

David R. Martin
Mayor

Thomas Madden, AICP
Director of Economic
Development

John R. Varamo Jr.
Program Manager of
Arts and Culture



**STAMFORD
ARTS & CULTURE
COMMISSION**
FOSTERING THE PERFORMING, VISUAL, & CULTURAL ARTS

Lou Ursone
Chair
Jennifer McIntosh
Vice-Chair
Marti Etter
Secretary

Members
Valerie Cooper
Lynne Colatrella
Lisa Cuscuna
Angie Durrell
Michael Moran
Bonnie Wattles

**Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes
Stamford Government Center, Stamford Connecticut
Wednesday, March 20, 2019**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Ursone called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Lou Ursone, Marti Etter, Lisa Cuscuna, Valerie Cooper, Lynne Colatrella, Angie Durrell, Michael Moran, Bonnie Wattles

Commissioners Absent: Jennifer McIntosh

Staff: John Varamo, Program Manager of Stamford Arts & Culture

Guests: Randall Skigen, Lyda Ruijter

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

Chairman Ursone asked if all commissioners have read the minutes from the meeting held on January 23, 2019. He then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Colatrella and was seconded by Ms. Etter. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Ursone asked if all commissioners have read the minutes from the meeting held on February 6, 2019. He then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Colatrella and was seconded by Ms. Cooper. The motion passed unanimously.

4. 'Piano for the People' Proposal

Ms. Ruijter and Mr. Varamo presented a proposal for a partnership between the Commission and Amadeus Piano Co. (located on Magee Ave) where a baby grand piano would be placed in the Government Center lobby for a week. This public piano would be playable by anyone who wishes to play, of all skill levels, during regular business hours. There would be no cost to the city.

Ms. Colatrella fully supported the initiative and recommended it take place during Make Music Day on June 21, 2019. She then proceeded to make a motion to have the Commission partner and promote the event, which was seconded by Ms. Wattles. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Old Business

- a. City Art Collection Policy – Final Review & Approval
 - i. The Commission reviewed and provided final amendments to the City Art Collection Policy, including some minor word changes and adding of a small second on potential art purchases. Mr. Varamo would make the changes and send the approved version to the Commission.
 - ii. Ms. Cooper made a motion to approve the policy as amended and to send it to the Board of Representatives for final approval. This was seconded by Ms. Colatrella, and passed unanimously.
- b. Daugherty Mural Update
 - i. Mr. Varamo provided an update on the James Daugherty mural which is currently undergoing restoration. He explained that installing the mural at Tully Health Center would be a major improvement over the planned installation at Old Town Hall. He went on to explain that Tully has better air quality, higher security, greater foot traffic, and lower sunlight exposure than Old Town Hall. Additionally, it would be installed in a location that both one flat wall and is not touchable by pedestrians, unlike Old Town Hall that would have the massive mural at waist level and would wrap around two separate walls.
- c. Art Inventory Update
 - i. Mr. Varamo discussed that the city's art inventory is continuing to grow as he identifies and searches for more art throughout Government Center, the schools, and the city as a whole. An updated spreadsheet will be provided to the Commissioners.
- d. Core Values/Harvard
 - i. Ms. Durrell mentioned that the Harvard Business Group would like to come for a 2-hour evening brainstorming session with the Commission to help set specific goals and tasks for the Commission that align with their Core Values. Ms. Durrell and Mr. Varamo will work to find a date that allows the entire Commission to participate.

6. New Business

- a. Budget Discussion
 - i. Mr. Varamo informed the board that the Arts and Culture Commission's budget to appraise, restore, and preserve the city's art collection, as well as for a strategic plan for the Commission, was completely cut from the Mayor's budget.
 - ii. The Commission will set up a meeting to discuss a plan for navigating the next year with no budget.
- b. CAPP Grant Application Review
 - i. The Commission discussed the CAPP Grant and will meet as a committee to review and potentially streamline the CAPP Grant application for the next year.
- c. Stamford Train Station Garage
 - i. Ms. Etter, Mr. Moran, and Ms. Cuscuna informed the Commission about a meeting with the State Department of Transportation regarding the appearance and façade of the newly proposed Stamford train station garage. There was concern that there would be little to no funds for art and/or murals to activate the garage, thus the Commission will write a letter to the State urging funding be provided for public art.

7. Next Meeting

- a. Discussion – Next Meeting Agenda
 - i. Next Year Plan
 - ii. Core Values/Harvard
 - iii. CAPP Grant
 - iv. Piano for the People
- b. Confirmation
 - i. Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 15, 2019

8. Adjournment

Chairman Ursone asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:07AM. Ms. Colatrella made a motion, which was second by Ms. Cuscuna. The motion passed unanimously. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,



Marti Etter
Secretary
Stamford Arts and Culture Commission