

VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK ARTS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Via Zoom

1. Attendees:

- a. *Members:* Melinda Buie, Lawrence Cohen, Jane Dorian, Marina Kiriakou, Jacqueline Meier, 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

2. Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Dorian, seconded by Kiriakou.

3. The July meeting minutes were reviewed. Dorian made a motion to accept and Kiriakou seconded.

4. Arts and Crafts Fair: Allison started a discussion on whether the Fair should be held before year's end or in the spring. The main concern was lingering uncertainties over Covid. The Fair's traditional indoor venue, the Library, might not feel or be safe for vendors, buyers, or library staff. Meier asked if holding the Fair outdoors solved the problem, and Dorian suggested having it in spring around Mother's Day. Inquiries already made into the cost of renting a tent large enough to accommodate rainy weather have found the cost prohibitive. Dorian mentioned the Emelin Theatre parking garage as a possible location. Meier suggested the issue of where and when be revisited at the next meeting.

5. VOMart Tote Bags: Meier noted that the bags were popular at the summer Harbor Island concerts—both the bags hand-painted by Useda-Linder and raffled off and those screen printed with the VOMAC logo by Meier and distributed free. Meier has found a New Rochelle company that will charge \$150 to print the remaining bags. A vote was taken on spending the money, and the expenditure approved.

6. Summer Concert Recap: Meier reported on the success and large attendance of the two summer concerts co-sponsored by the Arts Council and the Emelin. She has contacted Elliot Fox, the Emelin's executive director, to express interest in a similar partnership next year, and asked for volunteers to lead the effort. Dorian offered to be one of them. Kiriakou recapped the success of the four pop-up concerts, which also saw favorable attendance and drew a diverse population. She suggested presenting jazz next year and extending the performance time of each concert to 45 minutes. As a side note, Kiriakou mentioned that if the arts and crafts fair were to be set up this winter in the Emelin parking lot, it would be nice for a pop-up concert to take place during it in the nearby Poetry Garden. A review of what worked best will take place at a later date. Dorian expressed hope that next summer's events can include Shakespeare performances, with a theater company that uses microphones.

7. Poetry Live: Dorian reported that April 24 is being targeted for, potentially, a live event at the Emelin in 2022. O'Rourke agreed that an in-person event might be possible, as more children will likely be vaccinated against Covid by then. When Kiriakou reminded the Council that the Poetry Garden dedication, originally slated for September 2021, has been postponed to spring 2022, Meier brought up the idea of a tie-in between the dedication and the reception to follow Poetry Live, though all agreed the events would probably remain separate.

8. Community Service Fair: Meier asked for volunteers to attend the Fair (sponsored by the Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions Club outside Hommocks Rink) on Saturday, September 25 and Saturday, October 2 to represent the Arts Council. Useda-Linder volunteered for the October date; no one in attendance could make the September date.

9. Essential Workers Tribute: Meier reported that the project, originally slated for completion this autumn, has been pushed to spring 2022. Discussion with vendors about constructing and installing the benches and compass has begun.

10. Butterfly/Sea Life Metal Sculptures at Harbor Island Park: This project is envisioned as a counterpart to the Rye'sAbove butterfly display in Rye this past summer. Meier suggested marine life as a theme for the sculptures. Kiriakou proposed the theme of diversity within the community, perhaps superimposed on the marine life motif. O'Rourke posed the idea of a "walking story" that would connect one piece of art to the next. Meier said she will contact Kyle Troy at the Marine Education Center for potential ideas.

11. Artwork at The Regatta: Useda-Linder has written a letter to the Mamaroneck Artists Guild and the Rye Arts Center to inform them that the gallery display area is being made available to local artists at the Village of Mamaroneck offices and to position herself as the liaison. Discussion followed on whether a hanging system should be installed (or would be allowed) to forestall the necessity of spackling and repainting the walls between exhibits. Either option has advantages and disadvantages. Related topics broached: (1) the question of limiting installations to visual art, or extending them to poetry (Useda-Linder); (2) acquiring a secondary, possibly larger, space to offer artists, possibly the same artist in each space (Meier and Kiriakou). Discussion on the subject will be resumed at a later date.

12. Other Business: Meier asked for volunteers to put together an artist registry. Kiriakou, O'Rourke, and Nelkin responded as a team to do this. Meier reported that her tenure as co-chair will end in December.

11. A November 1 date was set for the next meeting.

12. Useda-Linder made a motion to end the meeting; O'Rourke seconded.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.