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Website: <http://www.oswego.il.gov>

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
MEETING OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF OSWEGO
MEETING MINUTES**

Roll Call

Attended: Jennifer Putzier, Kristie Vest, Tony Pastore, Karen Kulzer, Tamzin Ritchie, Jenette Sturges

Absent: Rachelle Stoller

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 PM.

Public Forum:

Opened and closed at 6:13pm

MEETING MINUTES:

Jenette presented written copies of the June 12, 2019 minutes for approval.

Jen motioned to approve the August meeting minutes; Karen seconded it. The minutes were approved, with an edit. The last half-sentence under item Y will be struck.

Tamzin Ritchie arrived at 6:19 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Lit Fest update and volunteer sign-up

- a. Jenette offered the following updates on the Oswego Literary Festival:
 1. The Oswego Literary Festival has a new website, oswegolitfest.com, for a centralized place to post information and market the event.
 2. Sourcebooks is sponsoring and will bring two authors with presentations.
 3. Additional updates to the schedule will be added with readings, music, and discussions.
 4. There will be a food vendor parked out front.
 5. There will be a presentation/craft talk on experimental writing for the authors during coffee-bagel time.
 6. Additional author information is coming on the Facebook event page.
- b. Jenette asked members of the Commission to sign up for volunteer slots.

2. Public Art Plan visioning exercise

- a. Commissioners were given the first four headings of the "Parts of a Public Art Plan" document with prompting questions for thought and discussion. The four parts -- Objective, Vision, Goals, Philosophy -- were hung on large poster-sized papers for brainstorming. Commissioners were given markers and started writing up ideas.



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- b. Jenette will take the ideas and throw them on paper in cohesive sentences, and then those will be reviewed and edited at the next meeting. The group went through the ideas that were on the boards and clarified or expanded on these points:
1. Tamzin said it's the perfect time to start a public art plan because there are so many changes coming to the town in terms of building and demographics.
 2. Jenette expanded on the need to draw the connection between economic development and placemaking.
 3. Kristie said that art can create an enhanced sense of belonging and loving the community.
 4. Tony said we want to create a buzz to get people talking about art. Kristie said there should be an 'Oswego standard' that people should talk about.
 5. If you've got clusters of people and can get them to talk to each other that spurs creativity, innovation and investment. Tamzin said she would send in a paper about the topic of creative clusters for the group to read.
 6. Karen said our public art should express *both* the culture of Oswego (or the vision for the culture of Oswego) as well as cultures all represented in Oswego.
 7. The group posed a question about the new Village Board's overarching vision for community and culture in Oswego. Jenette suggested that we could bring in the Village President at an upcoming meeting to talk about vision and get feedback.
 8. Tony suggested the importance of adding excitement and getting out of what is currently being done, adding something different. "Let's not settle for being a little suburb," Kristie said.
 9. Tamzin talked about the importance of authentic community interactions, building spaces where people want to come together (downtowns versus strips)
 10. Jen said it was important to do something different from other towns.
 11. The word "unique" is on every page, and everyone agreed it should be important to the plan.
 12. Tony suggested that we could influence the design of buildings in a way that captures your attention. Kristie suggested that including architecture in the plan could also encompass education/promotion. Jen said 'architecture' could be expanded into include smaller structures like shelters.
 13. Karen said that engaging private donors can be done by creating specific opportunities ready to go so corporations/nonprofits can pick some to work on easily and get clear guidelines on how to do that.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business at this meeting.

STAFF REPORT

1. Jenette reported that there was a groundbreaking for Block 11, which was concentrated specifically on the Imperial Investments building, not the rest of the Block 11 public improvements. Completion date is summer next year. There will be a public event for the unveiling of the manhole cover. The order has been placed for the casting.



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COMMISSIONER REPORT

Jen, Karen and Tamzin went on a walking tour of Oswego and collected notes/photos to build a preliminary art map that marks existing art, memorials, etc. It is accessible here:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=18qdrjivfPEMMC2cSp40V_4iEtGIS5oyf&usp=sharing

Karen reported that there is very little existing public art, but many historic markers, perhaps that could be tied in, and said it was a big eye opener. Jen said she was very inclusive of everything that *might* be considered public art.

Jenette said she would figure out how to put it in the drive and share.

NEXT MEETING: November 13, 2019

ADJOURNMENT 7:45 p.m.