

City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

5:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

Arts Commission

Commission Members

Deborah Filotto

Donna Franks-Tapley

Tom Grotovsky

Ron Romero

Julia Russotti

John Simpson, Jr.

Peg Stoiber

Deborah Summers

Debra Volling

Citizens who are unable to attend the meeting can email comments in advance of the meeting to publiccomment@joliet.gov.

ROLL CALL

Planning Director Jayne Bernhard asked the Commission to vote on a Pro-Tem Chair due to Chairman Grotovsky's absence. Donna Franks-Tapley motioned, and Peg Stoiber seconded, the Ron Romero act as Chair for the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present	Peg (Marguerite) Stoiber, Deborah Summers, Donna Franks-Tapley, Debra Volling and Ron Romero
Absent	John Simpson Jr, Tom Grotovsky, Deborah Filotto and Julia Russotti

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Attachments: [10.15.25 Arts Commission Minutes.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Peg (Marguerite) Stoiber, seconded by Debra Volling, to approve COUNCIL MEMO #TMP-9229: 10.15.25 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Stoiber, Summers, Franks-Tapley, Volling and Romero

Absent: Simpson Jr, Grotovsky, Filotto and Russotti

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

No citizens in attendance.

This section is for anyone wanting to speak regarding agenda items and are allowed a maximum of 4 minutes. It is not a question and answer period and staff, and the Commission members do not generally respond to public comments. The City Clerk has a copy of the public speaking procedures; please note, speakers who engage in conduct injurious to the harmony of the meeting shall be called to order by the Presiding Officer and may forfeit the opportunity to speak.

AGENDA ITEMS

Planning Director Jayne Bernhard provided an overview of the draft Public Art Ordinance that staff has been working on over the past several months. Ms. Bernhard explained that the purpose behind the ordinance is to clarify the process by which the City permits the installation of public art. An overview of the City's signage regulations and how murals are evaluated currently as signage was provided. It was revealed that the draft ordinance would evaluate public art against the City's sign code regulations, but would then require additional analysis by staff and the Arts Commission if the size of the public art proposed surpasses the allowable amount of signage in a property's zoning district.

Several Commissioners asked questions about existing murals and whether they were permitted as signs. Ms. Bernhard explained that there are several non-compliant murals throughout the city, and that a primary goal of the public art ordinance would be to bring these murals into compliance with new

regulations. Ms. Bernhard also explained that most murals currently need to obtain Variations from the City's Zoning Board of Appeals to surpass their maximum allowable size, per the City's sign code.

Commissioner Romero asked if the proposed ordinance contemplates how intellectual property right are handled. Cultural Affairs and Special Events Director, Ann Sylvester, stated that the City currently has a template on how to handle IP and copyright issues through the existing contract with Sijia Chen. Ms. Bernhard added that the proposed public art agreement component of the ordinance could incorporate IP considerations in addition to duration and display items.

Commissioners Franks-Tapley and Romero asked for clarification on what is expected of the Commission going forward with the Public Art Ordinance and if past work on the Public Art Policy, which contains some language pertaining to how copyright would be handled, would still be adopted. Ms. Bernhard clarified that both the Public Art Ordinance and Public Art Policy could be adopted in the future, but that having a document that details the process describing how the City permits public and private artwork that is viewable from the public realm is important.

STAFF COMMENTS

Cultural Affairs and Special Events Director, Ann Sylvester, shared that she, Chairman Grotovsky, and Vice-Chair Franks-Tapley attended the One State Humanities Conference in Champaign in November. Both Ms. Sylvester and Commissioner Franks-Tapley felt the conference was beneficial, with several sessions devoted to financing the provision of public art.

Ms. Sylvester provided an update of Sijia Chen's visit to Joliet in October and thanked the Commission for its participation at several events. Discussion on a special meeting on December 10 to allow Sijia Chen to present her final sculpture design for the Unit Dome ensued.

Ms. Sylvester and Ms. Bernhard discussed how public art considerations would be integrated into the City's Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Bernhard asked that the Commission attend a Comprehensive Plan workshop on January 21, 2026, dedicated to arts, culture, and heritage.

MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

This section is for anyone wanting to speak regarding non-agenda items and are allowed a maximum of 4 minutes. It is not a question and answer period and staff, and the Commission members do not generally respond to public comments. The City Clerk has a copy of the public speaking procedures; please note, speakers who engage in conduct injurious to the harmony of the meeting shall be called to order by the Presiding Officer and may forfeit the opportunity to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Peg (Marguerite) Stoiber, seconded by Donna Franks-Tapley, to adjourn at 5:57 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Stoiber, Summers, Franks-Tapley, Volling and Romero

Absent: Simpson Jr, Grotovsky, Filotto and Russotti

This meeting will be held in an accessible location. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact The City Clerk Office, 150 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432 at (815) 724-3780.