

ANSONIA CULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
October 13-2010

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Marceline N. Bottone
TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Members Present

Michael Soberany
Nicoll Scanlon
Sandy Mendyk
Judy Nicolari
Suzzane Frischkorn
Jennifer Dombroski

Member's Absent

Adam Buster

Other's Present

Eileen Krugel
Frank Michaud

Call to Order:

Chairman Soberany calls the Ansonia Cultural Commission Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall. All rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag. A quorum was declared present.

Consideration of Previous Minutes:

Mrs. Nicolari made a motion to accept the September 2010 Minutes with any corrections necessary, if any. MS. Mendyk seconds the motion. All in favor.

Corrections:

- The amount of monies charged for the All Decades Reunion was \$1,158.00 not \$1,058.00.
- The Cultural Commission did not have an Irish Flag Ceremony this year.

Public Session:

Chairman Soberany opens the Public Session.

Frank Michaud Co- Chairman of the Ansonia Rotary was present to address the commission. The Ansonia Rotary handled the vendor portion of the festival. Mr. Michaud said that the turnout was great. We were fortunate to have good weather.

Public Session Continued:

Flyers went out to the vendors and to the Board of Education. The Board of Education provided the paper and distributed the flyer to all the schools. The students were given the flyers to bring home. Mrs. Merlone, Superintendent of School has been very helpful in working with the Cultural Commission as far as the school involvement was concerned. Mr. Michaud attended the festival in Southington. Southington runs their event over two weekends, and has a turnout of well over a thousand people. He collected business cards from various vendors to invite them to Ansonia's festival. Thank you notes were sent out to the vendors and merchants that participated in the Harvest Festival. Included was a questionnaire asking for comments. These comments and suggestions will be reviewed and taken into consideration for the next festival. The results will be shared with the commission at their next meeting. Mr. Michaud would like to see next year's festival expanded.

There were 84 paid vendors. There were a number of free spaces. TEAM, Inc. was one. The church on Main Street allowed them to use their parking lot for the kiddy rides. The Valley Arts Council judged the Scarecrow and Pumpkin Carving. Mr. Michaud said that he received a donation of \$100.00 from Smith Association, and he is waiting for a donation from Derby Savings.

The Interact Club at the Ansonia High School bright yellow polo shirt were not ready. They polo's would identify them as being part of the festival. If any one had a question or concern they would be able to identify the people in charge and go to them with questions. They tried to accommodate every vendor to make them as comfortable as possible. There were a couple of complaints which will be addressed and taken into consideration for the next festival. The spacing for the vendor booths was discussed and possible how to fill the spaces so there would not be any gap.

Eileen Krugel, Grant Writer for the City commended the commission for a job well done. She said that not only did they do a phenomenal job, the entertainment was great. All the spaces were filled and it ran very smoothly. The Public Works Department did a phenomenal job. There are still bills coming in and that is waiting for input from the vendors as to what they would like to see happen to make the festival better. She told the commission that if they ever have a concerns or issues that to let her

Public Session Continued:

know. She mentioned that the Valley Publishing inserts were mailed out to everyone but there weren't any on the Cultural Commission Booth. She said that the ad was very well done however she feels that they should not wait until the last minute to be mailed. She said that she thought someone should have been at the Cultural Commission booth. Mrs. Krugel said that this was one of the best festival she attended. She thanked the commission for all their hard work and welcomed the new members.

Mr. Patrick Henri 16 Harris Rd Ansonia, Ct. Mr. Henri told the commission that he is the Chairman for the Economic Development Commission and wanted to introduce himself and would like to work with this commission. He told the commission that he has a couple of ideas that he would like to share with the commission. He asked them to consider an event for the 4th of July and have a concert/ DJ with a color laser light show. He suggested that they could have the American Legion and the VFW sponsor the event. You could have the students read the Declaration of Independence. The commission was open for suggestions. Ms. Mendyk said that she had a contact for the laser light show.

Mr. Henri asks the commission if they were aware that the first bicycle was made by an Ansonian. He said that a lot of communities have a bicycle rally and would like to have a bicycle rally in Ansonia especially since the bicycle was made in Ansonia. You could start out small and eventually grow, if the word gets out you could get people from all over the state to participate. The monies raised could go for the Athletic Department. Mrs. Nicolari said they could call it "The Great Race". And Mr. Henri responded how about "The Rally in the Valley". The event could be held during the summer or fall. He went on to say that some other towns sponsor a decorate the whale or cow contest. Milford has a door decoration contents. Mrs. Frischkorn said we could add tricycles so the children could also participate. Mr. Henri said that he is surprised that the Mayor doesn't have a monthly meeting with the city's commissions and boards to discuss what is happening and to introduce each other. He said that he would like to meet with other commissions to promote more interactions with each other. Mr. Henri thanked the commission.

As there were no other speakers, Chairman Soberany closed the Public Session.

Communications:

There were no communications.

REPORTS:

Mrs. Nicolari submitted a detail report of expenses and a copy is attached to the minutes for your review. (See attached). She said that it was J. Sullivans that bennefted from the festival. They were the ones that charged \$10.00 per person for food, not the commission.

Please note that Mrs. Nicolari report did not include the Safari Rides. Ansonia Rotary was in charge of the Safari Rides which was big hit.

All Decades Reunion:

1. J. Sullivan's @ \$10.00 per person (158 classmates)	1,158.00
2. Income from raffle	254.00

Expenses:

1. All Reunion balloons	175.00
2. Name Tags and certificates	23.78
3. Greg Allan (DJ)	350.00

Ansonia Harvest Festival:

Stage 1:

1. Tony Castle (DJ)	400.00
2. Ovations Band	350.00
3. Mark Lanzieri (Solo)	100.00
4. Storyteller Joyce Marie Rayno	75.00
5. Tune Squad Bank	400.00

Reports Continued

Stage 2:

1. Phyllis Kaplan (DJ)	250.00
2. AHS Cheerleaders	
3. Rita Totenham Dance Studio	
4. Linda Johnson (Line Dancing)	
5. Saturday Polish School (singing & Dancing)	
6. Anthony Kurdziel (Guitar)	
7. Kathleen Mulkerin (Irish Dancers)	
8. George Lesiw	200.00
9. Bantam Band	425.00
10. Brian Lizotte (Magic Show)	200.00

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Scanlon said that she was speaking in behalf of Sgt. Henry from the Ansonia Police Department. He said that a lot of merchants would rather have the Harvest Festival on Sunday rather than a Saturday. One merchant said that because of the festival some customers were able to find parking and it was a non-profitable day for them. He said that the vendors need to be off the street by 7:00 p.m. There were vendors that were leaving around 9:30-9:45 p.m. He suggested that the Cultural Commission identify themselves to the public by wearing the same color shirts with a logo. This way if anyone had any questions they could go to them. It feels that they need to be a little more organized.

An example is that Pilgrim Bar B Que sells chicken and there was a vendor cart that was selling the same. They should have been relocated elsewhere. It is something to consider for the next festival.

New Business:

Mrs. Nicolari said that as far as changing the date for the Harvest Festival the 1st Saturday in October has been set as an established date for the festival, and it would be a mistake to change the date. There may be a few merchants that would like it to be on a Sunday; however the majority like the idea of it being on a Saturday. Some merchants do well. My Sister's Place said that they had a great day.

New Business Continued:

The Cultural Commission would like to enhance the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Mrs. Frischkorn said that one of the main attractions in Ansonia is the beautiful churches. She would like to have all different choirs sing holiday carols. Mr. Collicelli from Ansonia High School provides the donuts and hot chocolate. Ms. Scanlon said that she would ask Big Y, Eddy's Bakery and Dunkin Donuts for a donation. Mrs. Frischkorn suggested having pictures taken with Santa. The Christmas Tree Ceremony is on the first Friday in December 03-2010 at 6:00 p.m., at city hall. The commission discussed having vendors with holiday items, crafts, a have a bonfire, Rich DeCarlo makes holiday decorations out of used bricks. Ms. Scanlon said that she would speak to Marilyn at the Birmingham Group to see if the vendors could use their parking lot. It would be ideal because it is located next to city hall and the Christmas tree is there. They may ask the Public Works to put up a stage for the choir. Mr. Soberany said that he would like the city to use brighter Christmas lights. Mrs. Friskonow suggested that they contact the grammar schools and have them make decorations for the tree. Ms. Mendyk said that the Derby Historical Society has a lantern tour, and that they could look into that. Mr. Soberany asks the commission to come back with ideas for by October 28th, via e-mail. They discussed asking the area merchants to stay open a little later, and see if they were interested in putting up white lights or holiday decoration on their business. Ms. Scanlon said that she would introduce the Mayor. She also will read a story (The Night before Christmas). Suzanne volunteered to speak to Mrs. Merlone, the Superintendent of Schools to distribute flyers to the local schools for the students to bring home.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, November 10-2010 at 5:30 p.m., in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Nicolari made a motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. and Ms. Mendyk seconds the motion. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Leslie Jamison, Recording Clerk
Ansonia Cultural Commission