

STRATFORD ARTS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – August 12, 2015

MINUTES

The Stratford Arts Commission conducted a Regular meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 pursuant to notice duly posted.

Members Present: Rich Fredette, Chair
Bruce Hirsch, Treasurer
Erin McLaughlin
Lenny Kovalik
Ellen Cox
Bill Franz
Lou DeCilio (Alternate for Kathy Koperwhats)

Others Present: Margo Paquette, Secretary

- I. **Call to Order**- Meeting called to order by Rich Fredette, Chair, at 7:07 pm.
- II. **Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting 07/08/15** – Lou DeCilio moved to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting 07/08/15; seconded by Bill Franz. Motion carried unanimously.
- III. **Reports**
- a. **Financial**
1. **Treasurer’s report** – Bruce Hirsch, Treasurer, reported the balance of the Commission’s account is \$14,592.62.
 2. **Request for funds** – Bonfire On The Beach is seeking sponsorships for their Sept, 19th event. The Commission discussed the levels of sponsorship available.
- Lou Decilio moved to approve an Arts Commission sponsorship of \$250 combined with an in-kind donation to total a Gold Level Sponsorship; seconded by Bruce Hirsch. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. **Grant Writing** – No report
- c. **Subcommittees – Stratford Street Sculptures** – No report
- David Reed, President, Stratford Stage Group addressed the Commission and reported that construction of their stage will begin on Monday, August 17th.
- IV. **Fundraising**
1. **Artist Showcase Cocktail Hour – Chairman’s report on July 30th event** – The July event featuring Ellen Cox was a fantastic evening that raised \$90.00 in donations to the Commission.
 2. **Artist Showcase Cocktail Hour - August event** – The August showcase will be held Aug. 20th at Riverview Bistro and will feature 3 artists: Lenny Kovalik, Christine Shannon, and Rachel Carroll.
 3. **Talent Show** – Efforts are continuing to secure audition dates and venue.
 4. **Comedy Night** – Still awaiting a confirmed date.

V. Events

1. **Sand Castle Competition held August 9th** – This family event was co-sponsored by Stratford PAL. Twenty six teams competed. It was a very successful event.
2. **ShakesBeer Festival 2015 – August 22nd** – The organizers are looking for volunteers for various tasks on the day of the festival. Rich Fredette will email the commissioners with details.
3. **Bonfire On The Beach – September 19th** – The chair reported that Marc Dillon, Chief of Staff for the Mayor, will look into having the beach entry fee waived during the time of the event.

VI. Old Business – No items

VII. New Business – At the invitation of Commissioner Bruce Hirsch, Ed Bednarski of the Frank Porto Band addressed the Commission and expressed an interest in having the Arts Commission engage the Frank Porto Band for a performance on the grounds of the American Shakespeare Festival Theatre. Discussion followed.

Lou DeCilio moved to approve an allocation of \$550 for the Arts Commission to present a performance by the Frank Porto Band on the theatre grounds on a date to be determined.

VIII. Open Discussion

- Two artists have expressed an interest in painting the walls of the thruway underpass at Stratford Center.
- Arts Commission T-shirts were discussed.

IX. Adjournment – Bruce Hirsch moved to adjourn; seconded by Erin McLaughlin. Motion carried unanimously at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo Paquette, Secretary