**Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Stamford Government Center, Stamford Connecticut**

**Wednesday, July 20, 2022**

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Colatrella called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM

1. **Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Lynne Colatrella, Marti Etter, Dennis Collins, Lisa Cuscuna, Michael Moran, Lou Ursone, Rep. David Watkins

Commissioners Absent: Val Cooper

Staff: Aaron Miller, Program Manager of Stamford Arts & Culture

1. **Reading and Approval of Minutes**

Chair Colatrella asked if all commissioners have read the minutes from the meeting held on May 18th, 2022. Chair Colatrella then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Etter and was seconded by Mr. Ursone. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance – Lynne
      1. Ms. Durrell sent a letter to Mayor Simmons and the executive members of the Commission, that due to personal reasons she would be resigning from the commission.
      2. Ms. Colatrella stated that she hasn’t met with David Kooris about the 1% project legislation proposal but is planning to.
   2. Convening – Lisa & Marti
      1. Ms. Etter stated that she had connected with a professor at UCONN about finding an intern to help the commission in the fall.
      2. Ms. Cuscuna also stated that she would like for the commission to begin planning to have a convening meeting sometime in the fall, perhaps in October. Suggests the patio at the Government Center could be an option.
   3. Programming – Lou & Mike
      1. Mr. Moran stated that “Summer Stage” in Scalzi Park has been going well. The weather has been great, but turnout has been smaller than expected.
      2. The Commission originally received 11 applications but due to scheduling and insurance requirements only 6 artists and groups remained viable. The Sonic Boom TnT will be sole performer in its slot due to Intempo withdrawing.
      3. Ms. Colatrella stated she would like to see more signups from cultural organizations next year
      4. Mr. Moran noted he would like to see the Summer State move forward with a different selection process
      5. The Commission is in unanimous agreement that scheduling “Summer Stage” in Scalzi Park on a different night should be considered next year.
      6. Representative Watkins mentioned a possible partnership between the ACC and the Shippan Point Association on a music series that the Shippan Point Association had run previous years but that would not be happening in 2022.
      7. Ms. Colatrella noted that would be an interesting idea, and part of the reason the commission wanted the mobile stage was the desire to move the stage to different neighborhoods is the Summer Stage was successful.
      8. Commission agrees that all members are thrilled with results from Summer Stage in Scalzi for its first summer session. All acknowledge it will take some time to build out, but excited to continue going forward with Summer Stage next year.
   4. Diversity – Val & Dennis
      1. Mr. Collins mentions he spoke with Ms. Cooper about having music and art events at smaller venues around town during the year and not just the summer, with the Nature Center being an example. Bringing in professional musicians at other venues and discovering other locations
      2. Ms. Colatrella mentions she would like to see the open seats on the commission filled by diverse candidates.
      3. Ms. Colatrella notes that Stamford Pride approached Mill River about doing event in June ‘23, and commission should look into partnering with them.
2. Old Business
   1. Ms. Etter mentioned that the Commission should begin the process of sending out necessary documents to 2022 recipients and start ramping up the process for 2023
3. New Business
   1. Ms. Colatrella asks the commissioners if there are any upcoming events, they should be aware of. She mentions Stamford Dance Downtown, Mr. Ursone mentions Shakespeare Curtain Call, and Mr. Moran KidzBop at the Palace
   2. Commissioners note they want to reconnect with the State Tourism Counsel about marketing
4. **Adjournment**

Chair Colatrella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Moran made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Etter. The motion passed unanimously. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was concluded at 9:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Etter

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Secretary

Stamford Arts and Culture Commission