



**PUBLIC ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 8, 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
Sarah Djordjevic – Maine East Fine Arts Dept

Debi Gajewski – Artist
Marina Samovsky – Photographer
Joseph Steinfels – Niles VFW Post 3579

Members Absent:

John Kosirog – School District 71
George Alpogianis – Niles Sister Cities
Kim Biederman – Niles Chamber of Commerce

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 4:34 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

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

Debi Gajewski made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2022 meeting as presented. Joseph Steinfels second the motion, all were in favor. None opposed. Minutes approved.

IV. Organization Representative Reports

Janet Spector Bishop (School District 63) – Gemini is hosting their band and orchestra showcases this month. District 63 is partnering with an Earth-week project, to recycle plastic bags and large collection boxes will be decorated by different grades and classrooms.

Carol Luc (Artist) – Carol’s collaborative group won an honorable mention in the Birmingham, MI “Zip Us Up!” project. She has work in the Remarque Print Exchange in New Mexico.

Sarah Djordjevic (Maine East Fine Arts Dept) – Maine East has the *Mamma Mia* musical coming up, with 100 students in the company. The Maine East Art Exhibition is on display from Feb 23- Feb 26th. The school is working on setting up internships again, if anyone is interested please let her know.

Marina Samovsky (Photographer) – No update.

Barbara Karawacki (Niles Historical Society) – “Maine Flyer” Exhibit is almost complete with a Business After Hours on 3/31 at the museum to kick-off the new exhibit. The Historical Society was interviewed with WTTW and will hopefully be featured on the *WTTW In Your Neighborhood: Niles* to air this evening.

Joseph Steinfels (Niles VFW 3579) – No update.

Debi Gajewski (Artist) – Continues to teach at the Niles Senior Center and focused on her Etsy sales.

Julie Jentel (Niles Park District) – Park District is beginning spring programs and Easter special events.

V. Niles Artisan Guild

Debi Gajewski reported that the Niles Artisan Guild will feature an Artist of the Month at the Niles Fitness Center in the display case. For February, Stan Gajewski is showcasing his work and has already received calls on items. Debi invited everyone to stop by and see what they are doing. The Niles Artisan Guild is working with Art-O-Mat, using old re-purposed cigarette machines to buy a \$5 cigarette size box of art. Debi spoke with Mayor Alpogianis and the NAG would like to have a machine at Civic Center plaza and possibly local businesses. Barb Karawacki would like to see one at the Historical Society. Debi will get more information.

VI. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

VII. New Business

- a. **Fitness Center Art Gallery:** Katie Schneider showed the Council photos of the existing space and discussed options for creating a potential pop-up art space. Costs and operations will be discussed at the next meeting.

Marina Samovsky gave a quick background on the At Our Table project. Photos of a Greek Family, Serbian family and Mexican family were showed to the group. Katie and Marina are actively looking for families of Asian, Middle Eastern or Indian heritage that want to participate. Any suggestions are appreciated.

Katie Schneider gave an update on the mini Leaning Tower replicas. In the next month four of them will be moved outside and then we will re-launch the program, hopefully in May.

- b. **Arts Feed – Niles Art Buzz** – Katie gave a quick tutorial on Arts Feed, it went stagnant during the pandemic since so many programs and events were cancelled. The Council was interested in getting this feature going again.
- c. **Arts and Culture Grants** – Grant applications were available to apply for funds up to \$1,000 with approval from the Arts and Culture Council. Council members discussed and decided to continue to offer grants but revise the criteria and process. This will be discussed at a later meeting.
- d. **Business Incentives** – Katie showed some examples of businesses that could incorporate art on their building. The Council discussed options around town and ways to encourage businesses to include artistic elements. No action was determined at this time.

VIII. Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

IX. Next Meeting

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

X. Adjournment

Debi Gajewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. Carol Luc second the motion, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Katie Schneider, Community Engagement Coordinator