

**VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK ARTS COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, November 1, 2021**

**Via Zoom**

**1. Attendees:**

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

**2. Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Nelkin, seconded by Dorian.**

3. The September meeting minutes were reviewed. Meier clarified that item 9, Essential Workers Tribute, should indicate the Council had begun discussion with, rather than engaged, vendors on the construction and installation of benches and compass. Pending this change to be included in the final minutes, Dorian made a motion to accept and Meier seconded.

4. Essential Workers Tribute: Meier stated the impact of Hurricane Ida has delayed progress on planning and resulted in the need to reschedule a meeting with Village Manager Jerry Barberio, who is determining a date for a new meeting with Meier and O'Rourke. Meier has spoken informally with an artist who expressed interest in the work, but any formal discussion would need to be conducted after the meeting with Barberio.

5. VOMart Tote Bags: Meier reported around 85 bags are being printed by a company in New Rochelle and are expected to be ready within the week. At Kiriakou's suggestion, Meier said she will set a selling price based on the cost of materials and printing. Meier asked Lucas how the logistics of selling the bags would work, and Lucas recommended checking with VOM Deputy Clerk Sally Roberts. De Santis reminded everyone that any money from sales should go into the Council reserve fund.

6. Summer Concerts: As it is too soon for information on the concerts the Council hopes to co-sponsor with the Emelin Theatre, discussion centered around the smaller pop-up concerts. Cohen thanked DeSantis, Kiriakou, and Meier for their work on this summer's concerts, and said he is open to ideas for next summer's, including type of music (possibly jazz) and making the concerts longer (maybe 45 minutes). He suggested the discussion be tabled until January. Meier reported receiving emails from a few musicians interested in playing jazz or Latin guitar at the concerts. De Santis asked Lucas when the Village might start considering whether a July 4 concert will be held. Lucas replied January or February, the only limiting factor being, perhaps, the number of people who will be able to rehearse in an indoor space. Kiriakou suggested resuming the discussion at the beginning of next year.

7. Poetry Live!: Dorian and Kiriakou have approached Elliot Fox, Executive Director of the Emelin Theatre, to arrange for an in-person spring event. The April dates requested are not available, so Dorian suggested to the Council Sunday, March 27, because it leads into April as Poetry Month. The hope is that students and parents can sit together then, perhaps with social distancing or limits on the number of people admitted to the theater. Dorian has informally spoken with a few teachers in participating schools; she and Kiriakou will make formal contact with teachers in the near future. Teachers will be asked to submit content for the print poetry anthology in a uniform format for greater ease of production.

8. Poetry Garden Dedication: Kiriakou stated the dedication may be organized in conjunction with Poetry Live!, though not on the same day. The boulder at the garden's entry is still to be placed, later than planned because of delays from Hurricane Ida. The boulder will have a plaque, as will the rabbit sculpture. The dedication plaque has already been placed on the bench. Despite the garden being incomplete, O'Rourke said, its appeal is evident in that it is already being used by people. More plantings will be included in the spring.

9. Marine Life Center Sculptures: Meier reported speaking with the Marine Education Center's Kyle Troy, who expressed enthusiasm about the placement of metal marine-life sculptures leading to the Center and suggested further discussion in early-to-mid November. Meier noted that the shapes used—sea life, marine birds—must be representative and recognizable no matter what the artistic treatment. Cohen asked who will fund the sculptures. Meier replied the Council would buy the cutout metal pieces, and the artists would propose what to do with them. Cohen asked if the shapes used will affect price. Meier replied it's possible but she does not know for sure because a metal sheet supplier has not yet been chosen. Kiriakou suggested the sculptor of the rabbit in the Poetry Garden might be able to help. Allison mentioned that Etsy might contain local or regional metal fabricators who can cut out the shapes.

10. Hispanic Resource Center: Kiriakou has been in active conversation with Center representatives, who continue to spend time and effort helping community members displaced from their homes and businesses by Hurricane Ida. Kiriakou conveyed the Council's eagerness to help in any way possible within its purview, and the Center in turn has expressed enthusiasm about working with the Council on children's programs and summer music concerts. Allison suggested using ArtsWestchester's ArtsMobile as a model to bring the arts to people where they may be now sheltered, offering to look into the idea.

11. Artwork at The Regatta: Discussion was tabled until next month.

12. Artist Registry: Discussion was tabled pending an off-line meeting of Kiriakou, O'Rourke, and Nelkin.

13. Spring Crafts Fair: Discussion centered around logistics and what the Covid situation will permit. Allison said if the fair is held outdoors, perhaps it could be in the Emelin parking lot. Meier suggested one or more food trucks, which would not obstruct traffic if placed outdoors in the Emelin lot and the vendors were indoors downstairs in the library. Allison stated she would need to check with Jerry Barberio about using the Emelin lot (since it is public) and with the library, adding she would suggest limiting the number of indoor vendors to far below the usual forty-one. The date is to be worked out,

though Allison recommended just before Mother's Day for buyers of gifts. Buie, O'Rourke, and Dorian are to work with Allison on details.

14. Review of Facebook Craft Marketplace: Kiriakou asked if there is something more the Marketplace can offer and whether it should be continued, as it is hard to categorize who is participating. Allison replied that shoppers and sellers are still contacting her to join, though she wades through a lot of spam requests and has noticed that not all people who join as sellers actually post anything to sell. She added that because the sales do not take place in the FB Marketplace itself, it is impossible to know how many sales the Marketplace generates. Furthermore, she suspects many artists do not have the technical or logistical wherewithal to sell online. Kiriakou concluded that the Marketplace should remain on the Council's agenda as an item that might benefit from future improvements. Meier suggested highlighting certain vendors through the holidays, maybe one a week, possibly cross-posting the entries to Instagram and the Council's FB page, using a consistent tagline, e.g., "Support local artists."

Other Business: (1) De Santis proposed that she would like to research a Village poet laureate (job description and what the position would entail) to replace the late Mary Louise Cox, and offered that it would be good to make the announcement of the chosen poet at the dedication of the Poetry Garden in the Spring. All were in favor of the idea, to be discussed further in future meetings. (2) As Meier will be rotating off the Council in December, she and Kiriakou reminded everyone that anyone interested in joining should send a resume by November 12 to them and to Sally Roberts and the Board of Trustees. O'Rourke asked if there was a preference for long-time or newer Village residents, since she believes there is often untapped potential in young parents new to the area. Meier replied either is fine, with De Santis emphasizing that what is important to remember is that the Council is a *working group*.

11. A December 7 date was set for the next meeting. A January 4 date was set for the meeting after that.

12. O'Rourke made a motion to end the meeting; Dorian seconded.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.