



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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021
MEETING OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF OSWEGO
MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Attended: Katie Marter, Jennifer Putzier, Tony Pastore, Tamzin Ritchie, Jenette Sturges, Julie Hoffman

Absent: Karen Kulzer, Kristie Vest

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 January 13, 2021, minutes for approval. Motion to approve by Tamzin Ritchie, seconded by Katie Marter. The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Art At Village Hall

- a. Members of the Commission met with staff during the month and identified spaces and strategies for hanging art. Julie presented a rod and cord hanging system that would offer flexibility for hanging many sizes of art on the wall in different arrangements.
- b. Commissioners offered consensus in favor of a hanging system like the one presented.
- c. Tony said he preferred the system with the lighting if it is affordable enough, and would prefer a system that is compatible with the lighting in case we are able to add it to the hanging system later.
- d. Julie expressed concern that because artwork is so subjective, we need to establish guidelines for what art is accepted that is something we can point to on paper.
- e. Jenette said that staff expressed it would be important to just have some guidelines on paper to guard against obscenity.
- f. Jen said that it makes sense to have a standard letter that rejects people without a specific reason. We can simply say there were more applicants than space.
- g. Take a look at the Aurora Public Library from what they use since they've had this issue.
- h. Tamzin suggested a form letter due to the high submission rates.
- i. Julie said that because we are a government entity, if someone asks what the selection criteria is we need to have some guideline on paper. On the front end for rejection letters it can be something very vague.
- j. Julie said she would like something that could be relied upon, since we are a government body, so that if someone is rejected and attempts to submit a FOIA request relative to their rejection, we have something to give them.



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

- k. Tamzin suggested a juror to select the art rather than staff to avoid accusations of favoritism.
 - l. Julie said that the suggestion to use the winners from the Chamber Expo Art Show might be a perfect way to get things started and prepare for a call for more professional artists in the fall.
 - m. Jenette clarified that it would be the same pieces that win that hang in Village Hall.
 - n. Jen added that these picture rails can be done DIY without a proprietary system.
2. Art at the Amphitheater
- a. Julie presented the site plan for the Oswego Entertainment Venue that includes a space for the donor wall that is eye catching, plus an art garden where pieces are on display each season, spring through fall.
 - b. Tony said he liked the idea of an art garden.
 - c. Tamzin said it could be run in a similar way as the Art at Village Hall program, where we do a call for artists regularly.
 - d. Julie said that right now to get names on the donor wall right now requires a \$5,000 or higher donation.
 - e. For the wall, she asked whether the wall should be a commission-designed wall or do we do a call for artists? The Commission generally agreed that calls for artist would be more appropriate.
 - f. Jenette asked whether the water was available for an installation, which Julie said we would have to look into. Tamzin suggested that pieces in the water might be better protected for crowds, too.
 - g. Julie asked where to start and whether any commissioners have experience with one and what would be the start.
 - h. Jennifer said to begin with the insurance process to put some constraints on the projects.
 - i. Julie said that the art for village hall would be a hold harmless agreement, not insurance. The art garden at the amphitheater might be different based on the value of the artwork.
 - j. Tony asked whether this would be temporary or permanent, owned by the artist or the city? Julie indicated that the art garden would be a single season but the donor wall would be permanent. Tony suggested that something outdoors and in water would likely get damaged by the elements.
 - k. Jen was worried more about the art damaging others. Julie said that would be more a part of the amphitheater's insurance plan.
 - l. Tamzin said the permanent/temporary question is predicated on the expense. How much does the Village have to pay for it? It's a great idea, especially to have them switched out, but switching out pieces regularly could incur a lot of costs. Tony said buying a one-time thing might be cheaper. Julie said that smaller elements might be more easily moved.



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

- m. Tamzin said a cheaper approach might be to have an artist design a light installation and then have Public Works install it.
- n. Jennifer suggested one way to do it is to do one central piece that is permanent and then smaller pieces or other elements that can be swapped out or added to.
- o. Julie said she was very open to adding information and options to all the donor materials for those who are giving money specifically to the arts.
- p. Julie presented two models for installing a donor wall, which we do not have a full budget: building one as a commission or doing a call for artists. Tamzin said it falls outside her scope. Tony said this would fall into the scope of the architects work to make sure it stays standing. Could we give the architect the aesthetics we're looking for and have them design something?
- q. Julie said that at some point, we would need to develop physical constraints with the architect.
- r. Julie said she conceptualizes many artists coming together on this project, perhaps giving a concept to the architect. In a previous project she worked on, the winning artists was the one who was able to present the most comprehensive plan for both the artistry and the engineering.

NEW BUSINESS

1. LUNAFEST

- a. Julie said the Village has everything available to produce Lunafest as a drive-in event, and that we are hoping that we will have even fewer restrictions in the fall.
- b. Julie suggested having it when we typically have Lit Fest, since as an indoor event that would likely get pushed back. Originally proposed for May 8, unless Wine on the Fox is held then. She asked about potentially combining Lunafest and Wine on the Fox. Tamzin called that timeline optimistic but suggested integrating them as a weekend pass.
- c. Tamzin said Karen would be especially upset if LitFest were interrupted.
- d. Tamzin said that the drive-in is really the Covid solution. If Covid is not an issue, then a drive-in is not really necessary.
- e. Jenette said Wine on the Fox is traditionally the beginning of May. Julie's proposal is doing both Wine on the Fox and Lunafest together at the beginning of May. The other option is doing Wine on the Fox in May and Lunafest in the fall.
- f. Julie indicated that our administration wants a hiatus on Lunafest for one year. Regardless of when Lunafest and Wine on the Fox happens, LitFest won't happen this year, though staff did advocate for its continuation.
- g. Tony said fall is more reasonable for every event.
- h. Jenette indicated that staff has been instructed to make Wine on the Fox happen in May if it can be done within state guidelines.
- i. Jenette asked whether putting Lunafest in the fall a more inclusive event. Tony said it gives it a higher chance of being successful.



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

- j. Tamzin also suggested its possible that we'll see another resurgence of virus in the fall.
- k. Jennifer said she just really wanted to see Lunafest happen and happen safely.
- l. Katie said she wanted to see events spread throughout the year so there are more opportunities for people to get out.
- m. Consensus for whatever Julie can pull off safely so that it happens.
- n. Julie indicated that we're all on the same page that we're going to create an event that follows state guidelines and then it will be up to people's comfort levels to attend. Jenette thanked everyone for weighing in given the challenges of planning during uncertain times.

STAFF REPORTS

- Jenette is hoping to send an updated version on the Public Art Plan by Friday that takes all the previous discussions and puts them in a single document so far, plus the next section on the overarching structures for Financing.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Tony asked about the annual economic interest statements. Jenette said they should be coming from the County Clerk.

NEXT MEETING: March 10, 2021

ADJOURNMENT 7:40 p.m.