



100 Parkers Mill • Oswego, IL. 60543 • (630) 554-3618 •
Website: <http://www.oswegoil.org>

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019
MEETING OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF OSWEGO
MEETING MINUTES

Roll Call

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

Absent: Rachelle Stoller

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

Public Forum:

Opened and closed at 6:04 pm

MEETING MINUTES:

Jenette presented written copies of the October 9, 2019, minutes for approval. Commissioners suggested changes, and the minutes will be brought back for approval at the Dec. 11 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mural project

- a. Jenette reported that the developer of 113 Main Street is interested in a mural representing the adjacent Dairy Hut, which will be redeveloped as the Dairy Barn, and asked what the Commission's value add could be and what kind of process could be adapted for selecting an artist and artwork for this project.
- b. Tony suggested that the developer create a creative brief that discusses the constraints of the space, budget, goals, etc.
- c. Tamzin will send a link to the Public Art Call website for ideas on pricing. She suggested reaching out to Aurora Public Art Commission also for resources. The Commission can help by facilitating creative choices.
- d. Jenette said one thing the developer is interested in is community buy-in. One possibility is a voting process. She confirmed that he might be OK with not making the ultimate decision between presented ideas if he had veto power or if the public gets to choose between multiple options he has already agreed to.
- e. Tamzin asked whether the Commission could help by weighing in on a prompt, or by pitching one.
- f. Kristie posed a question of the historical significance of the Dairy Hut. Perhaps it could be more about what the Dairy Hut cultivated, the emotional memory evoked by the Dairy Hut rather than its actual depiction. Jenette proposed an email asking Commissioners this month for suggestions on a prompt and guiding questions to help the developer flesh out his idea, then talking about them at the December meeting.
- g. Kristie asked what parameters exist concerning the aesthetics of what can be built downtown. There is a plan commission that regulates many things, but not necessarily



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design standards, and Jenette said she could bring back more information about what design standards do exist.

- h. Jenette presented a proposed process modeled off the one used for the manhole cover selection. Kristie asked about how budget fits in, which Jenette replied is still open. Tamzin suggested working with the developer first to give him ideas of suggested price points, and then including a price for the project in the call. She also suggested asking for a portfolio.
- i. Karen suggested developing a primer for the developer with some different examples of what projects of that size might look like, using artists at different experience levels and price points, etc. Tamzin said she would be willing to do that.

2. Fencing project

- a. Jenette asked whether the Commission is interested in pursuing a project to develop a mesh banner working with the high schools get the students to design something more interesting than a typical windscreen.
- b. Tamzin asked how long it would be up. Jenette said the construction fencing would be up for at least a year on Washington. The whole project is anticipated to take three years.
- c. Tamzin suggested doing something seasonal or having it 'crawl' so that a few pieces go up at a time. Jenette said one way to make that work might be to do the phases, the fence near the south building first. The prompt for the kids could be about community and what the new generation thinks of Oswego.
- d. Kristie said she would be willing to coordinate with the high schools, and that the project could turn a construction site into a beautification project. She said she could check with QuickSigns on pricing. Jenette said she'd check with Shodeen first to see if they already have a preferred signage vendor and to ensure they want to move forward.

3. Public Art Plan

- a. Because of the length of the meeting, review of the revised first two sections of the Public Art Plan is tabled till the December meeting.
- b. The Commission did a brainstorming exercise for funding a public art program, and locations for public art. Tamzin took comments back to draft the sections:
 - 1. Built-in guidelines for new developments. Karen suggested new developers could be asked to designate a certain amount of space or money for the creation and maintenance. Jenette suggested this was similar to 1% for Art programs that other communities have, that could be adapted to something more flexible, not a certain percent, but at least starting a conversation with new developers.
 - 2. Karen suggested a memorial option, creating a way for people to leave money for art, or planned giving, or a memorial bench-type program.
 - 3. Karen suggested also looking outside of Oswego for borrowing art that is otherwise homeless in their communities.
 - 4. Kristie said organizations like the Oswegoland Heritage Association get money from Oswegoans through planned giving, and we might be able to work with them to make sure we can honor history through art without a Pawnee mural.



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For example, a huge button artwork to honor the fact that there used to be a button factory here.

5. Other ideas: Sponsored utility box wraps, a rain barrel painting program, auctions in creative way like the artwork vending machine in The Venue, community-sponsored Random Acts of Kindness weekend twice a year that are sponsored like a charity run, events like galas and reviews, permits for murals that go back into funding the arts program, items for sale, a sponsorship program that puts projects on the website to give people concepts and ideas of what things would cost and what could be done.
 6. Ideas for spaces: Entrances to subdivisions, roundabouts, parking lots, four corners of Oswego like a compass or spokes of a wheel, islands in the river, sound barriers, outskirts to downtown as a way to connect everybody, private yards and garden walks, projecting to the islands, developers of new projects, sidewalk functional art, virtual or augmented reality, under bridges that often get graffiti-ed, new amphitheater, Old Traugher frontage on Route 71.
4. Lunafest
- a. Jenette proposed a sub-committee that would meet with Julie to hammer out details for Lunafest before the December meeting. The subcommittee could then report back at the December meeting for feedback from the rest of the commission.
 - b. The date was set for Feb. 8.
 - c. Kristie and Karen will be on the subcommittee.
 - d. Kristie said it would be helpful to push at Christmas Walk to sell tickets. One way might be having Commissioners talking to patrons at Christmas Walk. Handouts and posters might be helpful. Kristie said she could have materials at Little White School House and Karen said she could have them at the Santa line.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. LitFest information will come back at the December meeting.
2. Staff are trying to organize a good time for Village President Parlier to come, and we may try to coordinate with the Economic Development Commission dates.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

1. None.

NEXT MEETING: December 11, 2019

ADJOURNMENT 8:00 p.m.