: Chairperson Cindy Genzano

Commissioner Sharon Collins

Commissioner Kari Collins

Commissioner Debra Giordano

Commissioner Kristin Cenevia Iovene

Commissioner Robert Genzano

Community Members: Travis Giordano

Chairperson Cindy Genzano called the zoom meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Roll call was done and a quorum was present.

Item #2: Commissioner Kristin Iovene made a motion to accept the previous minutes; it was 2nd by Commissioner Sharon Collins. All in favor.

Item #3:

A financial report for All Together Now was shared by Chairperson Cindy Genzano. Considering we were not sure how well this event would be; we did make a profit of \$2,368.00. We will be paying Jason for doing the music since we had already put it in our budget. We do not know the correct amount for the performance space as we have not yet verified if the maintenance person was there so that amount may change. We also discovered that our raffle went over very well and we need to

remember this for future events. Printing is always expensive and we are currently looking into a more affordable option.

Item #4:

We held a short discussion of our recent performance. We all agreed it was a fun event and we would love to do another one like it. The reports we heard from the audience were favorable and while we had some minor hiccups it did all come together and we consider it a success.

Item #5: The Grant

The grant application was completed and submitted. If approved we would get a minimum of \$5,000.00 but it could be more. The money would be deposited with the Greater New Haven Arts Council, our official proxy, and then it would get funneled back to us. We expect to hear an answer around December 20th. This is likely a one and done grant of this type largely due to Covid.

Item #6: Non-profit Status/Bank account

Commissioner Bob Genzano has been doing all kinds of outreach and research on this topic and it appears that it would open us up to more opportunities and perks if we were to be established as a 501-C organization. There are a number of steps involved to make us non-profit, the first one being a part of the Pro Bono Attorney's Support Group. We have applied to become a member so that we can benefit from their assistance in acquiring non-profit status. We would be identified as an educational organization. We will need to have clear and concise By-Laws. He also reached out to the Library Arts Council as they have a 501-C status. We currently have Joe Deko and Josh Balter supporting this endeavor and are looking to have Attorney Mike Luzzi helping us as well.

As for the bank account Chairperson Cindy Genzano and Commissioner Sharon Collins have run into some roadblocks. We need to write to Town Council to ask for a Special Meeting so that once we have an account we can get our funds transferred. We also need a Trade Name Certificate and are looking into how to get it. We are still working on getting an account at Citizen's Bank.

Item #7: EHAC performing Arts Season/Subcommittee

We had a lengthy discussion on what to do for next year as far as performances. We did find out that we can also form a subcommittee involving people outside of the commission and town to get involved in set construction, lighting, etc. It will be much more helpful to have an idea in mind for next summer so that we could get

started on building the set earlier. In our grant application we provided the number and types of events we wish to have; we decided on 2 theatrical productions, and 2 Public Art Shows. If we choose to go back to two productions next summer we will need more people especially for set construction and performers. We came up with 4 different groups of people for shows: Junior Group, young Adult, All ages and All Adult. Known issues include rehearsal space and we might be able to team up with the YMCA. Our status at Hays is unsure at this time. We will look into the possibility of using JMMS for rehearsals, etc. Avoiding crossover with rehearsal times and space is going to need to be addressed if we do two shows. We would like to get a younger group going again so that they can be featured and in the past we used a 5th-12th grade range. Our young adult is 12th to age 25 so we will need to decide our cutoff ages and or grades for the shows. Teaching workshops for the younger groups might also be a project we could do like teaching the basics of acting, set building, etc. We will be working on getting more details for all of this over the winter.

For the subcommittee it would be a Performance Arts Subcommittee and the guidelines would be covered under our by-laws. We can open this up to students who need Community Service hours but it takes a commitment and interest from them in order to make it work. After a discussion it was recommended that Commissioner Kari Collins should head up our first subcommittee and reach out to Callie Fusco, Allie Cristante, Ian McLay and Robyn Genzano to help with our Youth Theater. Commissioner Bob Genzano made a motion to have Commissioner Kari Collins form the first subcommittee; it was 2nd by Kristin Iovene. All in favor. It was also noticed that the Library has a youth council and we should reach out to them for help. We can also look into the Hamden Art League to help with our events.

Item #8:

- a. According to the town we still have either 1 or two openings and we would like to get people with a visual arts background. We will promote this on Social Media platforms and please remember to comment on the posts we do so that we can generate more traffic and awareness of our organization. We will also prepare a Google document that lists our qualifications and one is that it must be a serious commitment to make.
- b. We should join arts organizations to have a bigger pool of resources to pull from such as the Greater New Haven Arts Council. Shoreline Arts Alliance is also another place to become a member of.
- c. Space is still an issue. Commissioner Kristin Iovene will contact Sam Parlato and others and see if JMMS is available.

d. We will table this for now considering we do not yet have a bank account. We do need some signage at Hays so that people are aware we are in the building, items like Scene Shop, etc. We also want to find a way to inventory our set pieces at the schools, and Commissioner Kristin Iovene will check with Ralph Vuolo to see if he can help.

Item #9: New Business

Commissioner Kristin Iovene asked if we wanted to place an ad in the Program for the East Haven Volunteer Company #1 installation. Commissioner Kari Collins made a motion that we take out a ½ page ad for \$50.00, it was 2nd by Commissioner Bob Genzano. All in favor.

Chairperson Cindy Genzano told us about a virtual class being offered by the CT. Office of the Arts on December 6 at 12 noon if anyone is interested in attending.

Commissioner Kari Collins explained that she got a message and voicemail about a piece of artwork that a person wants to donate to the town; he acquired it about 30-35 years ago from a well know artist in who is also legally blind and this artist also has artwork that was displayed at the Vatican. We are going to get some more details on this and contact the East Haven Historical Society as well as the Library Board.

We need to submit our list of the next year's meeting schedule to the town, after a brief discussion we decided to move them to the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is December 21, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Commissioner Bob Genzano motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm, it was 2nd by Commissioner Kristin Iovene. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Commissioner Debra Giordano