



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

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020**  
**MEETING OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**  
**VILLAGE OF OSWEGO**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL**

Attended, in person: Katie Marter, Jenette Sturges

Attended, remotely: Karen Kulzer, Anthony Pastore, Tamzin Ritchie, Kristie Vest

Absent: Jennifer Putzier

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Opened and closed at 6:05 p.m.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Jenette presented written copies of the September 9, 2020, minutes for approval. Motion to approve by Tamzin, seconded by Kristie. The minutes were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Public Art Plan
  - a. Jenette presented a draft of the *Locations* section of the Public Art Plan for commissioner review.
  - b. Tony said he liked bringing in the Village's engineer to assure safety
  - c. Karen said she liked the way it emphasized downtown but not to the exclusion of other locations.
  - d. Katie asked where Block 11 was. Jenette explained. Tony said Block 11 needed a naming piece of art, like River Street in Batavia. Jenette suggested adding that into the Public Art Plan. She also suggested an artistic wayfinding campaign as a goal project to include in the plan.
  - e. Karen brought up Carmel, Indiana, as a place to check out, especially relative to roundabout art. Jenette said she would reach out to Carmel for planning documents and to pick someone's brain about how their program started. Kristie said she would be particularly interested in the start of their program, and whether it was one piece that kicked it off.
  - f. With no additional comments, Jenette said she would add this section into the Plan and reach out for input on the Finances section.
2. Public Art at the Amphitheater Site
  - a. Jenette invited the Commissioners again for the Project Kick-off/Groundbreaking.
  - b. Public Art is still in the plan for Phase II
  - c. Jenette asked for input on the Oswego Entertainment Venue sponsorship document to encourage art donations. Tamzin suggested it be set up as a separate fund for art that makes clear that donors do not get direction on what the art is. Tony said they should



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still get their name on a plaque. Kristie said she liked getting in front of everybody's face that they can help bring art to the space. Tony suggested offering an online presence for donors.

### 3. Oswego Lit Fest

- a. Tamzin reported that she has not heard from any of the LitFest authors. If there's no way to have an official ghost account, there aren't many options.
- b. Tamzin suggested starting a program in January that builds up to a 2021 Lit Fest with a placeholder on social media. Doing something with the authors or the community, author promotions or a short story competition. Assuming 18-24 months for the pandemic, it's reasonable to build a presence online and build to a fall 2021 event.

### 4. LUNAFEST

- a. Applications are not open till mid-January because 2020 Lunafest will run through November. They will offer in-person, virtual and hybrid ways of doing the event. Kristie said she would ask next week how the St. Louis event is going.
- b. Karen suggested moving it to a warm weather month to do it outside in drive-in format. Jenette suggested that could solve our space challenge of growing the event larger than Village Hall, but too small to justify facility rental. She anticipated a challenge for a crowded event calendar, but that it would have possibilities.
- c. Kristie is in favor of an event of some kind. Karen said we have to move the date so we have time to promote and to try something differently.
- d. Jenette said she would go back to staff and pitch an outdoor LUNAFEST and come back to the Commission in November with suggested options.
- e. Tamzin said outdoor events are still not completely safe, and that she is prohibited from attending large events by her workplace. Karen suggested also offering a virtual option so it could be watched from home as well accommodating all comfort levels.

### 5. Block 11 Commissioned Project

- a. The utility box identified as a potential space is a high voltage box. It could potentially be a site for a wrap later because it would be a professional installation. ComEd also still has not responded to emails, but Jenette will keep contacting them.
- b. Jenette proposed the small wall around the trash compactor. It does not have a huge visual impact in the space, but it could still be a good first project because the wall is intact, owned by the Village, and ready to go.
- c. Karen said she'd found other images online where the exact same box has been painted. Jenette said she would continue to push on ComEd.
- d. Jenette said she was also working with the Village Engineer to identify which utility boxes might be an option, though the most visible ones are owned by IDOT.
- e. Karen said most people won't see it. They'll park in front of it. If something could be on top of the wall where it could be seen that would be an option. Like a sculpture. Jenette said the challenge is that sculpture would cost more. Tony suggested sculpture out of recycled materials. Karen suggested recycled materials make sense because it's right by the Dumpster. Karen said something high and with recycled materials seemed like a good fit.



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- f. Jenette said she would float a proposal to staff using upcycled materials and adding height. She said she would also keep pushing on ComEd and asked about other utility boxes.
- g. Tamzin said the draw to that box was that it was on Block 11.
- h. Tony asked about something functional, like bike racks on Block 11. Jenette said she would investigate what's being purchased for the block and research costs.
- i. Tamzin concurred that bike racks are green and would make a good project for the space.
- j. Jenette said she would also ask about other highly visible Village-owned walls.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Art at Village Hall
  - a. The Commission is in support of a call for art.
  - b. Tony asked about liability for if art gets damaged or stolen. Jenette said that we would get liability agreements. Tamzin said she would look for some good examples of contracts she's signed before.
  - c. Karen offered display boards, and said the Park District has some too. They could be used for social distancing as well.
  - d. Tamzin suggested that there might be photos of her exhibit from 2015-16 and the nails may still be in the walls.
  - e. Tony said we need criteria for what we'll hang. Tamzin said the artists must make sure the art must be ready for hanging or it doesn't get hung.
  - f. Jenette asked about timeframes, balancing wanting to offer opportunities to many artists, but also wanting to reduce workload to keep it sustainable.
  - g. Katie said if it's on a three month basis, alternating one artist with multiple artists might ease the workload, since one artist is easier to manage than trying to make multiple artists complement or contrast each other. Karen also suggested having one group, like the Kendall Arts Guild, would be responsible for the hanging and overall coordination.
  - h. Tony said it can be helpful to have one artist at a time because it helps with a more cohesive aesthetic. It would also require less wall space to feature just one artist.
  - i. Jenette said she'd draw up a proposal to bring back next month.
- 2. Meeting dates
  - a. The commission agreed on 2021 meeting dates as proposed.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

- 1. None.

#### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

- 1. Karen shared photos of Carmel, Ind., for other commissioners to peruse.

**NEXT MEETING:** November 18, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT** 7:41 p.m.