

SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION PIEDMONT HALL
Meeting Minutes October 16, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pat Bachetti, Yvonne Besse, Neil Connell, Eileen Fedorowich, Giselle Genece, Ann Levesque(chairperson), Terri Schmidt, Gail Tishler

Absent: Dan Fraro, Ann Fraro, Lynne Goss, Bob Hall, Dave Marti, Lianette Sheehan, Tim Simone

Call to Order: Members saluted our flag and Ann called the meeting to order at 7:10.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were presented with no additions or corrections. Motioned by Terri to accept as read, seconded by Eileen. Approved. There was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report: Terri presented the profit/loss statement and financial accounts of our yearly concert series/photography and art shows plus budget going forward. Detailed and very clear for members. Thank you Terri for this clarity. There were no bills for approval at this time.

Items for discussion: Suggestion for having signs made indicating changes of concert series location when needed. Tabled until next meeting.

Old Business: The Holiday Festival is being held on Dec.9 and contract for the KC Sisters is signed and received. Also the wreaths continue to grow thanks to Vicki Worenicki who has been creating some beautiful wreaths for the festival. Vicki is requesting donations of old wreaths and holiday decoration items to use in refurbishing and decorating lovely new ones. Terri volunteered to represent the commission at the holiday planning meetings. If the meetings are held in the daytime Eileen will be a backup and if they are evening meetings Giselle will be the backup. Thank you ladies.

Neil reported on the recent Art Show. He thanked members who helped make it such a success. There were 231+ visitors to the exhibit. The opening reception hosted 100 visitors and award winners. There were 114 entries this year and 98 were accepted for the show. Attendance and monetary outcome were most successful. Thank you Neil for your guidance, talent and another wonderful show. Looking forward to next year's photography show with entries on May 7 and 8 with the show continuing until May 31st (2 weeks).

The fall concerts had it's challenges this year with the weather. Despite this we continued to have our wonderful core of followers.

The Scout project is on hold until spring with the change in the fall temperatures. Suggested we hand wash the porch wall instead of power washing being an old building.

It was very helpful to have the Somers Congregational Church as backup for our concerts during inclement weather. For this concert series we needed them 4 times. The new donation voted on at a prior meeting was sent.

Giselle has volunteered to consolidate and present a report at our next meeting of the 2023 People's Choice concert evaluations. Thank you Giselle.

Going forward Gail suggested we put out a small sign when serving refreshments containing peanuts or peanut products. So noted.

Members discussed rethinking the 2024 concert schedule. Maybe rethink fall as was sparse attendance and weather issues. Spring attendance-150-200, summer 125-225. Some discussion. Tabled until next meeting for further discussion.

The Coffee House schedule is up. January we will host "Nekita Walker" with a guitarist and a drummer. February will be a presentation of "Hidden Woman" and March will be "Pierce Campbell"-singer, guitarist, storyteller.

Giselle spoke of the "Hidden Woman", a woman who has a website of many African American women with amazing stories of hard struggles and wonderful achievements unknown to many. She will be presenting a story of one such woman that evening. Perhaps at another time she would come and present another remarkable story. This presentation will be held in the lower level of the Congregational Church. Future discussion of food, donations was held until our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be November 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Pat Bachetti, secretary

Minutes not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.