



Town of Stonington
Cultural District Commission
152 Elm Street
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Cultural District Commission

Monday, January 8, 2024, 5:00 pm

**Woolworth Library and Research Center
40 Palmer Street, Stonington, CT 06378**

Anthony Caporale
Regular Member
present

R. Douglass Rice
Regular Member
absent

Laura Hopkins
Regular Member
absent

Gabriella Radujko, Scribe
Regular Member
present

Paul Geise, Chair
Regular Member
present

Elizabeth Wood
Regular Member
present

Matthew Beaudoin, Vice Chair
Regular Member
present

Marya Ursin
Alternate Member
absent

Susan Lavender Fornara
Alternate Member
present and seated for absent members

Sandra Alexander
Alternate Member
present

Daniel Brandl
Alternate Member
absent

Jessica Cerullo
Alternate Member
absent

- 1) Call to order – Paul Geise, Chair, Cultural District Commission called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm. R. Douglass Rice, Laura Hopkins, Marya Ursin, Daniel Brandl, and Jessica Cerullo were absent. Susan Lavender Fornara (her additional surname will be used from this meeting forward) was seated in lieu of absent members. Quorum achieved. Elsie Bisset, member of the Stonington Economic Development Commission was present.
- 2) As part of today's "opening reflection," Gabriella Radujko read Kay Ryan's poem *Chinese Foot Chart* and distributed quotes to be read by members, each of which was selected with "them" in mind. Next month's reflection TBD.
- 3) Mr. Geise made a motion to approve 12/11/23 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Elizabeth Wood, all in favor. Matt Beaudoin made a motion to approve the January 2, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes which are posted, seconded by Paul Geise, all in favor.
- 4) Old business: Mr. Geise called for volunteers (TBD) to oversee the language used by the CDC. Mr. Beaudoin offered that the commission should strive to eschew jargon, for example. Interested members should step forward to claim the opportunity. Mr. Geise called for volunteers (TBD) to help define, shape and oversee tactical and strategic approaches for the commission to include communications with internal and external constituents, prioritizing goals, developing a preliminary list of priorities for the branding campaign and differentiating this commission's work from other Stonington commissions. Anthony Caporale emphasized the opportunity that programming presents, Sandra Alexander mentioned the importance of branding and identity needs and Gabriella Radujko suggested the usefulness of storyboarding using events and assess as baselines from which to work.
- 5) New Business: Mr. Geise asked members to review the list of documents compiled by the ad hoc committee (in DropBox) which comprise the defacto application, using the checklist therein as a guide.

Mr. Beaudoin suggested the committee should consider questions like:

--"What are we empowered to do?"

--"What is our bandwidth?"

--"What are we going to do regarding programming?"

Mr. Geise called for a volunteer to review the assets outside of the cultural district, whereby Ms. Wood said she would look into it. He mentioned that the Zoom meeting which took place on 12/20/23 with Mr. Geoffrey Morris representing the Ridgefield, CT Cultural District can be found in DropBox. He recommended that members sign up for the monthly *News Crawl* which went live this month and offered to send out the "subscribe" link to the membership. Ms. Alexander suggested a goal of corralling assets in order to avoid duplication (as well as emphasizing maximizing vs. growing them, for example).

- 6) Public Comment: Ms. Bisset suggested that the tasks before the commission are have strategic and management components and that goals are the "to dos." She indicated that coordination with the EDC in the areas of signage and wayfinding is essential in contrast to solo approaches. A Venn diagram model of CDC and other commissions and departments would be a useful was to visualize the collaboration needed. Ms. Bisset stated she is a SeCTer.org board member and mentioned that several 20K grants are forthcoming. She mentioned that a 5-year plan was prepared by the SeCTer board and gave a copy to Mr. Geise, inviting the commission to read it.
- 7) Adjournment: Mr. Geise made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 pm. Seconded by Ms. Fornara. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted 1/30/24

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriella Radujko'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Gabriella Radujko