



**CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 11, 2024**

Location: Oswego Village Hall, 100 Parkers Mill, Oswego IL 60543

START OF MEETING

Tony Pastore called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Anthony Pastore, Karen Kulzer, Kristie Vest, Katie Marter, Dana Rickard, Bridget Piekarczyk, Chuck Boudreau.

Absent: Michelle Meyers

Also in attendance: Village Board Trustee Karin McCarthy-Lange

Staff: Bridget Bittman

PUBLIC FORUM

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Karen Kulzer made a motion, seconded by Kristie Vest to approve the August 14, 2024 minutes. Motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

New Cultural Arts Commissioner Chuck Boudreau was introduced, and CAC members introduced themselves and shared their connection to art and why they serve on the CAC.

OLD BUSINESS

Functional public art bicycle stands signage

Bridget B. updated the Commission that the utility box at the corner of Main and Van Buren is owned by the Village and can be covered with a “skin” or decal if it avoids the utility meters and connections. Karen noted that she prefers skin on both sides. Chuck asked about the wording for the sign and Karen advised it will include the preferred title, year established, brief description and design elements with colored wildflowers to echo the functional public art bicycle stands. Bridget P. asked if the entire box could be painted or primed. Kristie suggested the skin should have elements from Jason Watts’s silo design. Tony suggested bright flowers with black as negative. Katie advised it would be best to prime a lighter green color like the flower stems for contrast. Bridget P. and Karen agreed to work on the design. Bridget B. was asked to approach public works about painting the entire box and if certain paints are recommended that are non-flammable. Karen spoke with Aurora’s utility box art coordinator Jennifer Byrne.

TY2024 Public mural silos near intersection of Van Buren and Adams

Bridget B. advised that the 2 partial silo murals would be presented for approval on the Village Board’s September 17 agenda. There will a recommendation to complete all three silos at the same time, saving time and money for the lift rental, for an additional \$3,500, for a total of \$14,300, if the Board approves the addition. Finance confirmed that \$3,500 can be charged to the CAC’s 2025 budget. Commissioners advised that they were all in favor in moving ahead with the three silos recommendation. Dana asked if we could confirm with artist if

we have permission to use the artist's silo design on T-shirts and other promotional materials that may be sold to raise money for public art. Bridget B. will check with the artist.

2025 CAC budget request

The Commission discussed how to allocate the likely \$15,000 amount the Board may provide for the 2025 budget. There was discussion on additions to budget and the following was agreed upon:

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|---|--------------------|
| Additional cost to paint all three silos | \$ 3,500.00 |
| Banner project | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Graphic designer backup for banner project | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Commercial solar light for silos | \$ 3,500.00 |
| Artwork purchase and miscellaneous expenses such as signage | \$ 1,000.00 |
| TOTAL | \$15,000.00 |

There was discussion on how much to spend on the student art banner program and Bridget P. noted that the CAC should set aside money for a graphic artist in case Katie was not available to assist in 2025. Katie advised that the design work is doable but perhaps we could ask an afterschool art club to help adjust the files' size and saturation. If the correct sizes are communicated to the art teachers, Bridget P. advised that less time will be spent on resizing the images. Katie suggested that we should specify the file type and a specific resolution, pixel x pixel, to ensure the best quality and consistency. Katie said that she will prepare an info sheet with the specs and other considerations for the student artists and teachers.

Dana suggested that high school students could take photos of the artwork, however, Bridget P. stated that any afterschool or student interaction requires a teacher to supervise. Bridget P. said that she will work with elementary and jr. high art teachers to submit artwork in a consistent manner. She also suggested putting \$1,000 in the budget for graphic design and

Dana noted that in 2025 we should plan to place signage in the downtown area recognizing the Look Up Oswego program. Bridget B. advised that the banners will be installed during April, weather permitting.

There was discussion that the banner program promotion should start in November 2024 to notify teachers that submissions will be accepted January-February 2025. It was decided that we should send information to art teachers in November to prepare to submit artwork in January/February. Since high school teachers have different classes each semester, this will give an opportunity to showcase 1st semester student art. Bridget B. will prepare a draft communication that we can send to send to art teachers/school in November.

Kristie suggested that we add commercial solar lighting to the 2025 budget request to highlight the silos as breathtaking addition to downtown. Tony estimated that quality solar lights will cost approximately \$300-\$500 each and we'll need about six. Chuck asked if the lights came with cages to protect the outside of the light. The Commission settled on \$3,500 for solar lights and cages. Karen emphasized that it gets darker earlier and to use a timer to illuminate the silos at dusk. Kristie advised she'll reach out to lighting specialist at the Park District. The Village's Public Works team can install the lights. Tony suggested that a professional should make a recommendation on the caliber of lighting.

Kristie brought up using a portion of the CAC's budget to purchase a piece of art from one of the Village Hall artists. There was discussion on purchasing the moss art shaped like the Village logo that is currently on display. Dana suggested putting \$1,000 in miscellaneous for signage, marketing and the option to purchase a piece of art.

2025 Village Hall artist review November 13

Bridget B. advised that a press release will be issued in the next few weeks to invite artists to submit their work for the 2025 Village Hall exhibit space. Karen recommended sending the press release to Kendall County Art Guild. Tony asked if any poetry art has been submitted this year, as has been done in the past. Bridget B. advised that we have not received a poetry submission and there are two submissions thus far.

2025 Look Up Oswego student art banner program.

Bridget B. will draft an announcement and teacher letter for November to outline that submissions will be accepted on January 7. The initial deadline for submissions was suggested as February 28, however it was changed to February 21 per Bridget P.'s suggestion. This will allow Katie at least two weeks to revise and resize banners as needed.

Artwork will go to the printer on March 15 for April delivery. Public Works will install the banners in late April, weather permitting.

Bridget P. suggested that we don't need to add the student's first name on the banner. Dana suggested we recognize student art banners at graduations. Katie recommended a recognition at a Village Board meeting to acknowledge students and return the artwork. Kristie recognized that there's a large quantity of students and perhaps students can stand up to be acknowledged at a Board Meeting and group photos can be taken by schools. Karen suggested if students don't come to the Board recognition, they can pick up their banners at Village Hall within the week and the remaining banners can be returned to art teachers.

Dana suggested that we stick with the same number of banners as 2024, a quantity of 87, or possible add more high school art. Bridget B. shared the banner location map from Public Works. In 2024, 34 high school banners, 30"x60", were displayed and 53 elementary school banners, 24"x24" were displayed. Dana recommended getting rid of alternates and displaying 17 per high school and Katie recommended 20 for each high school.

Bridget P. suggested that a quantity 20 banners size 30"x60" be allocated for each high school and 50 24"x24" for elementary and jr. high schools, five per junior high and three per elementary school. A CAC member needs to reach out to alternative school, Eastview Academy, to gauge interest in the program. Bridget B. shared a map of the 2024 banner locations and will check to see if there are brackets remaining that can be used in 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed 2025 meeting dates

Katie suggested that the June date be changed from June 11 to June 18 due to Prairiefest.

Karen made the motion to accept the dates as amended, Katie seconded. Motion passed for the following dates:

January 8, 2025

February 12, 2025

March 12, 2025

April 9, 2025

May 14, 2025

June 18, 2025 Amended from June 11, 2024

July 9, 2025

August 13, 2025

September 10, 2025

October 8, 2025

November 12, 2025

December 10, 2025

STAFF REPORTS

None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Tony Pastore: Noted that Christmas retail displays are starting early.

Karen: FRAMA will host a double booth with art and rock painting, as well as musicians at the September 15 Country Market. Dana added that there's a Facebook group that paints and hides rocks.

Kristie: Shared that community art will be placed on Park District properties, locations to be determined. Auditions are taking place for Limelight Theater's junior school play. Brew at the Bridge takes place on September 21 with live music from Cowboy Co.

Bridget P.: School is in full swing.

Katie: No report.

Dana: Parents are chalking their senior students' parking spots the day before school (rain delay this year) and the night before the seniors' last day. Warrenville has its Art on the Prairie festival on September 21 & 22.

Chuck: No report.

NEXT MEETING

October 9, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Dana made the motion to adjourn, and Chuck seconded. Meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.