

**Wednesday, February 17, 2024**  
**CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Tony Pastore, Katie Marter, Bridget Piekarczyk, Karen Kulzer, Michelle Meyers, Kristie Vest and Julie Hoffman (staff)

Absent: None

**START OF MEETING**

A motion to begin the meeting was made at 6:05 p.m. by Tony and seconded by Karen.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Public Forum was opened and closed at 6:09 p.m.

**MINUTES**

The January 10, 2024, minutes were approved as amended. Tony made a motion to approve. They were seconded by Bridget.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Functional Sculpture:

The following discussion points surrounded the topic of the spring downtown sculpture installation:

- Don't use the words, "Bike racks" when promoting the upcoming public art installation. Use the terms, "functional sculpture".
- Promote the installation and boast about who the CAC is in the process.
- If we don't boast about it, we are playing into the negativity that surrounded the initial media coverage.
- It's all in the messaging. Tell the story of how it came together. i.e. We wanted a unique partner with a unique design that was functional. The partner organization, *All Kinds*, is women-owned and local to the Chicago area.
- Voice the value of art.
- Art is supposed to evoke emotion, and this will do that.
- Include pictures and consider a side-by-side depiction of IL wildflowers next to the wildflower sculptures to tie in the message about the subject matter.
- Plan a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Light Pole Banner Project:

Julie informed the Commission that the OFEE Grant was denied but they suggested a few resources for other art-related grants for consideration.

Commissioners agreed that this is the priority at the presentation to the Board on 2/20/24.

The Power Point Presentation draft for the 2/20/24 Board presentation was shared for review. Discussion points followed:

- Don't include the cost of Public Works labor since they would be changing the light poles anyway for village-related purposes.
- Use some of the 24" x 24" banners on smaller light poles for the younger students. There is no additional costs for brackets since they are already on many of the poles.
- Use poles that can accommodate the 30" x 60" banners to the extent possible. The older students can have their art displayed on those.
- 30" x 60" was the "recommended" option with the 24" x 24" banners being the "alternative" option.
- Add photos of a person to the presentation next to the light poles for both sizes
- Get a CAD drawing so that there is a map showing where the banners would be installed.

### Downtown Mural

The Commission was in favor of proposing the Farmers-market/Fox River-themed mural to the Board on the side of the Bike shop building at 57 Main St.

Selling points to the Board for the 2/20/24 presentation:

- The flowers in the functional sculpture are featured in the mural design as well.
- We already have a mural downtown; this is the same artist, but this mural is intended to be bigger and better.

### "Artober"

Discussion points about a possible "Artober" art fair are summarized as follows:

- Julie presented a budget draft for consideration.
- The budget draft led the commission into numerous discussion points pertaining to:
  - Time of year (i.e. end of September or early October)
    - The first Sunday in October is Fox Fall Fest
    - If on a Sunday, coordinate with Jackie who runs the Farmers Market to coordinate efforts
  - Location within the downtown
    - Hudson Crossing Park would not be an option due to the increased scope of the proposed event
    - Jackson St. from Madison to Harrison including the possibility of the old Brewery parking lot
    - Main Street with the possibility of the Tripp Insurance parking lot and or the Floral Expressions parking lot
    - Venue 1012 as an alternative
      - Tony prefers a downtown location.
  - Whether it should be a 1-day or 2-day event
    - If two days: Sept. 27 – 28 or Oct. 18 – 19
    - Event times - if a one-day event:
      - 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. on a Sunday OR
      - 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on a Saturday

- Some discussion ensued about the type of artists that the event would draw and the criteria that would be set.
  - Fine Art
  - Artisans
  - Crafters
  - Combination of the above with different artist and crafters positioned according to the category in which they applied

It was determined that there was too much to flush out before being ready to present this idea to the Board and thus it was removed from the presentation for the time being.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Wine on the Fox is coming up May 4 – 5, 2024.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Karen offered to run a community art project where furniture would be painted and auctioned off to raise additional funding for the CAC at a Farmers Market and/or at Wine on the Fox.

Karen encouraged anyone interested to submit their art to the Oswego Area Chamber of Commerce Hometown Expo Art Contest and Exhibit.

Kristie conveyed that tours of the Prairie Point Center at the Oswegoland Park District would be offered on February 28 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. before the barns and the building are reconstructed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Tony motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Katie seconded the motion.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Village Hall.