

City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432



Meeting Minutes - Pending Approval

Wednesday, June 17, 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

The Commissioners addressed the number of commissioners. The Bi-laws state that if you miss 3 meetings you are off the board, Debra Volling hasn't been here Julia Russotti is off because she has never been here. Peg Stoiber is off the commission as her term expired and was not renewed. So the commission is going to make a vote that there are currently 5 members of the commission and 4 are present so we have quorum. Commissioner Romero made a motion and Commissioner Filotto seconded it in a verbal vote all commissioners voted unanimously to pass the motion to remove Julia Russotti and Debra Volling from the Arts Commission board.

Present John Simpson Jr, Tom Grotovsky, Deborah Filotto and Ron Romero

Absent Peg (Marguerite) Stoiber, Donna Franks-Tapley, Debra Volling and Julia Russotti

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.20.26 Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

[TMP-10002](#)

Attachments: [2634 M Arts Commission 26-05-20 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

A motion was made by John Simpson, Jr, seconded by Ron Romero, to approve 5.20.26 Arts Commission Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Simpson Jr, Grotovsky, Filotto and Romero

Absent: Stoiber, Franks-Tapley, Volling 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

Communications Update

[TMP-9999](#)

Luke Gundersen Special Events Coordinator, gave a communications update to the commission. Luke explained how at last meeting the commission talked about having a social media page for the arts commission. He was able to have a conversation with Sydney Thompson about that and currently the city can do a page on the website for the arts commission, but not a social media page there isn't the staff to manage a social media presence at this time. Ann Sylvester Cultural Affairs and Special events Director talked about her conversations with Sydney on this topic and how the city doesn't currently have the staff to do more social media pages than they already have.

Discussion was had about what to include on the website and how they would like it set up, how it would be most effective in getting the information out.

There was a discussion with members and Ann about the Remembering the Fallen display and how many people attended and how it was advertised. There was talk about using the website for events like that to further advertise them to get the word out to people within the community.

There was further discussion about how communications should be handled.

Comprehensive Plan Update

[TMP-10000](#)

Luke Gundersen gave the commissioners an update on the comprehensive plan. He spoke with Jayne Bernhard and she provided the comprehensive plan, and what is in there as far as arts and culture. Residents want more public art in was the feedback from the workshops we received. He continued to explain all of the different cultural and art related information that is in the current version of the comprehensive document, which is not a finalized document.

The commissioners asked a lot of questions about comprehensive plan and if the city is supportive in implementing this plan. They want a monthly update on that the city is doing everything in this plan as it stands. The commission wants to partner with the city to implement it.

The Arts commission would like to be put them on record that they like what is in the comprehensive plan in regards to art.

There was talk about a City Council liaison to the art's commission.

There was further discussion on the topic of the comprehensive plan.

Luke will provide a copy of the current comprehensive plan to the commissioners.

STAFF COMMENTS

Luke Gundersen gave some staff comments, he met with the grants coordinator Becky DeGroate, she did apply for the IACA grant that we received in the past and we would find out in August in September and it depends on how many people apply for it. Anywhere between \$2,500 and \$25,000 would be awarded. Becky will be attending our July meeting. She did mention a few other grants we can apply for.

Luke wants to set up two sub-committees to go over the public art ordinance and a community engagement committee for the set up of webpage. Luke discussed how the committees would work and timelines and implementation etc.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Simpson asked about how many open spots on the commission there were, and a discussion about open spots on the commission was had, there are 4 open spots on the commission.

Commissioner Simpson had a discussion with the mayor about the wall on the side of the parking garage and was asking about updates to that. Ann Sylvester said they were still working on that.

Commissioner Romero asked about the IACA grant money was expended for this year. He wants to make sure we aren't just rushing to spend that money on August 1st. Luke is going to look into how much money is left from the grant.

A discussion about the poet laureate was had.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: Simpson Jr, Grotovsky, Filotto and Romero

Absent: Stoiber, Franks-Tapley, Volling 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.