



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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021
MEETING OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF OSWEGO
MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Attended: Angie Hibben, Karen Kulzer, Katie Marter, Jennifer Putzier, Tamzin Ritchie, Jenette Sturges, Kristie Vest

Attended remotely: Julie Hoffman

Absent: Tony Pastore

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM

Opened and closed at 6:04 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Jenette presented written copies of the February 10, 2021, minutes for approval. Motion to approve by Tamzin Ritchie, seconded by Jennifer Putzier. The minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

1. LUNAFEST

- a. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 7. Do we want it outside or in, considering Phase 5 relaxed restrictions and liquor laws that would require fencing if want to sell wine. The outdoor event could use the Village's new showmobile and sound system and might give us the ability to reach more people.
- b. Jenette added that an outdoor event might allow us to grow the event. Kristie asked if we've sold out.
- c. Kristie said it's nice to have an outdoor event with the option to move it inside if necessary because of weather.
- d. Angie said her concerns were heat, mosquitoes, starting late for sunset, I don't think we need alcohol because the additional cost would impact the benefitting charity. But she said she wanted to see marketing quickly because it's still vacation time and lead-up to the return to school. She is less concerned about indoor events because people are starting to turn out for indoor events.
- e. Kristie asked about the open liquor ordinance at the new amphitheater. Julie said there would be no fencing, so sales would require a fence. Jenette will inquire about BYOB.
- f. Tamzin asked if we could offer wine inside Village Hall and then seating outdoors.
- g. Kristie said it depended on sales versus BYOB or giving it away.
- h. Jenette asked if BYOB is fine outdoors, is an indoor/outdoor option at Village Hall the ideal option?



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- i. Angie said she's still concerned about the late start, including for older patrons.
 - j. Karen pointed out that when there have been two showings, the earlier one was more popular. Kristie said people like to go to it but won't carve out their Saturday night. Karen said people like to go out to eat after.
 - k. Karen said she was concerned about moving the date and the time and the format. She said that people will want to do an indoor version.
 - l. Julie suggested going back to the same schedule as previous years with an afternoon start.
 - m. Jennifer asked if we have to make it the Saturday. Jenette asked whether Sunday is an option.
 - n. Kristie suggested a brunch menu.
 - o. Angie said she had available prosecco to donate for mimosas.
 - p. Julie asked whether we needed to be sensitive to a traditional church start time. The commission agreed on an 11 a.m. start time.
 - q. Jennifer suggested a noon start time for the films.
 - r. Julie confirmed we would be doing brunch finger foods, not a full sit down menu. The Commission agreed on the term "Small Plate Brunch."
 - s. Tamzin said Last year we emphasized an interactive art experience and we should make sure to emphasize it must be art by the creator's hand.
 - t. Angie suggested a fashion show, with either a Bella Gia homecoming showcase, or Karen suggested the fashion design classes at the high school. It was decided to put that in the notes for a February event.
 - u. The Commission agreed on continuing to benefit Mutual Ground.
 - v. Tamzin suggested brunch-y jazz music outside in a tent.
2. Art at Village Hall
- a. Julie said we need to determine an end date for the current exhibit, and then a process for selecting the next exhibit.
 - b. Karen said the artists were originally told May 21, so it would be good to take them down sooner rather than later. She suggested that the next show could be the Kendall Art Guild since many artists (and the organization as a whole) haven't had the opportunity to show lately. Karen suggested that working with organizations that already have artists, it allows us to explain the constraints on the space and content we have and groups can find pieces that work within those constraints.
 - c. Tamzin said it could also be a good opportunity for them to re-establish themselves.
 - d. Jenette suggested having the current exhibit through the end of June, a month off, then an August-September show, then a month off, followed by something in time for the holidays, to establish a rhythm.
 - e. Angie suggested a community Christmas card theme for the holiday show. We could have a one-day event with an artist here to teach a class on how to make a Christmas card.



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- f. Jenette said we could plan to pull down the current pieces on June 30, and have the Kendall Art Guild up by Aug. 1, so there would be a monthlong gap, but would establish a rhythm. That Gives us an opportunity to prepare a call for artist for the following show.
 - g. Karen suggested themes for the call for artists, in particular a miniature theme. By standardizing the size we can include many. Kristie suggested a community holiday card wall.
 - h. Angie suggested having a one-day event with an artist to learn how to paint the cards. Kristie suggested it could be a Christmas Walk activity. Angie suggested an event before, like in November, which Julie said would fit more in the Village's special event schedule.
 - i. Jennifer suggested putting the Village's art collection up on the walls in between shows.
 - j. Jenette suggested a piece in the space that explains that we are getting ready for our next exhibit. Tamzin said she has a half-complete painting that would work in the space.
 - k. Jennifer suggested that could be a first commissioned piece, and also suggested graphics from the Little White School Museum.
 - l. August September October for the art guild, November off, and then December and January for the Christmas cards. Julie said she'd like to see one up either the beginning of November or after Christmas Walk. '
 - m. Angie asked if the commission could hang it. The bigger concern is coordinating with many artists at once. Commissioners asked whether they could be brought to other drop-off locations. Julie said we've been instructed that Village employees must hang the art for insurance purposes. Jenette said she could hang them, the bigger logistics of who is getting hung, confirmations, etc. are the bigger concern. Karen said the best way is to specify a time when people can drop them off.
 - n. Karen said we'd want the size at least to be uniform, and we only want it to be the cover of the card, not something that opens. Kristie suggested having the cards available for purchase/pickup. Jennifer suggested thick paper for multiple materials to work.
 - o. Karen and Julie will connect to coordinate with the Kendall Arts Guild.
 - p. Julie asked that we place criteria for artists to be hung on the next meeting's agenda. Staff will confer with managers prior to then for guidance.
 - q. Jennifer asked whether the exhibit schedules, themes, etc., would be the Commission's responsibility or Village's staff. Julie said the Commission would recommend, and staff would review and accept the recommendation. Jenette emphasized that if the Commissioners ever felt like they are not being heard by staff or staff is not working in partnership with the Commission to please say something and we will work it out.
3. Public Art Plan
- a. Jenette presented what the Commission has done so far with the Public Art Plan and said that it is a small and sketched out plan that the most important thing is that it is functional for getting the commission going with procuring public art for the community.



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- b. She presented the Funding section, which includes a process and annual timelines, depending on the project cost.
- c. She told the Commission they have \$8,000 to work with in this year's budget. The Commission should propose an outline for a project in that budget following this presented process and staff will advocate for it to be funded.
- d. Angie said she liked the developer set-aside. Jenette said this plan includes the developer set-aside, but that a problem with that is that it must be enforced in negotiations, and often gets left out when there are cost overruns. It would require political will to build an art set-aside into our code. Angie suggested a dollar amount in lieu as well. Jenette recommended that we include a development set-aside into the Public Art Plan. The commission could then approach the board either now or following several successful public art projects when there is more public enthusiasm, to recommend a set aside be codified and enforced. Getting more art in the community may help build the case later, but it's the Commission's decision when to pursue.
- e. Jennifer suggested adding a push for a set-aside into the long-term goals.
- f. Jenette said she would clarify with leadership but it appears we have \$8,000 we need to spend now before April 30, 2022, and also need to develop another project proposal by October for the FY 2022-23 year.
- g. Tamzin asked about the process for working with the property owners who would be involved.
- h. Katie proposed approaching the property owner to gauge interest, propose a basic concept to the property owner and get their initial feedback at the beginning of the project, move forward with Call For Artists, and then get agreement on the project from the property owner, Village/Commission, and the artist.
- i. Angie proposed a mural for the Oswego Cyclery building, either the side that faces the railroad above the Oswego Brewing Co. or the alley side or something that wraps around.
- j. Tamzin voiced support and said we should identify themes prior to the next meeting to craft Call for Artists.
- k. Jenette said she would go back to her boss and confirm some of the details of the process, whether staff or the commission should start conversations with the building owner, the timeline, and starting the process of developing a contract.
- l. Tamzin asked for a review of what the Commission had already outlined for murals when we discussed the 113 Main Building. Jenette said she would pull notes from those discussions.
- m. Kristie said her biggest concern for this project was timing relative to paint drying temperatures and the weather. Kristie said she would reach out to a mural artist and determine the months that mural artists can paint in northern Illinois.
- n. We got sidetracked ranting about the North Aurora grain tower.
- o. Kristie asked about the timeline on the Call for Artists from the manhole cover.
- p. Jennifer asked about how the agreement would be drafted between the Village and the building owner to ensure its longevity, and how would that impact our timeline?



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- q. Jenette said that following initial interest from the building owner, staff would draw up a contract with various out clauses prior to the start of painting, that includes a maintenance clause and time minimum.
- r. Angie asked whether lawyer fees for contract review come out of the \$8,000 on the project. Jenette said she would look into it.
- s. Katie asked whether a transfer in building ownership would affect the contract on the mural. Jenette said they would address that in the contract.
- t. Angie said we should make sure that if there is any way possible to get the contract, call for artists and other steps complete by the end of the fiscal year we should get it done so as not to leave \$8,000 on the table if mural painting can't start in June because of weather.
- u. Jenette suggested that if we want to make sure we don't leave money on the table, we could propose a different project for this fiscal year that is not as weather dependent. Angie propose an art alley concept that installs a grid to hang semi-permanent art.
- v. Jenette said she would ask all the question about the mural project to see if it can happen this budget cycle. Concurrently, we will bring concrete plans for what we can do with \$8,000 that is not as weather dependent. Tamzin liked the alley suggestion.
- w. Jennifer asked whether it might make more sense to concentrate on a project on Village-owned property this year to avoid the time crunch. Kristie suggested the walkway near Waubensee Creek, which is Village-owned and could make a good site for an alley art installation. It floods, but the fence line side might be a good spot. Jenette asked whether the Commission liked the idea of the walkway, which already looks nice, or a currently unappealing alley that could be activated.

STAFF REPORTS

- None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Jennifer said thank you to Julie for joining us during her vacation.
- Angie asked about OMA training, but the State Attorney's Office site is still down.

NEXT MEETING: July 14, 2021

ADJOURNMENT 8:06 p.m.