



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

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021**  
**MEETING OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**  
**VILLAGE OF OSWEGO**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL**

Attended: Karen Kulzer, Katie Marter, Tony Pastore, Jennifer Putzier, Kristie Vest, Jenette Sturges, Julie Hoffman

Absent: Angie Hibben, Tamzin Ritchie

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Opened and closed at 6:02 p.m.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Jenette presented written copies of the June 9, 2021, minutes for approval. Motion to approve by Kristie Vest, seconded by Karen Kulzer. The minutes were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. LUNAFEST

- a. Julie said she had no artist applicants yet, but she is expecting four to come in soon. She has reached out several local arts guilds. The deadline is next Friday. She asked for help from the Commissions in spreading the word.
- b. Ticket sales are at approximately 30. Julie solicited ideas for additional outlets for marketing.
- c. The Village Grind will cater, but they are only able to do bento box style brunch items. Staff will pick it up and do displays. Bento boxes eliminate the need for people to touch things, and Julie will add floral and other elements to the table. Fruit muffins, quiches and ham, cheddar and green apple croissant. For intermission, brownies with strawberry glaze.
- d. Kristie suggested a sign at the table when people check in. She also suggested that Commissioners try to make anyone who does stand more comfortable.
- e. Jenette said she would target some media contacts for a preview story.
- f. Jennifer asked if we could add the dates of events to the agenda in the future to help everyone keep track.

2. Art at Village Hall



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- a. Julie said the Kendall Art Guild would not be ready in time for August. Karen suggested reaching out to AID. Karen also suggested it would be a good to get the calendar well in advance for the schools, and that giving art guilds six months or a year in advance would give the guilds something to look forward to. Karen said she also has interest from a variety of private schools. Karen said she would notify Julie when she hears back from AID.
- b. Julie said Tamzin is going to bring the half-done work in progress for the temporary space.
- c. Karen said interim displays might come from the Little White School House too. Kristie said they would probably be interested but the collection is technically the Oswegoland Heritage Society's so we'd have to talk to them. Kristie said she would connect Julie to Tina Heidrich.
- d. Julie asked for confirmation on the direction for the Christmas card exhibit. Jennifer reiterated the plan to distribute papers of a certain size to distribute and then get them submitted back. The group discussed paper type and weight to make sure they don't wrinkle or watercolor doesn't soak. Karen suggested limits on how wide extra borders or things could stick out.
- e. The emphasis for the holiday cards will be a winter theme, rather than Christmas, so that they can stay up through January.
- f. Commissioners considered 4x6 but agreed on 5x7 sized cards of pre-cut matboard, 141-lbs minimum to accommodate watercolor, to have more visual impact. If we don't get enough submittals to make the wall full, really excellent ones could be blown up larger. There should be constraints added concerning borders and third dimension.
- g. Jenette suggested the Cultural Arts Commissioners do some beforehand so people can see constraints and also be inspired.
- h. Karen suggested assembling kits for teachers with (a) instructions and (b) 20 or so matboards each.
- i. Jennifer suggested adding preprinted labels on the back including first name, last name, and email addresses.
- j. The Commission decided to kick off the community activity at PrairieFest, where the park district will already be hosting a community art project. Jenette will assemble an A-frame with a sign explaining the activity and promoting the Cultural Arts Commission for use at PrairieFest.
- k. At the next meeting we will select paper.
- l. Submission acceptance weeks will be Nov. 1-5 and 8-12. Distribution will start Sept. 3 at PrairieFest and at Village Hall starting the 7th. We will both inform and hand them out at PrairieFest.

### 3. Downtown Mural



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- a. Jenette said that we have the go-ahead to move forward with a downtown mural this year. We expect it to be a relatively small turnaround time for artists, so commissioners are encouraged to email muralists contact information to Jenette.
- b. A call for artists and contract with building owner Art Black will happen simultaneously to allow us to move forward quickly.
- c. Jenette presented the Commission with the prompt from the manhole cover project.
- d. Karen said that painting directly on the building would likely be more cost effective, but affixing something to the building may last longer. Building owners will need to be informed about the projected lifespan and a maintenance agreement will need to be made. FRAMA's outdoor projects, like the picnic benches are expected to last 2-5 years with priming and lacquer/boat varnish, though they get more wear and tear than a wall.
- e. The Call for Artists should include:
  - i. Would the artist prefer painting on the building or on an affixed surface?
  - ii. A line that includes "We expect a permanent installation to last X number of years."
  - iii. Tell us your materials (acrylic paints, spray paint, etc.) and include a maintenance plan.
  - iv. Photos of previous work samples, ideally locally.
- f. Kristie said the park district recently purchased an anti-vandalism paint that creates a shell over the painting so that vandalism can be cleaned off.
- g. Jenette said the next step would be for staff to reach out to the building owner to begin the discussion.
- h. The Commissioners had the following feedback on the prompt:
  - i. The list of descriptors feels abstract, even though they were cultivated over several meetings. The introduction does a good job of setting the scene.
  - ii. Tony suggested adding 'vibrant' to the list of adjectives
  - iii. Kristie said she liked keeping the prompt open so that it gives a lot of breadth to the artists to see what they can bring.
  - iv. Commissioners suggested splitting the nouns and the adjectives into different lists.
  - v. Kristie pointed to a page of the aesthetic she thought was applicable. Jenette suggested including both the prompt and the aesthetic in the Call for Artists.
- i. Jenette said there would be multiple outs in the contract with the building owner that would allow them to decide that they don't want the mural on their building
- j. Tony asked whether we preferred a call to artists based on their past portfolio or if we want a specific concept. Jennifer said she preferred a concept to ensure that a really talented artist doesn't produce crap under pressure.
- k. Jenette said that we're looking at a proposal that would state that we're looking at a budget between \$5,000 and \$6,000 and that we would state that budget in the call for artists to see what we could get for that amount. The Commission agreed on the



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approach so as not to waste artists' time who don't want to work for that amount, but Commissioners said \$5,000 may be low.

- l. Jenette suggested including a statement in the Call for Artists that said we would be evaluating the proposals at least partially based on the amount of visual impact.
- m. Commissioners asked about the ability to provide scaffolding/a scissor lift/a cherry picker for the artist so they can avoid the cost
- n. Tony said the Call for Artist should ask for a 'conceptual rendering' that should include color.
- o. Jenette will take all the feedback and staff will incorporate it into the Call for Artists.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

- Jenette said that while the focus for now is on the mural, as we look toward the spring and an alley walkway temporary installation project, we should be particularly thinking about how these projects might engage people as spots for Instagram photos.
- The village is doing a talent show/open mic. Once the date is announced, we'll be looking for commissioners to spread the word and act as judges.
- Jenette needs to reschedule the September meeting because she'll be at a conference. The Commissioners agreed to Sept. 15.

#### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

- None

**NEXT MEETING:** August 11, 2021

**ADJOURNMENT** 7:56 p.m.