



**City of Stamford**  
**Arts and Culture Commission Minutes**  
**Stamford Government Center – Stamford - Connecticut**  
**Friday – July 23, 2017**

The meeting of the Arts and Culture Commission of the City of Stamford held on Friday, July 23, 2017, in the Mayor's Conference room, 10<sup>th</sup> floor, Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut at 8:30 A.M.

1. **Call to Order** - Mayor David Martin called the meeting to order at 8:50 am
2. **Roll Call**  
Present: Lynne Colatrella, Valerie Cooper, Lisa Cuscuna, Angelica Durrell, Marti Etter, Jennifer McIntosh, Lou Ursone, Bonnie Wattles  
Absent: Michael Moran  
Ex-officio: Mayor David R. Martin  
Representative Randall Skigen, President  
Representative Steven Kolenberg, (R-16)  
Thomas Madden, AICP, Director of Economic Development  
Staff: Michael Pollard, Chief of Staff  
Martin Levine, Special Assistant to the Mayor  
Jon Varamo, Economic Development Analyst
3. **Reading and Acceptance of Minutes:**
  - a. None
4. **Correspondence**
  - a. None
5. **Board Positions**
  - a. Chairperson  
On a motion made by Ms. Etter and seconded by Ms. Cuscuna, the Arts and Culture Commission unanimously voted to select Lou Ursone as Chairperson
  - b. Vice Chairperson  
On a motion made by Mr. Ursone and seconded by Ms. Etter, the Arts and Culture Commission unanimously voted to select Lisa Cuscuna as Vice Chairperson
  - c. Secretary  
On a motion made by Ms. Cuscuna and seconded by Ms. Durrell, the Arts and Culture Commission unanimously voted to select Marti Etter as Secretary.

**6. Committee Reports**

a. None

**7. Old Business**

a. None

**8. New Business**

**a. Committee Appointments**

Director Madden went through the legislation outline the functions of the Commission and the work that the commission would be responsible to complete. The Commission held a brief discussion on committees and felt that in order to help the commission function as it move forwards, committees should be struck. The members of the Commission agreed and that there should be three committees to help the Commission complete its work. Chairperson Ursone asked for volunteers for the Arts Inventory, Grants and Organizations committees. The following are the volunteers for each committee.

- a. Arts Inventory – Bonnie Wattles and Valerie Cooper
- b. Grants – Angie Durrell and Jennifer McIntosh
- c. Organizations – Lisa Cuscuna and Marti Etter

**b. Calendar**

Director Madden noted that as part of the legislation, the Commission would be responsible to create and update a monthly calendar of art and cultural activities in the City which shall be accessible on the City's website. Director Madden noted that City was recently approached by Burbio.com that offered its services to help create the calendar. Chairperson Ursone asked if Burbio.com could come to the next meeting to present their product.

**c. Rules and FOI**

President Skigen noted that Commission and its members are subject to Freedom of Information requests from the public. He noted that to make the commission aware of their responsibilities he would get copies of the ordinance for the members.

**d. Festival of Arts and Ideas**

The Commission held a general discussion regarding the possibility of hosting a "Festival of Arts and Ideas" similar to the event in New Haven. It was noted that Stamford did host an event similar to this many years ago. The Commission felt that this type of event should be investigated to see if it could be brought back to the city.

**e. Budget**

President Skigen noted the Commission does not receive a budget from the City. Director Madden noted that he had put aside some money in the Economic Development Department budget to help the Commission get start. President Skigen noted that the City did have mean to raise money for a Commission budget through new State legislation allowing city officials

to add a maximum 5 percent surcharge on tickets to local events. The Commission would look at assigning this a working group in the future to look at.

**f. City Website**

Chairperson Ursone asked if the city could set up a website for the Commission on the city's website. Director Madden noted that he would look into this and that he would get city email addresses for the Commission Members.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Arts and Culture Commission of the City of Stamford will be Wednesday, August 23, 2017 and will begin at 8:00 A.M. in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Democratic Conference Room, Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut at 8:00 A.M.

**10. Adjournment**

The July 23, 2017 meeting of the Arts and Culture Commission of the City of Stamford adjourned at 9:50 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marti Etter  
Secretary  
Arts and Culture Commission  
City of Stamford