

City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432



Meeting Minutes - Pending Approval

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

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

Also Present: Cultural Affairs & Special Events Director Ann Sylvester & Legal Assistant Katy Fyksen

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

Absent Deborah Filotto and Julia Russotti

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

11.19.2025 Meeting Minutes

[TMP-9448](#)

Attachments: [11.19.2025 Arts Commission Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

A motion was made by John Simpson, Jr, seconded by Debra Volling, to approve : 11.19.2025 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Simpson Jr, Stoiber, Grotovsky, Summers, Franks-Tapley and Romero

Absent: Filotto and Russotti

Abstain: Volling

12.10.25 Special Meeting Minutes

[TMP-9449](#)

Attachments: [12.10.25 Special Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Ron Romero, seconded by Donna Franks-Tapley, to approve 12.10.25 Special Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Simpson Jr, Stoiber, Grotovsky, Summers, Franks-Tapley, Volling and Romero

Absent: Filotto and Russotti

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

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

Arts Commission 2026 Cultural Affairs and Special Events Strategic Priorities

[TMP-9562](#)

Ann Sylvester Cultural Affairs and special events director gave a presentation on

the strategic goals fro 2026 of Ann's division. Ms. Sylvester talked about City Square and events coming from June through August, a lot of weekly and monthly programming. Red carpet Corridor from May 1st - 3rd, sounds of Route 66 on May 1st in the city square and surrounding businesses. Some things coming back this year are Star Wars Day and Kids Fest. Race Fan Rally is coming back. The Official City Square Ribbon Cutting will be June 26th and 27th and featuring music food and a drone show. She showed the final design for the Unity Dome by Sijia Chen.

Ms. Sylvester gave an update on Bicentennial Park and partnerships with local organizations and the programs they will be putting on.

She talked about starting a partnership to create a city wide calendar with the park district so there is one place to see city wide events.

Commissioner Volling asking about a pollinator garden.
Ms. Sylvester said to send her an email with a proposal.

Commissioner Romero said it was nice to see a plan. Good to see a road map and it will be good to see it in action.

Ms. Sylvester talked about starting up for the subcommittees for the arts commission to help spearhead those projects.

Commissioner Romero stated there used to be subcommittees on the arts commission.

Chairman Grotovsky asked where the plans that they previously came up with that were never implemented, and what happened with all that work.

Commissioner Romero asked about finance.

Ms. Sylvester, said these are all great questions and she is working on the answers.

There was further discussion.

Discussion for New Chair/Vice Chair

[TMP-9563](#)

There was discussion about selection of new chair and vice chair.

It was decided that the bylaws would be consulted prior to the next meeting to decided best how to move forward in selection of the a new chair and vice chair.

Staff will find out the information prior to the next meeting and bring it as an agenda item.

Commission Romero read from the bylaws, the official information on how to select a new chair.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda as a voting item, as the current agenda does not allow for that.

STAFF COMMENTS

Upcoming Artist Opportunities

[TMP-9564](#)

Ms. Sylvester talked about grant opportunities. Ms. Sylvester stated that this update comes courtesy for Rebecca Degroate our grants coordinator, we are in the process of applying for a national endowment for the arts grant for special needs in the arts for 2027. We are also applying for an Illinois arts council general operating support grant, that is due in March that the city has successful in obtaining this grant in past years. Potentially for the poet laureate program for 2027.

Chairman Grotovsky asked about the nation endowment grant that we applied for.

Ms Sylvester responded that we did not get it because we were not qualified. She stated she would find out why.

Commissioner Romero asked about getting corporate sponsorships for murals, to get funding.

There was discussion about taxes for funding.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Commission Romero talked about a project at the rock and roll museum for artists old windows that are being repurposed and will be hung at the museum. Tom is heading that project up.

August 22nd will be the Wine, Jazz and Art event at Bicentennial Park, anyone can bring their art to sell.

Frankfort arts association got in touch with Tom and they would like to partner with the revitalization of downtown.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

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ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Volling, seconded by Stoiber, to adjourn.. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Simpson Jr, Stoiber, Grotovsky, Summers, Franks-Tapley, Volling and Romero

Absent: 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.