



PUBLIC ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Electronic Meeting

Members Present:

Carol Luc – Artist

Janet Spector Bishop – School District 63

Joseph Steinfels – Niles VFW Post 3579

Debi Gajewski – Artist

Alicia Bermes – Niles Chamber of Commerce

Kathleen Gallegos – Artist/Art Station Studio

Barbara Karawacki – Niles Historical Society

Members Absent:

John Kosirog – School District 71

Sarah Djordjevic – Maine East Fine Arts Dept

George Alpogianis – Niles Sister Cities

Marina Samovsky – Photographer

Lindsey Kmetty – Niles Park District (CHAIR)

Susan Lempke – Niles-Maine District Library

Village Officials/Staff Present:

Katie Schneider – Community Engagement Coordinator

I. Call to Order:

Chair Lindsey Kmetty is on maternity leave. Katie Schneider called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom audio/visual conferencing at 4:11 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

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

Joseph Steinfels made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting with the historical society hours corrected to 11-3 pm. Alicia Bermes second the motion, all were in favor. None opposed. Minutes approved.

IV. Organization Representative Reports

Joseph Steinfels (Niles VFW 3579) – The VFW participated in the July 4th Parade and will be honoring one of the veterans turning 100 this December as a local hero. A memorial ceremony honoring Korean War Veterans will be held at the post in June. Joseph did ask if there were any September 11th events or ceremonies going on and if so the VFW would be interested.

Kathleen Gallegos (Artist) – The Art Station Studio is officially closed, but she continues to teach.

Barbara Karawacki (Niles Historical Society) – The museum is working with a group of Maine Township high school 1945-48 graduates who in 1944 went door-to-door selling war bonds, in two weeks they exceeded the goal and raised \$550,000 in bonds. A warplane was named in their honor *The Maine Flyer* with slogan *Faster and Higher That's Maine Flyer*. Artifact donations have been coming in more readily with some unique, relevant historical pieces.

Janet Spector Bishop (School District 63) – The school has numerous summer programs running in their buildings, many include arts and crafts. They are communicating with parents on re-opening plans for the fall.

Debi Gajewski (Artist) – She is teaching classes at the senior center and seeing an increase in attendance. She continues to paint and build her Etsy page.

Carol Luc (Artist) – Carol visits the Danish Home in Norwood Park (nursing home) once a month and offers water color activities with residents. She is volunteering at the Anti-Cruelty Society where artists volunteer to make a picture of someone’s pet for a donation. She is participating in the *Zip Us Up* project in Birmingham, Michigan. The Michigan Library has 185 feet of windows and has selected 40 artists from 12 states to each paint a panel. Final artwork will be zipped to together and no one will see it all until the end.

Alicia Bermes (Niles Chamber of Commerce) – The Chamber is hosting their Golf Outing in July. Alicia Bermes will be leaving the Niles Chamber and moving out West. Kim Beiderman, the new Executive Director will be representing the Chamber on the Council moving forward.

Katie Schneider also mentioned that Susan Lempke is no longer with the Niles-Maine District Library, Cyndi Rademacher will be representing the Library on the Council. Both Kim Beiderman and Cyndi Rademacher will be appointed at the July Village Board meeting.

V. Niles Artisan Guild

Debi Gajewski reported that the Guild has been busy painting rocks and hiding them around town. They have 120 and working towards 400 painted rocks. Many people have found them and shared to Facebook. They are preparing for an online auction in September/October with larger, significant pieces. Money raised will support the artist and the Guild.

VI. Old Business

- a. **Niles – At Our Table:** Marina Samovsky was unable to attend the meeting. There have been seven families photographed. We continue to look for more families of Asian and Middle-Eastern decent.
- b. **Leaning Towers of Parade:** Alicia Bermes reported that there are 20 towers sold. There are 11 towers currently in the hands of artists. We will need more artists, and will repost the application. Janet requested that an educational theme for the District 63 tower. Katie will work with an artist on that request. Alicia and Katie have been working with pairing artwork and businesses. For timing purposes, the Council agreed that Alicia and Katie can select the artists and designs and continue to move the project forward with the next ten towers. Ideally, all towers will be secured to the ground and outside. They are not easy to move or really meant to be moved, so towers will stay in one place and not travel. Posters, passports, maps and promotions will allow visitors to find them. The Chamber is working on these marketing efforts.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Since Governor’s Executive Order expires at the end of July, virtual meetings are no longer allowed under the open meetings act. Janet Spector Bishop encouraged the Village to keep the Public Arts and Culture meetings virtual.

X. Adjournment

Alicia Bermes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m. Carol Luc second the motion, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Katie Schneider, Community Engagement Coordinator