



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

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.
Electronic Meeting

Members Present:

Janet Spector Bishop – School District 63
Carol Luc – Artist
Julie Jentel - Niles Park District
Victoria Luz- Niles-Maine District Library
Kim Biederman- Niles Chamber of Commerce

Debi Gajewski – Artist
Marina Samovsky – Photographer
Sarah Djordjevic – Maine East Fine Arts Dept
Joseph Steinfels – Niles VFW Post 3579

Members Absent:

John Kosirog – School District 71
Kathleen Gallegos – Artist

Barbara Karawacki – Niles Historical Society
George Alpogianis – Niles Sister Cities

Village Officials/Staff Present:

Katie Schneider – Community Engagement Coordinator
Kiki Alpogianis - Community Engagement Coordinator Intern

I. Call to Order:

Kim Biederman called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom audio/visual conferencing at 4:35 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 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

Kim Biederman asked to correct the minutes to show that she was absent from the February meeting. Janet Spector Bishop made a motion to accept the February 8, 2022 minutes listing Kim as absent. 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 Spring Orchestra Gala at Maine East High School on April 25th, the Spring Choir Concert on April 13th and Spring Musical April 28-30th. Gemini is hosting a combined choir concert at Maine East High School on May 4th and the spring band concert is on May 28th.

Sarah Djordjevic (Maine East Fine Arts Dept) – Sarah spoke about their upcoming concerts with Gemini and with D64 Emerson, these concerts total 500-600 students. Maine East is hosting an upcoming Spring play, *Failure: A Love Story*. The Drama class has reached out to elementary schools in District 63 and asked them to write plays that the class will later perform and record and send back to the elementary schools. Maine East has students entering local art shows, such as The Great Frame Up in Niles. Students have graduation coming up in May.

Joseph Steinfels (Niles VFW 3579) – The VFW post is moving. Friday there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new location on Caldwell. There is new leadership, Jim McGrath will be the new commander of the post. He will be inaugurated in June.

Julie Jentel (Niles Park District) - The Park District has done two out of their four spring events. Next week they will be holding a preschool open house. Camp registration has started and there will be a full summer camp.

Carol Luc (Artist) – Carol is involved in an inaugural event called the *Mother Earth Project*. It will be through Mother's Day weekend with an online auction. Carol's work has been accepted to the *Faith in Place* YouTube Channel. Carol is wrapping up teaching an introduction to watercolor at the Niles Senior Center next week.

Katie Schneider (Community Engagement Coordinator) - Katie is working with the Niles Senior Center and the Niles Chamber on an Art and Jazz Fest on Saturday, September 10. We are working on finding local artists to sell their work at the fest. Katie mentioned how Kim is working to obtain food vendors and activities for guests.

Marina Samovsky (Photographer) – Marina is conducting general PR photography and headshots.

Victoria Luz (Niles-Maine District Library) - The library has a poetry walk going on in their gallery for National Poetry month. The library has new artists booked in their galley for up to October.

Kim Biederman (Niles Chamber of Commerce) - The Chamber is coordinating a ribbon cutting at the new VFW location on 7255 N. Caldwell Ave. The Niles Morning Network is Tuesday, April 19th at the Niles Maine District Library and there is a Business After Hours with the Skokie Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, April 26th. A Women in Business event with the Edison Park and Park Ridge Chambers of Commerce is on Wednesday, April 27th at Amici Restaurant. Thursday, May 12th the Chamber is hosting a multi chamber connect event. On Wednesday, May 18th the Chamber is hosting a coffee and conversation event at Joe Donut with the new State Representative Michael Kelly.

Debi Gajewski (Artist) – Debi is still busy with her business on Etsy. Debi will start teaching at the Senior Center on April 26th, they have asked her to do some summer programs as well. Debi is working on a project with Global Roots, a worldwide mural event.

V. Niles Artisan Guild

Debi Gajewski reported that the Guild has some new members. They continue to have an Artist of the Month at the Fitness Center, Pam Yokoyama who will be featured in May. Golf Mill has two new display cases with art and the Guild is working on a surprise display at Golf Mill Mall, which will be displayed in the windows. The Niles Artisan Guild plans to work with the Niles Chamber for a ribbon cutting ceremony. Niles Artisan Guild would also like to work on having a mural of mandalas in Niles. The plan is to have multiple artists complete a 4" x 4" mandala and have them put together to make a 5' x 10' mural. Debi spoke with Mayor Alpogianis about the possibility of having the mural in Niles. Debi suggested the Niles Artisan Guild apply for an Arts and Culture grant but stated that the project may exceed the \$1,000 limit. Council members discussed the current grant program and agreed that we should try a new approach since there is rarely any applications and no grant money has been disbursed. The Council agreed to increase the potential amount to \$5,000. Applicants can apply for any dollar amount and the Council will need to approve. Katie will update the grant application.

VI. Old Business

- a. **Fitness Center Art Gallery:** Katie Schneider reported all of the furniture has been removed from the lounge area. Katie would like to move forward on the Fitness Center Art Gallery. The walls in the gallery will need to be painted. Katie received a quote for the paint and patchwork, which would be \$3,600. Katie reported Kiki Alpogianis has been researching agreements between the gallery and the artists. Katie suggested that the Arts and Culture Council will determine which artists will be featured in the gallery. Katie reported that there will be a hanging system similar to the one at the Niles Library. Victoria Luz said she will send Katie the system that they use at the Niles Library. Carol Luc suggested that the lighting should be improved to better see displays. Victoria Luz commented that they book the artists in the Niles Library galley for two months at a time. She stated the committee researches the artists and they vote to decide if they will be featured. Carol Luc stated she ran an art gallery and will share the information.

Debi Gajewski made a motion to approve expenses to paint the Fitness Center walls for an art gallery and purchase a wall track mounting system. Carol Luc second the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

VII. New Business

- a. **Murals:** Katie Schneider distributed a list of potential sites for public art installation. These sites were identified based on Council discussions at previous meetings, the Arts and Culture Master Plan, economic development discussions and at Mayor Alpogianis' request. Katie Schneider, Trustee Craig Niedermaier and Mayor George Alpogianis connected with photographer Sandro Miller and visited these sites.

VIII. Open Discussion

At the upcoming May Board Meeting, the Village Board of Trustees will appoint all committee and board positions, this will include Arts and Culture Council members. Village Clerk Marlene Victorine will reach out to you if there are any changes to your appointment.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday May 10, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. via zoom.

X. Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by: Katie Schneider, Community Engagement Coordinator