

**Arts Commission Minutes
May 13, 2008**

I. Call to Order

Meeting commenced at 7:47 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Attendance

Present:	Frank Alcorace	Absent:	Suzanne Crean
	Lisa D'Andrea		Margie Paul-Gaston
	Marianna Hanley		
	Aldona LaPorta		
	Craig Malone		
	Ty Smith		
	Melissa Teator		

IV. Officer's Report

A. Secretary's Report

Minutes for the April meeting were read and approved.

B. Treasurer's Report

The account has a balance of \$3496.85 to be spent by June 30th.

The commission has received 3 scholarship applications and all 3 meet the qualifications. As of August 2007, the scholarship account held a balance of \$986.17. After discussion, Craig Malone made *"Motion to allot all three applicants an award of \$250 each."* Melissa Teator seconded. Motion approved - 5 in favor with 2 abstentions.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Old Business

A. Commission Vacancies

There are two vacancies remaining on the commission.

B. Veterans' Concert

Ty will coordinate with Gayle Marengi for the Girl Scout troop to do the pledge. Discussion on what help is needed for setup. Commissioners should be there at 5:30. The Community Choir will be there at 5:00, if any "muscle" is needed. The Girl Scouts will be asked to pass out programs at the door before the show.

C. Scholarship

Discussed and motion made under the Treasurer's Report.

D. Senior Event

The Frank Porto Band will be playing at the Senior Center on either 6/12 or 6/22. The date will be cleared with Harvey, the director. Our cost is \$350.

E. Visual Art Event

Marianna developed a materials price list for long-term supplies and advertising. The proposed date for the first event is Saturday, July 12 on the Green. After much discussion, it was decided to advertise on cable, purchase 2 ads at \$125 each ("Citizens' News"), and purchase 50 posters at \$1.00 each from Nutmeg Printers. A letter will also be sent to the NHS Art Dept., asking them to notify the students. Permission from the Park Dept. is needed for use of the Green. It was decided to assess the event's success before deciding to have food there. The theme for this first event will be "Everything is Acceptable". Craig Malone - *"Motion to allocate \$1000 to the visual art event for supplies and advertising."* Frank Alcorace seconded. Motion approved.

F. Summer Concerts

Melissa and Marianna need keys for the electrical box on the Green.

Ty suggested that each commissioner, for the concert night they are responsible, call the band ahead of time to know what time to turn the electricity on. The check to pay the band needs to be picked up on the Friday before the concert from LaurieAnn at the Town Hall.

Ty has learned that "Arty", the stuffed bear, cannot be raffled off at the concerts because of the tremendous amount of state paperwork for gambling events. The bears can be awarded as a prize attached to a game of skill or given away for donations. There was discussion on our options. The decision was to try the Community Choir's "bean bag toss" game and box of prizes, assess the interest, and then make a decision whether to invest in more bears and prizes. Marianna will chair this and will devise rules.

VII. New Business

A. Signage

Aldona and Melissa will take over Ty's job of redoing the event signs on the Green each week.

B. Licensing

Lisa has been contacted by the music union, BMI, because there is a charge for the playing of copyrighted music. As the sponsor of the various bands, we are required to pay \$180 to BMI (Broadcast Music Incorporated) for a yearly licensing fee. Ty had asked the town to pay the fee required by ASCAP, another music union. Much discussion followed on the "requirement" to pay these fees. Craig Malone - *"Motion to pay BMI \$30 to cover the licensing fee, so that no performer this season has a problem."* Ty Smith seconded. Motion approved. Since they only accept quarterly payments, \$195 will be paid from the 2008-2009 budget.

C. Future events/Ideas for the remaining fiscal year

A request has been received from the Naugatuck Community Band for monetary help in purchasing a PA system. After discussion, Frank Alcorace - *"Motion to give the Naugatuck Community Band \$600 towards the purchase of a PA system."* Ty Smith seconded. Motion approved.

There was discussion on doing something for the literary arts. Craig Malone - *"Motion to donate \$350 to the Whittemore Memorial Library for the purchase of art-related materials."* Melissa Teator seconded. Motion approved.

There was discussion on the need for a new tent, with sides, for various commission activities. Ty Smith - *"Motion to spend up to \$175 for the purchase of a tent, with sides."* Marianna Hanley seconded. Motion approved.

There was discussion on the purchase of a banner with the Arts Commission logo for various commission attended events. Melissa Teator - *"Motion to spend up to \$150 for the purchase of a banner with the Arts Commission logo."* Craig Malone seconded. Motion approved.

There was discussion on the NHS Drama Club needing funds for materials for their performances. With school ending soon, we will keep them in mind for the Fall.

The "Senior Prom" event was not well received by Harvey, the Senior Center director. The Commission, however, would still like to entertain the idea, using a different facility. There was discussion on various costs - hall, refreshments, decorations, DJ/band. We will table the event for next year, but will continue to discuss the various aspects at meetings.

"Chalk-the-Walk" event - Suzanne has the leftover chalk from the past event. Marianna would like to purchase some black chalk, for both this event and the upcoming visual art event. It is expensive and hard-to-find. Craig Malone - *"Motion to spend \$75 for the purchase of black chalk for art events."* Ty Smith seconded. Motion approved.

There was discussion on revisiting the idea of using several winning photos from the photo contests on notecards. The notecards would then be sold, with the proceeds going into the scholarship fund. Ty will send out 3 winning photos. If the quality is better than our previous attempt, an order will be placed. Frank Alcorace - *"Motion to spend up to \$60 for photo notecards."* Marianna seconded. Motion approved.

Any more budget discussion will be tabled for June, as there is now \$656 left in the treasury.

All submitted photos are presently being stored without frames at Ty's or Lisa's. If a venue in which to display them becomes available, then frames will be purchased.

VIII. Roundtable

Melissa Teator questioned why the Arts Commission was not included in the meeting which decided on the new name for Building 25. If the building is supposed to become an arts center, there should be some sort of consideration for this commission to be involved in any planning. She will meet with Mayor Bronco about protocol and find out where the Arts Commission stands.

Marianna Hanley added that this commission should have a representative at every meeting where 7 Angels is concerned.

Lisa D'Andrea - Next meeting will be **Tuesday, June 10**. We will meet on the Green at the electrical box, for a tutorial for new members.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was called to a close at 9:53 p.m.