



PUBLIC ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.
Electronic Meeting

Members Present:

Janet Spector Bishop – School District 63
Carol Luc – Artist
Barbara Karawacki – Niles Historical Society
Julie Jentel – Niles Park District (Guest)
Sarah Djordjevic – Maine East Fine Arts Dept

Debi Gajewski – Artist
Marina Samovsky – Photographer
Joseph Steinfels – Niles VFW Post 3579
Kim Biederman – Niles Chamber of Commerce

Members Absent:

John Kosirog – School District 71
George Alpoianis – Niles Sister Cities

Kathleen Gallegos – Artist
Cyndi Rademacher – Niles-Maine District Library

Village Officials/Staff Present:

Katie Schneider – Community Engagement Coordinator

I. Call to Order:

Katie Schneider called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom audio/visual conferencing at 4:33 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Katie reminded members that the Public Arts and Culture Advisory Council is a public meeting which follows the Open Meetings Act. She quickly reviewed guidelines. Julie Jentel, who was present at the meeting, will be replacing Lindsey Kmetty and representing the Park District. Kim Biederman will become the Chair of the Council. Both will be appointed by the Mayor at the upcoming January Village Board meeting.

II. Public Comment

The electronic meeting is open to the public. No public comment was submitted in advance of the meeting. No public comment was made at the meeting.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Barb Karawacki made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2021 meeting as presented. Janet Spector Bishop second the motion, all were in favor. None opposed. Minutes approved.

IV. Organization Representative Reports

Janet Spector Bishop (School District 63) – The school district continues to navigate an in-person/e-learning pandemic world. It was announced that the new superintendent will be Dr. Shawn Schleizer when Scott Clay retires.

Carol Luc (Artist) – Carol is currently teaching art classes at the Senior Center. She recently contributed in the Birmingham, MI “Zip Us Up!” art display that celebrates togetherness.

Joseph Steinfels (Niles VFW 3579) – The VFW Post’s new location on Caldwell will be opening in March with (hopefully) a ribbon cutting.

Sarah Djordjevic (Maine East Fine Arts Dept) – Maine East is on track to perform Mamma Mia as the spring musical. They recently had an art show in their student library, some of it is posted on the Maine East Fine Arts Instagram account.

Debi Gajewski (Artist) – She is teaching art classes at the Senior Center and at the HTS Craft Studio in Niles on Croname.

Barbara Karawacki (Niles Historical Society) – The Historical Society is continues to focus on the Maine Flyer exhibit and will be hosting a Business After Hours with the Niles Chamber March 31 in the evening. The museum is looking for old phone books. A retired State Trooper, who worked in the building when it was a sheriff’s office, has shared old photos of the building and will donate his

uniform and other memorabilia. In conjunction with the Library, the Historical Society is hosting a program on the 1950 Census. They are always in need of volunteers.

Julie Jentel (Niles Park District) – Park District hosted their holiday events in-person and are moving forward with winter sports and Valentine’s Day dances.

Kim Biederman (Niles Chamber of Commerce) – Programs are a mix of in-person and virtual events. The Leadership Luncheon will be in-person with Mayor Alpogianis as the keynote speaker.

Katie Schneider (Village of Niles) – The Village hosted a successful in-person Holly Jolly Fest with 3,000 people in attendance.

V. Niles Artisan Guild

Debi Gajewski reported that the Niles Artisan Guild members meet regularly via zoom and is made up of a variety of artists - painters, quilters, wood carvers, pen maker, and acrylic painters. They have displays at Golf Mill Shopping Center, the Fitness Center and some local businesses. She reported that the group is looking to host workshops for “forgotten” art forms like wool felting, jewelry making, iris folding and others that have gone by the wayside. They will be looking to apply for a grant from the Arts and Culture Council.

VI. Old Business

- a. **Twinkle and Lights:** The Council talked briefly about the program this year and agreed it went very well and we should stick with this formula. Those that judged said that the map route was very helpful and that houses looked great this year. People’s Choice voting on Facebook went well too. Next year we will also host a Halloween Home-Decorating Contest. Debi Gajewski commented that there are many more homes decorated and nominated, so the program is definitely growing. It was suggested that we look at a “Decorated Block” initiatives of some kind.

VII. New Business

- a. **Projects and Budget for FY2023** – Katie Schneider informed the Council that she submitted budget items for the FY2023 budget that begins May 1, 2022. Items reflect conversations the Council has had this past year and goals outlined in the arts and culture master plan. The Council will review and set priorities at the next meeting.

Carol Luc asked about promoting the Leaning Tower replicas and what more we could do now that most of them are finished. Kim asked if the Council would be responsible for purchasing the stands that secure the towers. The Council agreed that we will have to look at which locations need a base and what the costs are and then vote on whether to purchase.

- b. **Meeting Schedule for 2022** – Meetings will continue for the second Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm virtually. Katie will update the calendar invite for 2022 and send out to the group.

VIII. Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. via zoom.

X. Adjournment

Debi Gajewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. Joseph Steinfelds second the motion, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Katie Schneider, Community Engagement Coordinator