

City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432



Meeting Minutes - Pending Approval

Wednesday, May 20, 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.

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

Absent Debra Volling and Julia Russotti

ROLL CALL

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

Absent Debra Volling and Julia Russotti

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.18.26 Meeting Minutes

[TMP-9721](#)

Attachments: [2587 M Arts Commission 26-02-18 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Ron Romero, seconded by Deborah Filotto, to approve 2.18.26 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 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

Election of Arts Commission Chair

[TMP-9736](#)

There was discussion held on if anyone wanted to take over the position of Chair from Commissioner Grotovsky, no one else volunteered to become Chairperson. Chairperson Grotovsky stated he was willing to continue on as Chair of the arts commission. Commissioner Romero talked about what the bylaws said.

A motion was made by Ron Romero, seconded by Donna Franks-Tapley, to approve Commissioner Tom Grotovsky as Arts Commission Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Volling and Russotti

Election of Arts Commission Vice-Chair

[TMP-9737](#)

Currently Donna Franks-Tapley is the vice chair, chairman Grotovsky asked her if she wanted to keep that, she said she would.

A motion was made by Ron Romero, seconded by Peg (Marguerite) Stoiber, to approve Commissioner Donna Franks-Tapley as Arts Commission Vice-Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Volling and Russotti

STAFF COMMENTS

Discussion on New Arts Commission Members

[TMP-9769](#)

Luke Gundersen gave an introduction of himself as the new special events coordinator. He talked about sitting down with each of the members prior to the meeting. He gave a presentation of the initiatives of the special events department for this summer. He went through all the events planned for the summer throughout the city and some of the events for the rest of the year.

Luke talked about recruitment of new members. There is an apply section on the website. The residency requirements were discussed. Current membership was discussed. There are currently 4 open positions.

Ann Sylvester, Cultural Affairs and Special Events Director suggested that an email be put together to go out to potential members.

Commissioner Ron Romero brought his concerns about what the arts commission actually does before we bring on more members.

There was further discussion about the direction of the arts commission, funding and how do we get these questions answered.

Ann Sylvester gave a reply to the commissioners.

There was talk about having a social media page and website for the commission.

There was continued discussion.

Murals at Hufford Jr. High and Gompers Jr. High School

[TMP-9768](#)

Luke Gundersen talked about providing some artists to Dr. Rouse, John Simpson provided some names to her for the murals at the new schools. She thanked us for getting us that information.

Commissioner Simpson said they are going to handle it themselves. Two new gymnasium that they want murals on.

Discussion of New Art Submission Guidelines

[TMP-9898](#)

Luke Gundersen, talked about the current submission guidelines and permitting process. We are still looking at this because he just started. He is also conducting a cultural asset review. Creating an excel list of artists so we can reach out to people in the community.

There was discussion about the Poet laureate program.

MEMBER COMMENTS

The members thanked Commissioner Stroiber for her contributions to the commission and that she will be missed.

Commissioner Stroiber is proud of the work they did on looking all the sculptures and murals, and the start on the arts policy and the Sijia Chen Sculpture.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

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ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 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.