



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

Wednesday, August 14, 2024
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

START OF MEETING

A motion was made at 6:04 p.m. by Tony Pastore, seconded by Kristie Vest.

ROLL CALL

Present Anthony Pastore, Kristie Vest, Katie Marter, Michelle Meyers, Dana Rickard, Bridget Piekarczyk Staff:
Bridget Bittman

PUBLIC FORUM

The Public Forum was open and closed at 6:04 p.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 18 and July 10 meeting minutes were approved as amended. Motion was made by Kristie Vest and Bridget P. seconded.

OLD BUSINESS

Look Up Oswego Banner Program

To help promote the program, the 2025 budget should include funds for signage and possible website costs.

For 2025, there was discussion to keep the small banners on the side streets, as well as keep large banners on main streets, as well as seeking extra locations. Suggested locations include the Washington St. bridge and Washington from Madison to Rt. 71.

For the submission process, Bridget P. suggested that we do away with alternates in 2025 and reach out to schools for additional submissions if there aren't enough entries. Bridget P. will connect with art teachers from jr. high and high schools to ensure schools are aware of the submission process. Katie mentioned that after doing it for one year, we should have a good response.

Bridget Bittman will provide an update on the 2024 light poles/banner locations and 2025 availability at the September meeting.

Katie advised that the banners were not installed down Van Buren or Adams by LaMariba. We can start with number of poles and be prepared to ask schools for the correct number of submissions. Commissioners agreed that students who are homeschooled and attend private schools should be invited to participate in 2025. Karen volunteered to be the point of contact/submission.

Michelle asked if the grade selection method is complicating the school count and suggested we use age brackets. Kristie noted that the grades selected in 2024 provide wide representation. Katie reminded the commission that the art teachers will curate and select art. Katie recommended a collaboration with high school art students for designing and resizing the banner submissions. Bridget P. suggested that if we give specific directions for artwork and sizing, the teachers can help students adhere to the specs provided. Dana added that we may be welcoming student commissioners to the CAC.

There was a discussion on how to expand and engage the community with the Look Up Oswego banners. Tony said to make sure that pieces selected for the entrances to downtown pop or stand out. More promotion is always good said Kristie and suggested using banner photos in the print newsletter, possibly on the cover. Katie added that social media could be used for the audience to select fan favorites. Kristie suggested that the Village consider doing 100 days of artwork on social media but was concerned about making it too competitive if parents, etc. promote select certain artwork but others don't get engagement. Karen suggested a large number of photos would help define the scope of the project. Bridget Bittman advised she would check with the Community Relations team on posting frequency.

Signage for Functional Public Art Bicycle Stands Installation

Karen tried contacting several different people in Aurora regarding their art on utility boxes, but was not able to reach anyone. Bridget advised that ComEd steers people away from painting or skins on boxes. Bridget will get a response in writing from ComEd. Karen questioned what kind of paint was used on the boxes in Aurora and recommended special floor and primer paints that also offer UV protection. Karen will continue to pursue answers from Aurora.

DFY2025 Public mural on grain storage building at Van Buren & Adams

Jason Watt's proposed design and cost estimate of \$10,800 to paint two partial silos during the month of October was presented to the Commission. Several commissioners noted that the design is colorful, represents many of Oswego's main features including the Fox River and farming, and will draw attention to the downtown area. There was a brief discussion about the area not being very attractive and the new mural will allow the area to rebuild and attract both residents and visitors.

The next step is to present the artwork to the landowner for approval and then bring the design and proposed site to a Village Board meeting for direction. The goal is to get Board consent in September so the artist can start the project in October. Bridget Bittman noted that the amount is very close to the funds left in the CAC budget. Commissioners also noted that the artist must provide a certificate of insurance. Bridget B. advised that she would get additional information on the cost of the lift, \$2,500, that is included in the quote.

Tony recommended that the Commission install lights to highlight the new artwork. Another commissioner suggested planting wildflowers to make the area welcoming for visitors. Due to budget constraints in 2024, the Commission will discuss these options for the 2025 budget.

To promote the call for Village Hall 2025 artists, a press release, enews bulletin and social media content will be shared in the next month. Karen mentioned that a great number of artists who have participated have successful sales and gain publicity for work since it is a free exhibit. Katie suggested asking artists as they are removing the display if anyone has purchased their artwork. The Hometown Expo art contest and Village Hall was brought up and Katie recommended that the Commission should reserve the space and time for contest winners after the Expo. The Expo display, as well as the recognition from the Village President at a Village Board meeting for student artists is well received. Bridget B. will report back on specific dates for 2025 displays.

At the next CAC meeting the silo mural presentation to the Board, as well as 2025 budget presentation to the Board will be discussed.

STAFF REPORTS – None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Tony: None

Bridget P.: School starts tomorrow.

Kristie: From the Park District's perspective, community art at festivals went well this year. Kristie said that the community art from Prairiefest will be placed at sites including Briarcliff. She mentioned that Jason Watts' murals on Fox Valley Winery mural and the silos are reflected in the art elements and color palette that Karen and FRAMA are using for community art.

Karen said she is also excited about this summer's community artwork, especially the nature theme. Karen mentioned that the art on poles receive the most comments, and there has not been any vandalism.

Michelle: City of Aurora and Aurora Public Art are hosting the LUMENAURA® Festival, an illuminated art experience in areas of downtown Aurora from October 11 through November 1. thr

Dana: School starts tomorrow and Dana will take photos of chalking her senior daughter's parking space.

Katie: None

Karen: September 14 is FRAMA's last performance and community art project at the Oswego Country Market. Last Sunday event had great attendance. She said it's been a great opportunity.

NEXT MEETING is September 11, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT Motion was made by Karen and seconded by Tony to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.