Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm / Pledge

Public Comment: Megan Tarby reported to the Commission the status of the up-coming production- Bucket List of Broken Dreams- date of performances Jan. 13 and 14, 2012.

To date ¾’s of each evening’s tickets are sold and she is expecting a close to sell-out for both nights. She wishes to repeat the performance in February, wknd of the 24, 25, & 26th. Commission has no problem with that taking place. During the February showing she will have the tickets and fliers available for the spring children’s show and information regarding the June Burlesque show.

On February 27, 28, 29 and March 1, 2012 Looking Glass Events will be holding auditions for the children’s show and the summer Burlesque show. She assured the Commission that schedules and calendars would be available soon for theater usage. Ticket sales for the up-coming events are as follows:

$15.00 Bucket List of Broken Dreams – February Production

$10.00 for the children’s show – Title to be Determined

$30.00 for the Burlesque Show

Megan has met with the people from the Church to train on lights and soundboard, Walnut Hill Church has been very gracious to her and the use of their equipment.
A production person was trained on the use of the DVD by the Strand projectionist and the DVD will be used during the “Bucket List” productions.

Early discussion was held on the possibility of a “Theatrical Summer Camp” being held at the Strand, more discussion at a later date.

**Strand Report:** Theater manager not present, report made by Priscilla Altorelli:

October 2011 sales $1,704.00  Nov. 2011 sales $2,902.00 and Dec. 2011 sales $2,046.00

Chairman Simpson reported on the Strand’s concession area renovations: Geri Swinik wishes to have wallpaper placed in the candy counter area and the Commission held off any more discussion until Mrs. Swinik can be present for further discussion.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Priscilla Altorelli reported that no invoices had been received since the last meeting and no activity was generated through our Culture and Arts account $27,451.70 bal. to date. The Strand Restoration Fund Account has received and deposited $6,350.00 from the Walnut Hill Church bringing the Fund’s total to date to $23,688.75. Chairman Simpson stated that the Knights of Columbus have been contacted by the First Selectman and asked to put in writing their intentions of paying 50% of the theater’s marquee’s restoration. Treasurer P. Altorelli also reported that former First Selectman Paul Roy had made a contribution to the Commission in the amount of $200.00. A motion was made by Mary Barbin to have the donation transferred over to the Restoration Fund, Second by Linda Bellavance VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO 0 Abstain. Priscilla will contact the Finance Dept. to have the change made.

Megan Tarby presented the Commission with a check for $1,000.00 from the proceeds of the Christmas Show, Christmas on Main Street. Check to be placed in the Renovation Account.

Priscilla will prepare paperwork and meet with First Selectman Miller on Commission’s budget proposal for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and will also present to the Brd of Finance.

**Secretary Report:** Motion to accept Minutes as Read made by Priscilla Altorelli second by Mary Barbin VOTE: 4 Yes 0 NO 0 Abstain

**Summer Programs:** Valerie D’Anna will contact Jack Ahearn to discuss dates for the Commission to provide a storyteller to perform for the children at the recreation camp this summer along with a magician and John Banker’s Steel Band. Valerie will also arrange feeding and changing facilities for the Navy Band for the summer’s performance on August 18, 2012. Mrs. D’Anna will also be completing paperwork for Culture and Arts Grants through the State.
Summer Concert Schedule for the 2012 Concert Series:

June 2 – Flashback with Lions Club Car Show and kick-off to Founder’s Day Wknd

June 16 – Larry Ace

July 7 – Phoenix

July 21 – Paul King Band with Mark Lanzari (Paid by grant from State Culture and Arts by Comm)

Aug. 4 – Rich Bobinski Band

Aug 18 – US Navy Band

Sept. 1 - Flashback with Lions Club Car Show

Chairman’s Report: Chairman Simpson reported to the commission members that she felt a small increase in the candy prices would be acceptable, as prices have increase from the wholesaler. She will inform Mrs. Swinik, theater manager that an additional $.25 can be added to each candy bar sales, but drink prices at this time will stay the same.

She would like to approach David Keyser again this year about transporting the seniors from Calahan House and the Norman Ray House on First Saturdays to attend the concerts downtown.

Linda Bellavance will write a letter to get a commitment on the attendance of at least 10 people per week. Kurt Miller will then work on the transportation with the Senior Center.

Judy Simpson stated that Mrs. Swinik is going to try and sell the entire lot of posters to a concern who has contacted her for purchasing as a 1 lot purchase. She has also informed Judy that she is no longer ordering any posters to accompany the movies. The question of Ms. Tarby running a Facebook page for the Strand will be taken up with First Selectman Miller directly by Ms. Tarby.

Election of Officers:

Motion made by Linda Bellavance to nominate Judy Simpson as Chairman

Motion made by Priscilla Al torelli to nominate Mary Barbin as Vice Chairman

Motion made by Valerie D’Anna to nominate Linda Bellavance as Secretary

made by Mary Barbin to nominate Priscilla Al torelli as Treasurer

Second on all Motions made by Kim Osgood and 1 vote cast by Secretary Linda Bellavance

To nominate Said Slate: 1 YES VOTE

Motion to adjourn made by Linda Bellavance at 9:00 PM  Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bellavance

Secretary