

VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK ARTS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 7, 2022

Via Zoom

1. Attendees:

- a. *Members:* Karla Aber, Astrid Iliana Rivera Arias, Melinda Buie, Jane Dorian, Marina Kiriakou, Cristina Lerchen, Michael Norberto, Elizabeth O'Rourke, Piper Stevens
- b. *Volunteers:* Chari Allison, Robin Campbell, Lawrence Cohen, Solange De Santis, Melissa Moak, Joyce Marie Washburn
- c. *Village of Mamaroneck / Westchester County:* Nora Lucas
- d. *George Latimer, via phone*
- e. *Absent:*

2. Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Buie, seconded by O'Rourke.

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

4. Buie introduced member Michael Norberto who discussed his career in drama, education, production, and his love of the performing arts.

5. Poetry Live! 2022: Dorian discussed the Poetry Live! celebration to be conducted in person at the Emelin Theater on Sunday, March 27 at 2:30 PM. Five schools are participating and Kiriakou is handling production of the anthology; Buie is designing the cover. Dorian said that teachers and student poets are excited to be live on stage this year.

6. Poet Laureate: De Santis reported on the Poet Laureate project and how to advertise the call for nominations. De Santis will contact Robert Ingenito about the Village website. Other suggestions were LMC-Media, Mamaroneck Library, and Instagram. Lucas said that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mamaroneck approved the project but the Town hasn't responded yet. A discussion began about the areas that comprise the Village and those of the Town. Latimer said that there may be three communities, including Larchmont (which does not have an Arts Council). He suggested that Larchmont could adopt the Poet Laureate also.

7. Poetry Garden: Kiriakou gave an update on the installation of the Tortoise sculpture in April. The Poetry Garden dedication will take place on May 13 when flowers and trees will be in bloom. Lerchen made a proposal for a fable booklet that she would design about the hare and the tortoise. Members thought this would add a whimsical touch to the day and then the fable booklet would be made available for reading in the children's library. Kiriakou said we could have multiple copies available for the dedication day. O'Rourke discussed her willingness to get Mary Louise Cox's poems together and bind them in a chapbook. Kiriakou said that we could explore using money from our Council budget. Kiriakou also said that the work of compiling the poetry is already done. She will investigate the cost and check with the Cox family.

8. July 4th Celebration: Lucas reported that the July 4th celebration at the harbor with fireworks is going ahead as planned. De Santis discussed the St. Thomas Orchestra and the problem of rehearsals. There was a discussion about whether or not the courtroom is big enough to practice for the orchestra. De Santis said that Heathcote Hall at St. Thomas is adequate but costs \$200 to use. Lucas said that the courtroom is not being used yet for meetings. Other problems De Santis discussed: rehearsal has to start in June and 75% of the musicians are volunteers. A decision on the space to use for rehearsal would have to be solidified in May and the stage and sound vendor would have to be reserved. Allison said that the Village paid for the vendor. Lucas said that the Village budget is adopted in April, starts June 1st, 2022, and she will find out about a venue for rehearsals. Lucas also checked the Arts Council budget and said that it is the same as 2022. Cohen discussed the Pop Up Concerts and asked for people to help: Allison, Kiriakou, De Santis volunteered. Campbell volunteered to help with the Harbor Island concerts.

9. Crafts Fair Update: Allison reported that she sent word to Linda Bhandari that the Arts Council will not do the Arts and Crafts Fair this year at the Library because the space is too small given the need for social distancing. The library (unlike the Emelin) can't check vaccination status and it would be too difficult to enforce mask mandates. Members agreed that a Craft Fair outdoors at the Harbor would be best. In addition, members discussed piggybacking on the summer concerts at the Harbor one or more hours before the concert. Cohen discussed having food trucks and about 10 artists, spread out. He suggested that the artists could be set up right where people are walking into the park from the parking lot. The tote bags the Council has could also be available. O'Rourke suggested a checklist of things advertising the Council: drink tickets; chapbook; fable booklet; card promoting the Arts Council. Buie is working on the bags, featuring different art work for different purposes. Buie and O'Rourke volunteered to work together.

10. Shakespeare in the Park: Members discussed the Hudson Valley Shakespeare in the park event that took place three years ago. Dorian commented that it was difficult to hear since the actors did not wear mics. Norberto will investigate having a production around the end of August on a weeknight. Dorian said she will try to find out about an additional Shakespeare in the park company that she saw advertised last year in the region.

11. Marine Life Sculpture: Buie will take over the project started by Meier last year featuring 3D sculptures of marine animals and the commissioning of a sculpture at Harbor Island. Lerchen volunteered to work on the project with Buie.

12. Marketing Committee: Kiriakou reported that she and Stevens, Lerchen and Aber have formed a Marketing Committee to put together a good marketing program for the Council. The Committee met and Kiriakou said that there are a lot of opportunities to reach out, focus on our message, highlight artists, work with schools, etc.

13. A March 7th date was set for the next meeting at 7 p.m.

12. Dorian made a motion to end the meeting; Buie seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM