

VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK ARTS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 7, 2022

Via Zoom

1. Attendees:

- a. *Members:* Karla Aber, Astrid Iliana Arias, Melinda Buie, Jane Dorian, Marina Kiriakou, Cristina Lerchen, Michael Norberto, Elizabeth O'Rourke, Piper Stevens
- b. *Volunteers:* Solange De Santis, Melissa Moak, Joyce Marie Washburn
- c. *Village of Mamaroneck / Board of Trustees:* Nora Lucas
- d. Abby Katz, *Deputy Supervisor, Town of Mamaroneck*

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

3. The February meeting minutes were approved. Buie made a motion to accept and Aber seconded.

4. Poet Laureate: De Santis reported on the work of the Poet Laureate search committee: O'Rourke, Dorian and De Santis met to review applications, resume, cover letters, websites, and body of work. Three candidates applied and the committee considered academic teaching, published poetry, creative ideas, connections to Mary Louise Cox's legacy, etc. De Santis summarized candidates' accomplishments and announced that the candidate selected was Michael Collins. Kiriakou noted that the Council will reach out to the other candidates, Sarah Evans and Melissa Higley, to invite them to be involved in Council poetry projects during the year. Katz asked to see the original job description of the Poet Laureate and she asked to see the background information of the candidates. Kiriakou noted that she and De Santis met informally with Michael Collins on Zoom. Kiriakou reported that the work of the committee was thoughtful and rigorous, and mentioned that everyone was excited to build a poetry community with the town. De Santis suggested a stipend be given to the Poet Laureate. Kiriakou said that the funds could come from the Council account that is provided for installing art works and programs. O'Rourke made a motion to provide a \$500 stipend for the Poet Laureate and Arias seconded. All in favor. A second motion was made to recommend the stipend to the Village and the Town Boards.

5. Poetry Live: Dorian reported on Poetry Live! 2022 and asked for volunteers to handle registration, seating, tickets, etc. The event will take place on Sunday, March 27 at 2:30 pm. Buie, O'Rourke, De Santis, Washburn, and Norberto volunteered to help out at the event.

6. Poetry Garden: Kiriakou reported that the dedication of the Poetry Garden to honor Mary Louise Cox, former Poet Laureate, will take place on May 13th at 11 o'clock. Lerchen is working on a Chapbook, a fable about the Tortoise and the Hare Coming to Mamaroneck. Fun activities would be included as well.

7. Concerts at the Harbor: Kiriakou reported that the Council is working with the Emelin to plan summer concerts in the park with well known talent. In addition, Cohen will co-chair Pop Up Concerts, four of them in parks in Mamaroneck. Council members thought that jazz or soul appeals to adults and families. Aber agreed to co-chair the Pop Up Concert project. De Santis reported that the St. Thomas Orchestra is going ahead with rehearsals for the July 4th Concert. De Santis said that they need volunteers also.

8. Film Series and Art Films at the Harbor: Kiriakou reported that the Council is discussing sponsoring two art films at the Harbor. The Council could work with the Emelin to curate the film(s). Aber volunteered to work on this project and possibly Norberto. Kiriakou said that there is no commitment yet, and funding and scheduling still need to be worked out. Lerchen said she would email a lead.

10. Metal Sculptures at Harbor Island Park: This project is similar to the Rye butterfly display. Buie reported that she spoke to a fabricator in Colorado with a possible May/June delivery date. Questions were raised: what kind of creatures, how many, what size? Artists would then paint them.

11. Artwork at The Regatta: Buie reported that the Council would like to have art displayed at the Regatta in the entrance way. A suggestion was made to weave poetry in also. There are two walls to display and if anyone has suggestions, they should contact Buie to fulfil our commitment to bring art to the space.

12. Marketing: Kiriakou asked the members to think about our voice and branding. She said that a committee of Aber, Stevens, and Kiriakou want to create a more intentional campaign using social media and the village website. They will report at the next meeting.

11. Mamaroneck High School Murals: Aber reported that John Pritts of the Historical Society is Involved in saving the murals that refer to James Fenimore Cooper and his life in Mamaroneck. The murals have to be taken down and moved to a new place because the high school is being renovated. The Historical Society is raising money and Aber asked us to spread the word and to post support on our village website. Members can reach out to Aber and there are photos on the Historical Society website. There is also a Go Fund Me page and Aber asked us to consider contributions because the removal and repositioning is expensive. Kiriakou said that this was a worthwhile endeavor.

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

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

The next meeting is Monday, April 4th.