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East Haven Arts Commission Minutes

August 16, 2022

Zoom Meeting

PRESENT: Chairperson Cindy Genzano

Commissioner Sharon Collins

Commissioner Kari Collins

Commissioner Debra Giordano

Commissioner Robert Genzano

Community Members: Travis Giordano

Michael Moore

Robyn Genzano

Absent Member Commissioner Kristin Cenevia Iovene

Chairperson Cindy Genzano called the zoom meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Roll call was done and a quorum was present.

Item #2: Minutes Of Last Meeting

Commissioner Kari Collins made a motion to accept the previous minutes; it was 2nd by Commissioner Sharon Collins. All in favor.

Item #3: Stipend Funds From Town Council Update

Chairperson Cindy has reached out to Joe Deko in order to get our funds from the Town Council. We submitted 6 months of bank statements as requested by Mr. Deko. We have not heard anything back yet. We plan to hold a special meeting to discuss what we will need to tell them at the meeting that Town Council requires to be able to get our funds.

Item #4: Preliminary Report on Summer Productions

Overall we feel the summer productions went well and the subcommittee feels it was due to having more people involved as well as more meetings to discuss things. One of the biggest issues we had was the sound, we had a microphone completely break and not enough of them to adequately hear the cast. Steve, who is running the auditorium is hoping to do a better job as far as keeping them all properly maintained and making sure we have what we need. We are hopeful that by next summer we will have some more mics for the cast.

Commissioner Kari Collins was joined by Robyn Genzano and they shared the budget sheets for the 2 productions. Overall it was not bad, but there is certainly room for improvement. If we had started with seed money of \$3,000.00 we would have broken even, but because we did not, we lost almost \$3,000.00. We did discuss areas in which we could do a little better as far as keeping track such as in concessions, flowers and break a legs. We also realize it depends on the sizes of the casts for the shows and they were bigger, and hoping next year brings in even more. Some issues that were brought up were not enough money distributed in the cash boxes, maybe moving break a legs to the same side as the headshots/bags, and an option to use a credit card for these items as well, it may bring in more sales. We can also brainstorm better ways of keeping track of attendance and sales.

Also discussed was the need to be able to apply for grants to bolster our technical needs as well as stipends for those who work on our productions.

Item #5: Stipends for Summer Theater Positions

Chairperson Cindy Genzano shared that she and Robyn Genzano met to discuss the amounts of stipends and to whom they would be given. She suggested the following breakdown as we had 10 people involved in these shows.

Here is the breakdown:

\$1,000 each – Directors:

Kari Collins, Robyn Genzano and Rich Genzano

\$800 each – Set, Music, Choreographers:

Quint Johnson, Jason Ferrandino, Callie Fusco, Alexina Cristante

\$600 each – Stage Managers

Ben Jesulaitis, Gerry Camp

\$400 – Assistant Technical Director:

Ian McLay

We did have a discussion on this and are hoping that we will be able to increase these amounts as we know how much hard work was put into our productions. A motion was made by Commissioner Robert Genzano approving this breakdown that was suggested, it was 2nd by Commissioner Debra Giordano. All in favor.

Item #6 Fall Festival Art exhibit

We are waiting for the supplies so that we can build our display boards. We are going to see if we can use both sides to give us more space to display the submissions. The form has been out on social media and we are promoting it as often as we can. We have gotten 2 submissions so far and hope to get more. Shoreline Arts Council and New Haven Arts Council have also posted a Call for Artists on their pages. We decided to spend some of the funds allocated for this project to promote it on Facebook to get more exposure. Michael Moore explained that there will be another meeting shortly to go over and finalize any details.

Item #7: Need for EHAC Space

Commissioner Sharon Collins made a motion to table this item until the next meeting as we did not have everyone in attendance; it was 2nd by Michael Moore. All in favor.

Item #8: New Business

We do have a lawyer to help with our 501-c status. Chairperson Cindy Genzano and Commissioner Robert Genzano will have a call with them and also our person in charge to find out the next steps.

Our next meeting will be September 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Robert Genzano motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.; it was 2nd by Commissioner Sharon Collins. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Commissioner Debra Giordano