



Village of Niles
PUBLIC ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.
Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles
2nd Floor Conference Room/EOC

Members Present:

Tracy Holmes - Niles Chamber of Commerce
Kathleen Gallegos - Artist
Julie Jentel - Niles Park District
Barbara Karawacki - Niles Historical Society
Carol Luc - Artist

Ramon Pierto - VFW Post 3579
Sarah Djordjevic - Maine East Fine Arts Dept
Carly Derec - Artist
Angie Schab - School District 63

Members Absent:

Marina Samovsky - Photographer
Victoria Luz- Niles - Maine District Library

Village Officials/Staff Present:

Katie Schneider - Community Engagement Coordinator
Craig Niedermaier - Trustee

I. Call to Order:

Katie Schneider called the meeting to order in person on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at Village Hall, EOC, 1000 Civic Center Drive at 4:30 p.m.

II. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Sarah Djordjevic made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2023, Angie Schab second the motion, all were in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Minutes approved.

IV. Organization Representative Reports

Members of the Council each gave an update as it relates to art and culture initiatives.

V. Niles Artisan Guild

No report was given.

VI. Old Business

- a. **Fitness Center Art Gallery:** Stephen Serio artwork is up through June. The art reception was very well attended with over 50 people. The Council wants to determine a submission process for interested artists to apply.
- b. **Sandro Miller Art Consultant** - Trustee Niedermaier was present at the meeting and encouraged the Council to look at Skokie and Evanston and their art efforts. He also referenced Detroit, MI and Austin, TX as cities that have cultivated a strong art scene. He believes that if Niles wants to be known for its art, it needs to be unique to Niles and reflect the people, history and values of Niles. Niles is a blue-collar, working-class town where we value family and functionality. Art should be functional; home grown and embrace craftsmanship and artisanship. The discussion continued around those central points and the committee agreed to do some homework and visit sites in Niles where art could be incorporated.

c. **VII. New Business**

- a. **Grant Application Niles Metropolitan Choir:** The application was submitted to the Council for review. The group was supportive of the performing arts initiative and discussed ways to encourage students and younger people to participate. Carly Derek made a motion to approve \$1,000 for grant funds to underwrite costs of the program, Sarah Djordjevic seconded the motion, all were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

VIII. Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. and will be in person only.

X. Adjournment

Tracy Holmes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Barbara Karawacki second the motion, all were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Katie Schneider, Community Engagement Coordinator