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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022
MEETING OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF OSWEGO
MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Attended: Tony Pastore, Katie Marter, Karen Kulzer, Jennifer Putzier, Kristie Vest, Christina Burns and Julie Hoffman

Absent: Angie Hibben

START OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Tony Pastore and seconded by Karen Kulzer.

PUBLIC FORUM

Opened and closed at 6:02 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Julie presented written copies of the November 10, 2021, minutes for approval. Jennifer Putzier pointed out that the word, “sturges” needed to be capitalized and that the word “Forrest” needed to have one “r”, rather than two. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Jennifer Putzier and seconded by Kristie Vest. The amended minutes were approved.

There were no meeting minutes to approve for December. The December meeting was cancelled.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ART AT VILLAGE HALL

- a. Julie shared the name of the three applicants for the 2022 art exhibitions, along with their submissions.
- b. Each artist’s work was deemed appropriate, and it was suggested that each be offered a period to exhibit at Oswego Village Hall in 2022.
- c. Karen suggested that since there were three artists with four exhibit opportunities, it be considered that the fourth exhibit opportunity go to the winners of the 2022 Chamber Hometown Expo for the second year in a row.
- d. Tony made a motion to approve the following schedule. Kristie seconded the motion.
- e. Julie conducted a vote resulting in 5 In “Favor” and 0 “Not in Favor”.
 - i. Francisco Contreras: Feb. 1 – April 11, 2022
 - ii. Chamber of Commerce Hometown Expo Artist Winners: April 25 – June 30, 2022
 - iii. Laura Helfers: July 14 – Sept. 29, 2022
 - iv. Grace Gabaldon: Oct. 13, 2022 – Jan. 19, 2023



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- v. At the time the first exhibit goes up, it was also suggested a blurb be framed which describes the Cultural Arts Commission's initiative and gives instructions on how to apply, along with a QR code that links to the online application.
2. DOWNTOWN MURAL UPDATE
 - a. Christina conveyed that she and Art Black have been in discussion, with some modifications around the building towards Oswego Brewing Company pending. This has been somewhat put on hold from the Village's end as resources were dedicated to other priorities and then availability through the holidays. The agreement should be wrapped up in the next few weeks.
3. LUNAFEST
 - a. February 19, 2022 was the date the Cultural Arts Commission had set in September of 2021, for the indoor event.
 - b. Prior to the January meeting, Julie had sent out a request to all Commissioners asking if they had interest in postponing the indoor event due to Covid. Each had expressed the desire to postpone either due to Covid or because there didn't appear to be enough time to plan the event. The results of the e-mail communication were reviewed by Julie.
 - c. When asked when the Commission would like to postpone the event to, Tony suggested that we look at the Covid data to see where dips and spikes took place in 2021.
 - d. Julie suggested that we repeat the 2021 outdoor event in August to be on the safe side but expressed concern about the artists being outdoors in the heat. Jennifer conveyed that artists oftentimes exhibit outdoors.
 - e. Sunday, August 8, was referenced as the 2021 event date.
 - f. Kristie made a motion to postpone the event to Sunday, August 7, 2022, keeping with the 2021 format of having the event primarily outdoors with the movies being shown inside the Board Room. Jennifer seconded the motion.
 - g. Julie conducted a vote resulting in 5 In "Favor" of the date change and 0 "Not in Favor".
4. 2022 PLANNING SESSION
 - a. Tony opened the planning session asking the Commission to think about what direction they'd like to go this year and suggested they determine whether they are event managers or an innovation and advisory group.
 - b. Julie conveyed that it was an important question because with only 12 meetings in a year, being realistic about what can be accomplished is important. She further suggested that the Commission review the discussion points contained within the November minutes pertaining to the culturally focused event to see if it still fit into their plans.
 - c. Jennifer commented that events are too much of a wild card right now.
 - d. Kristie suggested that the focus this year be on a visual installation that can be appreciated by the majority.
 - e. Tony asked how much money the Commission had to work with this year.
 - f. Christina conveyed that she had preliminarily planned to ask for \$15K in the March Budget Workshop for the next fiscal year, running May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023. She



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further suggested that the Commission consider an installation in one of the following locations:

- i. The Venue 1012 Donor Wall
 - ii. The triangular parcel of land across the street from Old Traugber Jr. High (corner of Ashland and Van Buren St.) where the Hilltop Garden Club expressed interest in doing a garden display. (Julie pulled up Google Maps to show the land at the corner of Ashland St. and Van Buren St.)
 - iii. A sunflower display that The Bike Bald Group has in concept but is not sure which location just yet
- g. Kristie conveyed that the downtown mural will be a powerful installation and suggested that this year's focus be on another art installation and funding.
- h. It was also suggested that a re-focus be done on Lit-Fest for the future.
- i. As for the culturally focused event, Kristie suggested doing a "Call for Participation" and dedicate the first eight months of this year to pursuing a sub-committee inclusive of leaders within the various cultures to be represented. She proposed a deadline of August, '22. If a committee could be formed by then, the event could be pursued further to take place in fiscal year '23 – '24. If not, the concept would then be dropped due to lack of interest.
- j. Kristie also suggested contacting the school district's Community Diversity and Inclusion Committee to request possible representation and funding.
- k. Tony sought clarification on the timeframe given and asked if the Commission had a month to come up with what they wanted to accomplish.
- l. Christina conveyed that the fiscal year starts on May 1, 2022, and that they needed to be cognizant of the fiscal year's dates and windows for asking for funding from the Village Board. She further advised that a specific project doesn't need to be brought forth, rather, the Commission could talk about what has been accomplished in '21 – '22 (i.e. Lunafest; Downtown Mural and Public Art Exhibits at Village Hall) and convey the location(s) where they'd see their next project(s) going in fiscal year '22 – '23 along with a request for funds to accomplish that or those projects.
- m. Jennifer asked if there was a list of where the Commission would consider art to be placed. She further suggested that once confirmation of funds was secured, they could then hit the ground running.
- n. A list of locations was reviewed within the meeting as follows:
- i. Floral Expressions Wall on Jackson St.
 - ii. ComEd Boxes
 - iii. Dumpster
 - iv. 113 Main
 - v. Parcel by the Civic Women's Club
 - vi. A Roundabout
 - vii. A partnership with the Oswegoland Park District and the bridge over the Fox River



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- o. Julie conveyed that she would look through the meeting minutes from 2021 and e-mail out any additional locations that had previously been discussed.
- p. The Commissioners agreed that with that information the group could loop back in at the February meeting and discuss what could be achieved with the dollar figure being proposed. From there, they would advise Community Relations on what to request at the March budget workshop.

STAFF REPORTS

- None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- None

NEXT MEETING: February 9, 2022

ADJOURNMENT 7:36 p.m.

Tony Pastore motioned to adjourn. Katie Marter seconded the motion.