



Town of Seymour

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CULTURE & ARTS COMMISSION

MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2008
SEYMOUR TOWN HALL
7:00 PM FLAHERTY HALL

Members Present: Judy Simpson Valerie D'Anna Linda Bellavance
Priscilla Altorelli Mary Rehyer Jane Hull Ann Conroy (7:35 PM)

Others Present: Jeri Swinik Robert Koskelowski (7:27 PM)

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM, members recited the Pledge of Allegiance

No Public Comment

Secretary's Report: Minutes reviewed, Priscilla Altorelli motioned the Minutes be accepted as read, Mary Rehyer seconded the motion

Vote: 6 Yes 0 No 0 Abstained

Strand Theater: Jeri Swinik, Strand Theater Manager, reported to Board members that the snow removal after the first snow storm in the parking lot caused the handicapped entrance and side exit to be blocked with snow and ice. Calls were made to the First Selectman and to Commission chairperson Judy Simpson, but no one ever came to clear away the piles that blocked the doors.

Robert Koskelowski stated that for the remainder of the winter, Roger and Marco, the custodians for Town Hall and the Recreation/ Senior Center will be responsible for going to the theater to clear pathways and doorways as soon as the larger snow removal throughout the town has been completed. If snow has not been removed to safely open the theater, Jeri Swinik was instructed by Mr. Koskelowski to give him a call. Only if he was unable to get someone to go to shovel, Jeri was told she should close the theater until such time as the snow had been removed.

Mr. Koskelowski addressed the turning in of invoices to Town Hall on a regular bases. He explained that he wanted bills paid no more than 2 weeks after they are received. Jeri agreed to stop at Town Hall every week and turn in bills in a timely manner.

The cost of ticket prices and concessions was discussed and Jeri Swinik explained that she felt it was time for an increase at least with the candy and drinks, as her bills have increases by about 25 %. Robert Koskelowski was very firm about the theater being an

affordable place for seniors and families to go and enjoy a movie at a reasonable price. The Board will review an increase in the concession prices at a later meeting. Jeri was asked to submit to the Board a detailed report each month listing costs and profits.

Mr. Koskelowski informed the members of the Board that Culture and Arts would be responsible for requesting salary increases for employees of the theater. Notification should be done in writing and sent to Mr. Koskelowski's attention. Requests need to be made at budget time. He also stated that the running of the Strand Theater was strictly under the control of Culture and Arts, although the theater manager will oversee the day to day operations ie: purchasing and hiring.

Lease for Strand: Mr. Koskelowski requested that the Board review the lease for the Strand and put in writing any suggestions we may have of additions or omissions to the existing lease. The Board will take an active part in the negotiations of the new lease. Board members will discuss at next month's meeting.

Ann Conroy suggested that one of the changes should be the changing of the oil company to the same consortium that the town uses. This would save Culture and Arts a great deal of money in just one year's time. Mr. Koskelowski assured the members of the Board that if our budget was not funded enough to meet the payments for the utilities the Town would pick up the difference. Although the oil situation will be suggested at the time of lease negotiations.

Ann also suggested it may be possible to have the Sunday afternoon movie run a little earlier each Sunday afternoon during the summer concert series (approx. 8 weeks), so the theater could be used for the rain location. The gym at the old Middle School will not be used due to the poor acoustics. No decision was made, further discussion will be held.

Judy Simpson asked Mr. Koskelowski if the senior bus could be used to pick up seniors at the two senior facilities in Seymour and take them to the concerts on Sundays. Mr. Koskelowski said yes and assured the Board that the town would be responsible for the paying of the driver and the use of the bus. Regarding the seniors, Jeri Swinik suggested that a matinee be run midweek for the seniors. Further discussion will be held at a later meeting.

Lastly regarding the Strand, Judy Simpson addressed with Jeri Swinik the incident involving the Rita Tottenham dancers at the swearing in ceremony for town officials. After much discussion it was suggested that a form be drawn up and be filled out by all groups using the theater so the theater manager would know ahead of time exactly what uses the theater would be reserved for. This would allow her the time to deny certain activities within the theater if she felt it was necessary. Mr. Koskelowski stated that a letter of apology was sent to Rita Tottenham for the misunderstanding the night of the

performance and that he would be sure to check with Jeri before committing the theater for any use in the future.

2008 Budget: Line Items will be presented to the Finance committee as follows:

Lease	\$16,000.00
Purchased Services	\$10,000.00
General Supplies	\$600.00
Electricity	\$8,000.00
Oil	\$8,000.00
Building Improve.	<u>\$100.00</u>

Budget Request **\$42,700.00**

Priscilla Altorelli will fill out paperwork for the Finance Board.

A motion was made by Pricilla Altorelli at 9:30 PM to adjourn meeting.
Motion was seconded by Jane Hull.

Vote: 7 Yes 0 NO 0 Abstained

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Bellavance
Secretary