Culture and Arts Commission
January 13, 2009
Seymour Town Hall, Flaherty Room
7:00 PM

Members Present: Judith Simpson  Valerie D’Anna  Mary Reyher (left 7:38pm)
Linda Bellavance  Ann Conroy  Priscilla Altorelli
Members Absent: Jane Hull
Others Present: Jeri Swinnik

Meeting called to order/ Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM by Judy Simpson

Motion made by Ann Conroy to change order of Agenda  second Valerie D’Anna

Vice Chairman’s Report: Mary Reyher reported contracts for the up-coming 2009
Concert Series. With signed contracts dates and bands will be as follows:
6/6/09  Block Dance  FlashBack
6/28/09  Park Concert  Larry Ace
7/12/09  Park Concert  Starlighters (new)
7/19/09  Park Concert  Starving Artists
7/26/09  Park Concert  Triple Play  * date for band in ques. (Chris Cerminan, back-up)
8/1/09  Block Dance  Marty Switek
8/9/09  OPEN- checking on Coast Guard Band
8/16/09  Park Concert  DaTruth (new)
8/23/09  Park Concert  Kerry Boys  (possibly move to 7/9/09)
9/5/09  Block Dance  Starving Artists

Mary reported that she would be ordering new sign names for the new bands at a cost of
approx. $100.00.
Chairman Simpson requested that Mary and Valerie D’Anna handle all publications and
advertisements for the Commission’s events for 2009. This will include newspapers,
radio, cable TV and newspaper inserts. Valerie D’Anna will get prices and report the
Commission regarding an insert in the Valley Gazette.

Priscilla Altorelli submitted a form for the Parks Commission for reservations for Concert
dates. Judy Simpson will submit completes forms to Parks & Rec.

No Public Comment
Correspondence:

Chairman Simpson read a letter to the Commission members from Atty. Fred Stanek complimenting the Commission regarding the Halloween Trick or Treat Day. He was extremely pleased to see all the young children dressed in costume with their parents strolling the downtown business district. He felt it promoted a great sense of community and voiced his support to be a yearly event.

Strand Theater Report: Jeri Swinnik, Strand Theater Manager

Monthly Income:
October 2008 / $4,493.50 November / $3,455.00 December / $2,806.70

Jeri reported that an additional $1,045.00 was taken in by the theater Oct – Dec. 2008 over what was brought in during the same time period last year since we have realized the new price increases.

It was reported to the Commission that the theater received water damage when a problem with a pipe hit the third floor. Posters kept in a small closet had been destroyed and were thrown out. A small amount of damage was also received in one of the theater restrooms, which has been closed since then and will need some repair.

The water also damaged the alarm system which has since been fixed by the Knights of Columbus. They are also having the theater marquee placed on a timer to light 7 days a week from 6:00 PM to Midnight.

Jeri wanted the Commission to extend a thank-you to Roger Foster and Marco Giannatti for the excellent job they are doing with the snow removal around all the entrances of the theater. Linda Bellavance will send a letter to the First Selectman.

Mrs. Swinnik brought to the attention of the Commission that she had written a letter requesting that all employees of the Strand receive a raise in July 2009. It was reported to members that the three employees did not receive raises last year, as did all other non-union employees of the town. The Commission will make the recommendation that raises are received in line with the percentage other non-union employees receive. If no raises are given in the 2009 fiscal year, we will request that the three Strand employees receive an increase the same as non-union employees received in 7/08. Linda Bellavance will send a letter to Robert Koskelowski.

Treasurer’s Report: Priscilla Altorelli presented her monthly report and also a breakdown of what will be presented to the Finance Board for the Commission’s budget of 2009-2010. (See report attached)

Invoices from J&J Gardens were submitted for the Fall and Christmas plantings at the four corners and the steps at Town Hall.

Motion made to accept minutes was made by Ann Conroy Second Linda Bellavance

Vote: 5 Yes 0 NO 0 Disqualify 0 Abstain
Secretary's Report: Minutes reviewed, motion to accept Minutes as read made by Priscilla Altorelli  Second Ann Conroy
Vote:  4 Yes  0 No  0 Disqualify  0 Abstain

Linda Bellavance reported that the Art Contest is underway in all 5 schools and she has been in contact with the Art Teachers. She will contact them again asking for the teachers to continually remind the students about the contest and lending a hand to any students who may request assistance. She will also ask Jean Falbo to run another article in the New Haven Register.
She brought the suggestion to the table that the Commission sponsor free movies for children during the school vacations. Commission would pay the employees to work but not charge for entrance to the movie. She suggested that a different movie be shown each day, which would attract different age groups and therefore cut down on the amount showing up each individual movie. After some discussion, the Commission decided it would not work and movies availability for several different showing would be much too costly. Jeri Swinnik suggested DVD’s could be used but members of the Commission stated that any attempt to bring entertainment for the children during the school vacation has never been well received.

Chairman's Report: Judy Simpson reported that the December First Saturday was well attended and the strolling carolers drew a good crowd. She has received many positive comments from both townspeople and merchants of how much they enjoy and appreciate our efforts during these monthly events.

It was suggested that a Mother’s Day or a Fling into Spring First Saturday might be coordinated with the merchants. Moms could attend the downtown event with their children, having cards stamped from all the down town businesses with a flower for Mom given at the last stop of the evening. Commission members thought this was a good idea and it will be suggested to the ‘Shops at Seymour’ members.

Valerie D’Anna was asked to report on the Grant process and what information she has acquired. Grant due by 5/1/09 and would be good for 7/1/09 -6/30/10. Both The Kerry Boys and The Riverboat Ramblers are on the list of groups who are available through Grant Funds. Valerie will apply for the Grant and we will use the funds during the ‘09 Concert Series.
Chairman Simpson reported that Joe Benson from Benson Realty has suggested that the merchants give away a girl’s and boy’s bike in conjunction with our Trick or Treat Day. Raffle tickets could be given out with the candy bags and the drawing would be held at the conclusion of the event. Members of the business community will be asked to attend meetings to discuss this suggestion.
Judy also reported that next year during December’s First Saturday we will arrange for Santa Clause to arrive on the train. We will try to coordinate this with the Ambulance Corp. who have pictures with Santa taken for the children.

**Election of Officers:**

Motion made by Ann Conroy  Second Priscilla Altorelli  **Linda Bellavance: Secretary**
Vote  4 YES  0 NO  0 Abstained  0 Disqualify

Motion Ann Conroy  Second Priscilla Altorelli  **Mary Reyher: Vice Chairman**
Vote  4 Yes  0 No  0 Abstained  0 Disqualify

Motion Linda Bellavance  Second Valerie D’Anna  **Judy Simpson; Chairman**
Vote  4 Yes  0 No  0 Abstained  0 Disqualify

Motion Valerie D’Anna  Second Ann Conroy  **Priscilla Altorelli; Treasurer**
Vote  4 Yes  0 No  0 Abstained  0 Disqualified

Linda Bellavance to send letters to the following:
Officer DeFelice requesting to be scheduled for Block Dances
David Keyser asking him to include transportation for seniors to Concerts summer ’09
Robert Koskelowski: raises for Strand employees and thank you to R. Foster and M. g Giannatti for snow removal.

Motion to adjourn  Valerie D’Anna  Second Ann Conroy  8:48 PM

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda Bellavance**

Linda Bellavance, Secretary
EXPENDITURES SINCE NOVEMBER 18, 2008 MEETING

2500.00 K of C December, January
400.00 Balance Due Milo Productions - Carolers
430.36 Seymour P.D. Block Dance
467.95 CL&P - Electric 10/29-12/01
2753.12 Oxford Oil Deliveries 11/02, 11/28, 12/15
6551.43 Total

CURRENT BUDGET BALANCE

7250.00 Rent
8354.64 Purchased Services
487.50 General Supplies
100.00 Building Improvements
4975.80 Electricity
5246.88 Other Utilities

26414.82 Total
CULTURE & ARTS BUDGET 2008-2009  RENT 450-5111-625-441

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Estimated Expenditures for Balance of Budget Year

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<th>K of C</th>
<th>Feb-June</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
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Spent last year $15000.00
### Culture & Arts Budget 2008-2009 Purchased Services 450-5111-625-500

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<td>#3288</td>
<td>(deposit of $50 pd 10/23 ck #3288)</td>
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<td>#62010</td>
<td>J&amp;J Gardens - Fall Flowers</td>
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Estimated Expenditures for Balance of Budget Year

- Signs for Concerts: $-80.00
- Flyers for Concerts: $-135.00
- Distribution of Flyers: $-250.00
- Spring Flowers: $-350.00
- Banner Contest: $-1000.00
- Concerts: $-900.00
- Block Dance Flashback: $-500.00
- Larry Ayce: $-400.00
- Starving Artists: $-400.00
- Block Dance Marty Swiatek: $-700.00
- Navy Band: $-300.00
- Kerry Boys: $-775.00
- Da Truth: $-500.00
- Two Concerts Still to be Booked: $-900.00
- Block Dance Starving Artists: $-400.00
- Police June Block Dance: $-400.00
- Total: $-7590.00

Balance: $764.64

Spent Last Year $7588.94
CULTURE & ARTS BUDGET 2008-2009 GENERAL SUPPLIES 450-5111-625-610

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<td>9/16/2008</td>
<td>2981</td>
<td>PO #61970 Linda Bellavance (post cards)</td>
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<td>9/16/2008</td>
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<td>PO #61969 Jane Hull (Halloween Bags)</td>
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Jane Hull - final total for Halloween Bags $99.00

Total Spent last year $298.99
CULTURE & ARTS BUDGET 2008-2009 ELECTRICITY 450-5111-625-622

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Estimated Expenditures for Balance of Budget Year

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Total spent last year $9245.08
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Estimated Expenditures for Balance of Budget Year

1500 gallons @ 2.50 per gallon  

Balance  

-3750.00  
1,496.88

Last Year 5070.8 gallons delivered Town pays for half  
2535.4
Total cost last year $8667.26