

VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK ARTS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Via Zoom

1. Attendees:

- a. *Members:* Astrid Iliana Rivera Arias, Melinda Buie, Jane Dorian, Marina Kiriakou, Elizabeth O'Rourke, Carrie Vaccaro Nelkin
- b. *Volunteers:* Chari Allison, Solange De Santis, Jacqueline Meier, Melissa Moak, Joyce Marie Washburn
- c. Village of Mamaroneck / Westchester County: Nora Lucas (partial meeting)

2. The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m.

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

4. Changes to Arts Council: Kiriakou announced the following: Meier has rotated off the Council as co-chair; Larry Cohen has resigned but will continue to help with summer pop-up concerts; and Violet Useda-Linder and Heather Chapelle have resigned. Three of the four vacant spots have been filled, by Astrid Iliana Rivera Arias, Karla Aber, and Cristina Lerchen. Arias was introduced to existing members and volunteers. Aber and Lerchen were confirmed shortly before the meeting.

5. Voting in of Officers:

- Dorian nominated Kiriakou as chair, seconded by O'Rourke.
- Dorian nominated Buie as Vice-Chair, seconded by O'Rourke.
- Dorian nominated Nelkin as Secretary, seconded by O'Rourke.

All three were voted in unanimously.

6. Essential Workers Tribute: Kiriakou met with Village Manager Jerry Barberio and Parks General Foreman Jeff Ahne, and reported that the tribute space is planned as a semicircle facing the harbor. Budget information from the Village is pending and will need to be considered before more work is done. O'Rourke will take the project forward.

7. VOMart Tote Bags: Meier reported that the 90 or so bags, produced by Mesh Print Studio in New Rochelle, look good. As they cost \$4.70 per bag to make, she suggested they could be sold for about \$8 each. Kiriakou said the bags could be a good "identity push" that could leverage what the Arts Council is and what it works toward, and as such could be sold for a bit more so they can be given away on special occasions. Allison offered that it may not be necessary to make money back on the bags if this first run is thought of as a promotional tool, in which case the cost is simply that of doing business. Dorian was in favor of holding a free raffle where some bags are given away. O'Rourke asked if the Council has a card with contact and other information that can be picked up by, for example, patrons of the library. She

ventured the idea that one or more “curated” bags could be raffled, containing such a card and other news about projects with which the Council is associated. Kiriakou recommending revisiting this conversation as part of a larger marketing push for the Council.

8. Poetry Live!: Dorian and Kiriakou sent a letter to participating teachers pinning the live event on March 27 at the Emelin Theatre. (If necessary because of Covid, it could change to a Zoom event). Dorian and Kiriakou are reworking guidelines to help teachers simplify production of the print anthology. Discussion turned to the possibility of instituting a position for a Village poet laureate or even a youth poet laureate. De Santis, who had advocated for a successor to Mary Louise Cox, has spoken with Lucas on how to initiate the process and has drafted a memo to Kiriakou proposing that the only requirement be residency in the Village and that the position be given wide latitude in what its occupant could carry out. Arts Council members would be ineligible to apply for the Village position (but not, say, for a countywide one). The term envisioned is two years. February 1 is tentatively set as the start of a call for applicants and April 1 tentatively for the poet laureate to be chosen.

9. Poetry Garden: Kiriakou reported that Ahne from Parks and Rec is in the midst of sourcing a large boulder to hold a dedication plaque. A pollination pathway for butterflies and bees is envisioned, to include crocuses, tulips, and daffodils, among other flowers. John Cox is having bulbs planted; the Cox family is contributing \$1,100 to the garden project, and Kiriakou proposed the Arts Council contribute \$250. A motion was made by Buie, and seconded by Dorian, to vote on approving the \$250 expenditure. All voted affirmatively. A motion was also made by Dorian, seconded by Kiriakou, to vote on adding the previously discussed tortoise sculpture to the garden, at a cost of \$3,000 from the Council trust fund (not the operating fund). All voted affirmatively. It is anticipated that the presence of both the rabbit and tortoise sculptures can be tied in to a future project generating a sort of Mamaroneck Aesop’s Fables book. At Allison’s suggestion, the garden’s dedication, slated for April 29, may be changed to April 30 to coordinate with the Spring Crafts Fair.

10. Spring Crafts Fair: Allison ascertained with Linda Bhandari of the Library’s business office that the library would be available as a venue for the Fair on April 30. Allison also contacted Barberio to ask if the Emelin parking lot would be available for part of the fair to be held outdoors; an answer is pending. Because of Covid, Allison recommends having roughly 25 vendors (instead of the usual 41) indoors and another ten or so outdoors in the Emelin lot, plus cutting the time from six to four hours to reduce the length of time outdoor vendors would be in the cold. She also suggested that the call for artists be posted right after Christmas. Washburn will work with Allison on the fair.

11. Emelin Summer Concerts: Dorian and Kiriakou learned from Elliot Fox, executive director of the Emelin Theatre, that three concert dates are proposed for 2022. The scope and direction of the Arts Council involvement will need to be worked out.

12. A January 4 date was set for the next meeting.

13. Nelkin made a motion to end the meeting; O’Rourke seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.