Village of Niles
PUBLIC ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.
In-Person, Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles
2nd Floor Conference Room/EOC

Members Present:

Marina Samovsky – Photographer

Ramon Pierto – VFW Post 3579

Julie Jentel - Niles Park District

Angie Schab – School District 63

Tracy Holmes - Niles Chamber of Commerce

Carol Luc – Artist

Carly Derec – Artist

Members Absent:

Sarah Djordjevic – Maine East Fine Arts Dept

Victoria Luz- Niles - Maine District Library

Barbara Karawacki – Niles Historical Society

Village Officials/Staff Present:

Katie Schneider – Community Engagement Coordinator

Craig Niedermaier – Village Trustee

I. Call to Order:

Marina Samovsky called the meeting to order in person on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at Village Hall, EOC, 1000 Civic Center Drive at 4:35 p.m.

II. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the June 13 meeting were not available at the time of the meeting.

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:** The next artist will be David Rzany and we are aiming for an August 1st opening reception. He is working on a Pop Culture theme for the showcase. We will need to purchase the metal hanging components since the current ones made the pictures tilt off the wall. Council members discussed the need for a name of the art gallery. All members liked the idea of naming it in memory of Tony Hollenbach, former Family Services Director who worked with everyone to bring compassion and kindness to the world. He was a big supporter of the arts and bringing people together in harmony.

b. **Sandro Miller Art Consultant –** A sculpture by Marc Arnold called "Lest We Forget: Quiet Courage" was presented to the Council. The total cost that would include three soldiers and the easel would range from $120-$150K; this would be located at Golf Mill Park. Mayor Alpogianis has asked that Golf Mill Park be named in honor of WW2 Veteran Matthew Wojtaszek, Sr. and that an art sculpture be placed honoring WW2 Veterans. While the Council supported the idea of honoring Veteran Wojtaszek, they were hesitant to spend that amount of funds on one project. They would like to think strategically about what art looks like as a whole

community. For next time, the Council would like to discuss whether the Marc Arnold sculpture should be over by the waterfall at Touhy and Milwaukee.

Members had a lengthy discussion on the "big picture" for art in Niles and a cohesive approach to encouraging and installing art that matched what Niles is. It's important that the Council consider "who Niles is" and "who Niles isn't" as we formalize a unified plan. The group seemed to agree that Niles is a working class, utilitarian/blue collar community and that art should be functional, touchable and/or interactive. It is not fine art or cerebral.

Council Chair Marina Samovsky discussed ways to involve the schools to help art teachers and support students to more opportunities for artistic outlets, especially those that lead to career opportunities. The Council considered a part of the Fitness Center art gallery for the school projects which would give the gallery more exposure to the community and engage young people's artwork.

   c. <u>VII. New Business</u>
      a. **Master Plan Implementation:** a printed copy of the Arts and Culture Master Plan was distributed to each member, they were asked to review it.

<u>VIII. Open Discussion</u>
There was no open discussion.

<u>IX. Next Meeting</u>
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. and will be in person only.

<u>X. Adjournment</u>
Julie Jentel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Angie Schab second the motion, all were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Katie Schneider, Community Engagement Coordinator