



PUBLIC ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Electronic Meeting

Members Present:

Lindsey Kmetty – Niles Park District (CHAIR)
Carol Luc – Artist
Kathleen Gallegos – Artist
Joseph Steinfels – Niles VFW Post 3579

Cyndi Rademacher – Niles-Maine District Library
Marina Samovsky – Photographer
Barbara Karawacki – Niles Historical Society

Members Absent:

John Kosirog – School District 71
Janet Spector Bishop – School District 63
Sarah Djordjevic – Maine East Fine Arts Dept

Debi Gajewski – Artist
Kim Beiderman – Niles Chamber of Commerce
George Alpogianis – Niles Sister Cities

Village Officials/Staff Present:

Katie Schneider – Community Engagement Coordinator

I. Call to Order:

Chair Lindsey Kmetty called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom audio/visual conferencing at 4:25 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 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

Marina Samovsky made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2021 meeting as presented. Carol Luc second the motion, all were in favor. None opposed. Minutes approved.

IV. Organization Representative Reports

Marina Samovsky (Photographer/Artist) – No update, she continues photography services.

Cyndi Rademacher (Niles Maine District Library) – The library is hosting a Not-So-Spooky Open House in the library and invite people to come in and wear their costume; one of their first events back in person.

Joseph Steinfels (Niles VFW 3579) – The VFW has several events coming up, including the Veterans Day Ceremony on 11-11 at 11:00 am.

Carol Luc (Artist) – Carol is participating in the Oakton Community College “Bad@ssery” – Women Creating a Just Environment and World. She has several prints in the Museum at Mesa Arts in Mesa, Arizona.

Barbara Karawacki (Niles Historical Society) – Staff was able to view original pieces of the Maine Flyer exhibit from an individual who owns many of them. March will be Women’s History Month and they are putting an exhibit together featuring the Niles Women’s Club. They museum is also looking for old phone books.

Kathleen Gallegos (Artist) – Kathleen continues to work with the Shriners Hospital, teach at the Niles Senior Center and offers private lessons.

Lindsey Kmetty (Niles Park District) – Park District will be hosting their annual Trunk or Treat event, Harvest Hustle 5K and Halloween Parade.

Katie Schneider (Village of Niles) – The Village is hosting a last minute Halloween Home-Decorating Contest this year, similar to Twinkle and Lights, she invited Council members to be judges. Voting will be online. Holly Jolly Fest will be held on November 27, with details still developing.

V. Niles Artisan Guild

Debi Gajewski was absent, no report was given. Katie Schneider mentioned the NAG Facebook Auction that runs through November.

VI. Old Business

- a. **Leaning Towers on Parade:** Katie Schneider reported that there are 19 towers total, five are still in the hands of artists, all should be out by the end of October. In November, we will start to promote the Leaning Tower replicas with an online storymap (similar to the one we did for benches) and possibly a reception, but with the holiday coming up it may be difficult. Kim Biederman and Katie Schneider will continue to work on a formal launch and marketing plan. Marina Samovsky offered to take photos of the towers and the artists. Katie Schneider showed the Notre Dame High School art student's application and design concept for the leaning tower sponsored by the Niles Police Department. The theme is a tribute to fallen officers and will be onsite at the Niles Police Department once completed. Joseph Steinfelds motioned to approve the application and design as presented, Cyndi Rademacher second the motion. All were in favor, none opposed, and none abstained, motion passed.

VII. New Business

- a. **Utility Box Wraps** – Katie Schneider received additional pricing on the utility wraps, and has requested that Public Works review the quotes and materials before proceeding. Quotes are ranging between \$1,000 to \$4,000 per unit. Katie Schneider suggested to council members that utility boxes artwork be treated as a collective design concept. So that all boxes have designs of the same theme and are a cohesive project. The skill set of the artist would need to have a digital, graphic design background. The Council agreed.
- b. **Business Incentive Programs** – Katie Schneider asked the Council to look at ways that businesses can incorporate artistic elements to their façade and buildings. She asked Council members to visit downtown Skokie (Oakton and Lincoln Avenue) to see ways that art can be incorporated in business districts. Katie Schneider asked what role the Public Art and Culture Council could have in encouraging businesses to have an artistic landscape. Could the Council be catalyst to match an artist and artistic concepts with a business? Council briefly discussed, no action was taken at this time.
- c. **Twinkle and Lights** – Council members agreed that we had a lot of success with the program as it was last year in 2020 and should continue the same way. Barbara Karawacki did ask that we take measures to better identify the houses, so when you are visiting, judges know they have the correct house. Katie Schneider will update the materials and be ready to launch for the November 9th meeting.

VIII. Open Discussion

Joe Cosentino is a long time theatre critic and looking to build a theatre company in Niles. He noted the vacancies at Golf Mill Shopping Center and the ample parking in the area and believes that there is a potential for theater in town.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. To try to accommodate schedules, all meetings moving forward will be from 4:30 – 5:30 pm.

X. Adjournment

Joseph Steinfelds made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 p.m. Carol Luc second the motion, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Katie Schneider, Community Engagement Coordinator