

VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK ARTS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 2, 2021

via Zoom

1. Attendees:

- a. *Members:* Larry Cohen, Jane Dorian, Marina Kiriakou, Jacqueline Meier, Elizabeth O'Rourke, Violet Useda-Linder, Carrie Vaccaro Nelkin
- b. *Volunteers:* Robin Campbell, Melissa Moak
- c. *Village of Mamaroneck/Westchester County:* Nora Lucas

2. Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Useda-Linder and seconded by Dorian.

3. The December meeting minutes were reviewed. Dorian made a motion to accept and Useda-Linder seconded.

4. Officer Elections: Kiriakou and Meier were voted back in as co-chairs and Nelkin as recording secretary. All in favor.

5. Poetry Live: Dorian and Kiriakou have been investigating how best to conduct this year's April 25 virtual event. Dorian has sent guidelines to interested schools (Fox Lane High, Mamaroneck High, and Hommocks Middle). Kiriakou contacted LMC Media to arrange livestreaming of the event; LMC will also retain an edited version on its website. The print anthology will be published as well. Meier asked for updated budget numbers, as the virtual event will cost less than the in-person version would. O'Rourke volunteered to find out if the county's new poet laureate could give intro remarks.

6. Mask Quilt: The quilt continues to hang in the Rye Neck High School Library. Kiriakou is expecting to learn in a couple of weeks if it can be displayed at White Plains Hospital next. Kiriakou was interviewed about the quilt on LMC Media in mid-December, and the video placed on YouTube.

7. Arts 'n Eats: Useda-Linder recapped a January 18 subcommittee meeting. Arts on the Avenue has been renamed Arts 'n Eats and moved to autumn. It will focus on the art of food and include an LMC-TV series of interviews with local chefs to serve as a precursor to the autumn festival and a way to draw restaurant interest. (Kiriakou learned LMC can provide one 10-minute feature per month, starting in April.) Roughly 15 restaurants will be chosen from Dorian and Useda-Linder's existing list of potential display spaces. Useda-Linder reported interest from both the Mamaroneck Artists Guild and Rye Arts Center in reaching out to their members. Kiriakou and Nelkin drafted a call to submissions. Discussion ensued on guidelines to be included on the application form, outdoor opening-day festivities slated for Columbus Park, the possibility of using empty storefronts for either art or posters promoting the festival, and whether the kind of artwork envisioned (food-related only) is too limiting. Kiriakou proposed a vote on the Arts Council becoming an LMC member. All were in favor. Lucas will check if that is possible.

8. VOMart Tote Bags: Meier initiated a vote on whether to purchase the cloth bags on which the Council logo can be printed. All voted in favor.

9. Essential Workers Tribute: A vote was taken on whether Meier should approach Mayor Murphy with the “circle of trees” concept—a stand of 10 to 12 trees with a plaque in the center. All voted in favor. Cohen emphasized the setting of the memorial should not only be aesthetically pleasing but also embody significance. Kiriakou suggested an elevated area; O’Rourke suggested adding solar uplights for evening.

9. Summer Ideas:

- It was agreed summer concerts are probably not feasible this year. Meier asked how we can keep the community engaged in the arts during the pandemic and offered some ideas: sponsoring a couple of drive-in movies with the Village recreation department; mounting a concert in a drive-in setting; producing a Zoom concert with local bands; doing a reading of a play via Zoom. Cohen suggested a Shakespeare production, whether on Zoom or live dependent on time of year. Meier, O’Rourke, and Cohen will look into the drive-in ideas. Lucas suggested linking any events with the restaurants (e.g., vouchers).
- Meier brought up the idea of decorating the concrete barriers in front of restaurants, done as a public art project in some other municipalities. Lucas cited an example from Kittery, Maine. Cohen mentioned the art should be tied to the individual restaurants and asked how it can be made part of Arts ‘n Eats. Kiriakou considered how and if some sort of aesthetic uniformity could be brought to bear on the project. To this point, O’Rourke suggested creation of a “vision board” giving a range of colors for use, and maybe stencils. All questions to resolve. A vote was taken on the idea of decorating the barriers. All voted in favor.

10. Meier recommended we institute a history of projects undertaken and completed.

12. Cohen made a motion to end the meeting; Useda-Linder seconded.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.