

VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK ARTS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 19, 2021

Village Hall Conference Room, 123 Palmer Avenue

1. Attendees:

- a. *Members:* Melinda Buie, Larry Cohen, Marina Kiriakou, Elizabeth O'Rourke, Violet Useda-Linder, Carrie Vaccaro Nelkin
- b. *Volunteers:* Chari Allison, Robin Campbell, Solange De Santis, Melissa Moak, Joyce Marie Washburn
- c. *Village of Mamaroneck / Westchester County:* Nora Lucas
- d. *Absent:* Heather Capelle, Jane Dorian, Jacqueline Meier

2. Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Useda-Linder, seconded by Buie.

3. The June meeting minutes were reviewed. Buie made a motion to accept and O'Rourke seconded.

4. Summer Pop-up Concerts: Kiriakou reported on the response to the first concert, which took place on Friday, July 13 in Florence Park (music by the Cara Quartet). Roughly 200 people attended, much more than expected. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The next concert will be on Friday, July 23 in the new Village Poetry Garden (spearheaded by Allison); the third will be on Friday, July 30 in Columbus Park (spearheaded by De Santis); and the last on Friday, August 6 in Columbus Park (spearheaded by Cohen).

5. Emelin / VOMAC Concerts: Kiriakou asked for a vote to approve a \$200 expenditure for 1) a graphic designer to work on a design for promotional banners and 2) the printing of two banners. Buie made a motion to vote and Useda-Linder seconded. All approved the expenditure. The Broadway on the Sound concert will be held on July 28, and the Flor de Toloache concert on August 18, both in Harbor Island Park. VOMAC will have a presence at each concert at informational and merchandise tables. Useda-Linder and Nelkin distributed flyers publicizing the concerts to eateries and retail spaces on Mamaroneck Avenue, a portion of the area to be covered.

6. VOMart Tote Bags: Bags with the VOMAC logo will be available for free at the informational and merchandise tables set up at the Harbor Island Emelin / VOMAC concerts. Buie and Useda-Linder will each paint a bag to be raffled off (Buie, July 28; Useda-Linder August 18). Kiriakou will write a brief bio for each, photo to be included.

7. Village Poetry Garden: Kiriakou asked for a vote on the purchase of 1) a Poetry Garden plaque to be placed on a large boulder (\$856 including the cost of engraving) and 2) a 4 x 10-inch plaque providing the name of the artist who created the rabbit sculpture (\$215). Cohen motioned to approve the vote, O'Rourke seconded. All voted in favor. Wording for the boulder plaque will be proposed in the next few weeks. Kiriakou proposed September 10 at 11 a.m. for the opening ceremony, and a week later for

O'Rourke to lead a poetry reading featuring some of Mamaroneck's young poets. The Poetry Garden is envisioned as a venue for future artistic events such as readings and concerts.

8. Essential Workers Tribute: O'Rourke reported for her and Meier. Eight trees (tupelo and white oak) will be planted in October in a circle off Rushmore Avenue, with a compass in the center and a marble bench between every two trees. The benches will likely be backless and curved. Ground cover will be minimal. O'Rourke suggested the wording to be carved on each bench should be artistic, perhaps a poem. Cohen recommended a plaque also be placed on the compass to explain the tribute and garden, because if visitors read only what is carved on a single bench they will not see the full concept. Useda-Linder suggested a plaque circling the compass, and De Santis suggested that a portion of Amanda Gordon's poem "The Hill We Climb" be engraved on the plaque to highlight a call to service. Kiriakou asked if the commemoration area could be made architecturally distinct from the rest of the park. Lucas replied that might involve environmental review. Useda-Linder suggested just raising the compass.

9. Artwork at The Regatta: Useda-Linder will consult the local guilds for artists who would like to display their work at the Village offices at The Regatta. Useda-Linder has hung some of her own work there as a way to get the project rolling. Each exhibit is envisioned being up for two months. Useda-Linder is thinking of ways to make the space more exhibit-friendly with less damage (e.g., nail holes) to the walls. She also brought up the idea of displaying artwork in empty storefronts along Mamaroneck Avenue, some of which are papered over and would benefit from an attractive display in front of a screen that blocks the interior. Kiriakou and Lucas mentioned this is something each establishment would have to be approached on individually—it's up to the owners—and suggested Useda-Linder work up a proposal on what would be needed for the venture and how the Council would support it.

10. Other Business: A discussion arose on whether the Council is undertaking the in-person Arts and Crafts Fair this year. Allison said she should be happy to set it up but is concerned about a Covid resurgence, and so suggested a possible change of venue from the lower level of the Library to a larger and more open space, something free of charge. Holding the fair outdoors would require tents, making the option undesirable. Kiriakou asked if Allison received any feedback from artists using the online marketplace; Allison replied the artists generally do not seem to be selling much through it. Kiriakou said it might be worth an analysis of how we can help these artists, as the marketplace is a Council venture.

11. A September 13 date was set for the next meeting.

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

13. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.