

**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

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## **Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes Stamford Government Center, Stamford Connecticut Wednesday, July 17, 2019**

### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman Ursone called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM

### **2. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Lou Ursone, Marti Etter, Lisa Cuscuna, Lynne Colatrella, Jennifer McIntosh, Michael Moran

Commissioners Absent: Valerie Cooper, Angie Durrell, Bonnie Wattles

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

### **3. Reading and Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Ursone asked if all commissioners have read the minutes from the meeting held on May 15, 2019. He then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Etter and was seconded by Ms. Cuscuna. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **a. Core Values – Angie Durrell**

- i. Ms. Durrell was absent, but last mentioned she would set up a time in the autumn to have the Harvard Business Group meet with the commission.

#### **b. Strategic Plan – Lynne Colatrella**

- i. Ms. Colatrella spoke with Ms. Sandy Goldstein to help the commission establish a strategic plan. Ms. Goldstein is very interested, and would have more free time starting in January 2020.

#### **c. Quick Updates – John Varamo**

##### **i. Supporting Arts Grant**

1. Mr. Varamo mentioned he applied for the CT Strategic Arts Grant from the Office of the Arts, and hopes to secure \$7,000 in grant funds from the state to help fund a strategic plan for the commission.

##### **ii. Daugherty Mural**

1. Mr. Varamo updated the commissioners on the status of the James Daugherty mural 'The World Outside'. It is currently receiving an inpainting treatment to fill in white cracks in the mural where it was torn apart. Mr. Varamo has been working with Stamford Health to have the mural installed at the Tully Health Center.

##### **iii. Piano for the People**

1. The Piano for the People mini concert series in Government Center was an overwhelming success. Many people stopped by the play the piano when it was not in use, and the scheduled performances received widespread positive feedback.
- iv. CAPP Grant
  1. Mr. Varamo mentioned that the CAPP Grant application period was more than halfway over, and had yet to receive any applications, but had a few questions regarding eligibility.

## 5. New Business

- a. CAPP Eligibility Review – Stamford Garden Club
  - i. The commissioners reviewed the information regarding the Stamford Garden Club. CAPP Grant guidelines state that applicants cannot receive other city funds to be eligible. The Stamford Garden Club received a stipend from the city to help maintain Fort Stamford. The commissioners decided more information is needed to make an informed decision. Mr. Varamo said he would reach out to them to get the financial documents regarding the stipend.
- b. CAPP Review Committee Meeting Date
  - i. CAPP Application Review Committee meeting is set for August 21<sup>st</sup> from 8-10 AM and will take place in the Urban Redevelopment Conference Room on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of Government Center. The committee is comprised of Mr. Ursone, Ms. McIntosh, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Colatrella, Ms. Durrell, and Mr. Moran.
- c. Social Media
  - i. The commissioners discussed creating a Stamford arts Instagram page to help promote the arts and cultural activities in the city. Concerns were raised regarding time requirements and responsibility. Mr. Varamo said he would create the StamfordCTArts Instagram account and look at re-sharing posts the organizations post on their own.
- d. Thrilla in Manilla Sculpture
  - i. Transportation Dept. is restoring the sculpture by A.D. Richardson on Stamford's West Side in "Boxer Square" due to a transportation grant he received to improve the intersection.

## 6. Next Meetings

- a. Confirmation
  - i. CAPP Committee Meeting – Wednesday, August 21, 2019: 8 AM in URC Conference Room
  - ii. Regular Meeting – Wednesday, September 18, 2019: 8:30 AM in Democratic Caucus Room

## 7. Adjournment

Chairman Ursone asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 AM. Mr. Moran made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Colatrella. The motion passed unanimously. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,



Marti Etter  
Secretary  
Stamford Arts and Culture Commission