



City of Joliet

Arts Commission

Meeting Agenda - Final

Commission Members
Deborah Filotto
Donna Franks-Tapley
Tom Grotovsky
Ron Romero
Julia Russotti
John Simpson, Jr.
Peg Stoiber
Deborah Summers
Debra Volling

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

5:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

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

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

11.19.2025 Meeting Minutes

[TMP-9448](#)

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

12.10.25 Special Meeting Minutes

[TMP-9449](#)

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

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

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 [TMP-9562](#)
Strategic Priorities

Discussion for New Chair/Vice Chair [TMP-9563](#)

STAFF COMMENTS

Upcoming Artist Opportunities [TMP-9564](#)

MEMBER COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

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ADJOURNMENT

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.



City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432

Memo

File #: TMP-9448

Agenda Date: 2/18/2026

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

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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.

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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.

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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

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City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
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Memo

File #: TMP-9449

Agenda Date: 2/18/2026

City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432



Meeting Minutes - Pending Approval

Wednesday, December 10, 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

Special Meeting

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Romero arrived at 5:08Pm. Also Present: Cultural Affairs & Special Events Director Ann Sylvester, Help Desk Manager Pam Cox, Help Desk Technician Kim Gunia and Legal Assistant Katy Fyksen.

Present John Simpson Jr, Tom Grotovsky, Deborah Summers,
Deborah Filotto, Donna Franks-Tapley and Ron Romero

Absent Peg (Marguerite) Stoiber, Debra Volling and Julia Russotti

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tabled until next meeting.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

Sijia Chen Unity Dome Final Presentation

[TMP-9306](#)

Ann Sylvester Cultural Affairs & Special Events Director Introduced Sijia Chen's Presentation on the Unity Dome.

Sijia Chen via Teams Presented to the arts commission how the final design for the Unity Dome came together. Ms. Chen talked about her experience touring Joliet and the public engagement workshops, and how it gave her incite into the community. The most frequent responses received to the outreach were the river and bridges, the limestone, Old Joliet Prison, Route 66, The Rialto Theatre, Blues Brothers, the Steel Industry and Joliet being Home and Community. Ms. Chen described all the elements incorporated into the Unity Dome from the outreach.

She thanked the Commission for their help and for allowing her to create something special for Joliet.

Ann Thanked Sijia for the presentation.

After the presentation and Staff, Member and Public Comments Ms. Chen talked about the timeline for the implementation of the Dome. Next steps Structural and Mechanical designs. and fabrication of the Dome pieces. Once they have the finalized engineering design they will share those with the city.

Chairman Grotovsky asked about how the dome would be transported and put together on site.

Michel Pak, Sijia Chen's manager responded it would be transported on flatbeds in a shipping containers.

Ms. Chen said it would be assembled on site.

Chairman Grotovsky talked about filming the assembly process.

There was a question about lighting of the dome.

Mr. Pak responded that the city would be installing the lighting.

Ann responding that the lighting will be installed.

May will be the targeted completion date.

STAFF COMMENTS

None.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Filatto asked about a plaque explaining all the elements.
Ms. Chen replied there would be an informational plaque with the dome.

Commissioner Simpson is excited and Commissioner Grotovsky likes the wheel next to the chair. Commissioner Romero thinks it looks great, as does Commissioner Franks-Tapley, she asked about the S-J if that was Sijja Chen's Signature. Ms. Chen replied that it was. Commissioner Summers also likes it a lot.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilwoman Suzanna Ibarra, as a resident. Thinks it's beautiful, loves the heart detail.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Simpson, Jr, seconded by Romero, to adjourn.. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Stoiber, Volling and Russotti

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File #: TMP-9564

Agenda Date: 2/18/2026
