Public Art Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2025 at 12:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present
Charles Hamilton, Danny Humphress, Elizabeth Ingram, Peggy Bohl, Drew Henner (Virtual), Laura Burst

Absent
Austin Reeves

Staff Present
Assistant Director of Communications Craig O'Neil Sr. Advisor Arts & Culture Anda Ariail, Creative Services Manager Theresa Broman, Graphics Specialist Meghan Robinson.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm

2. Consent Agenda

a. Approve the minutes of February 17, 2025

Motion made by Ms. Bohl to approve the minutes, approved by consensus.

Mr. O'Neil announced that over the past year, an additional $145,241 was added to the city's first dedicated public art funding source, bringing the total for two years to $386,592.

3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda)

4. Action Items

Item 5 was presented ahead of Item 4.

a. Seven Oaks Park Sculpture

Mr. O'Neil addressed the sculpture installation at Seven Oaks Park and provided an overview of the procurement process involved in forming a Request for Proposal (RFP) selection committee. This committee will comprise two city staff members—one from the Communications Department and one from Parks and Recreation—along with one board member each from the Public Arts Advisory Board, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Arts and Culture Alliance. Prior to the issuance of the RFP, the Public Arts Advisory Board (PAAB) is required to develop a project scope, to be discussed at the upcoming meeting in April. A discussion ensued regarding the distinctions between Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and Requests for Qualifications (RFQs).

Motion made by Danny Humphress to invite procurement representative Jennifer Maier to attend the next meeting. Additionally, board members will submit their recommendations regarding the scope of art projects to be considered for installation at Seven Oaks Park to Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Ms. Ingram, motion carried unanimously.

b. Public Art Maintenance Schedule

Mr. O'Neil presented the public art maintenance schedule, which includes an annual budget of $5K. Any expenses above and beyond this amount will need to be brought to the board for discussion and approval.

Motion made by Ms. Ingram to approve schedule up to $5K, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, motion carried unanimously.

c. Open Scene Temporary Art Installation During Arts Weekend

Ms. Ariail highlighted the positive impact of Open Scene during Arts Weekend. Their two installations, one at City Hall and the other in the park—were interconnected, and they played a more significant role in promoting Arts Weekend than any of the other Alliance members. As a result, there was a 10 percent increase in attendance from the Latin community.

Mr. Hamilton inquired whether the board's concerns had been effectively communicated to Mariela Saad of Open Scene, particularly regarding the city hall installation, which did not conform to the original specifications approved by the board. During discussions with Ms. Saad, she recognized that a modification had occurred, and both parties gained valuable insights from this situation. The staff recommends proceeding with the payment of the remaining balance of $1,500 and emphasizes the importance of ensuring clarity in future engagements.

Motion made by Mr. Humphress to pay the balance in the amount of $1500, seconded by Ms. Burst. Discussion: Ms. Ingram expressed her disappointment regarding several issues. First, there was the decision to transition from a wood/acrylic combination to a wood/fabric one. Additionally, the poem was not shared before it was displayed, which was concerning. There was an expectation that the approval for additional funding for Open Scene would lead to a larger temporary installation; however, the increase in budget appeared to have been added to the main installation in the park rather than the intended temporary installation. Ms. Ariail responded by stating that parts of both installations would be displayed at the library, as requested by Dr. Ruth Edwards. Motion carried 4-1.

d. Bloomberg Connects

The staff and board members engaged in a discussion regarding the potential implementation of Bloomberg Connects by the board. Should the decision be made to proceed, city staff will assume the role of administrator. A review of the contract will be necessary, and the training period, lasting 12 weeks, may be scheduled to commence in June. It is important to note that this project will not be prioritized and will instead be regarded as a secondary undertaking. Furthermore, clarification was provided concerning the administrator's responsibilities related to Bloomberg Connects. Those responsibilities are still to be determined and presented to the board. It was emphasized that Bloomberg Connects will not replace the existing responsive Public Art website; rather, it is intended to serve as an enhancement to it.

Motion made by Ms. Bohl to table until the next meeting, permitting board members to individually explore Bloomberg Connects, following a thorough and extended discussion, motion was seconded by Ms. Burst, motion carried 4-1.

e. "Art on the Green" partnering with Orange County

Ms. Ariail is interested in finding out what type of promotion Orange County would offer for their exhibits, which they refer to as "Sculpture on the Lawn." Questions were raised about whether Winter Park would be considered an extension of Orange County's Sculpture on the Lawn and if it would be promoted as such.

In January 2026, the sculptures in Orange County will be replaced, around the 15th, 16th, or 17th. Following this transition, the sculptures could be relocated to Winter Park, where they will remain for one year. it is recommended to commit to a five-year agreement with Orange County. Ms. Ariail presented the current sculptures from Orange County that are set to come to Winter Park in 2026. It is important to note that not all four sculptures have to be accepted. At the beginning of the year, Orange County will ask the artists if they would like the opportunity to leave their sculptures in Winter Park for an additional year. All four of the current sculptures are available for this purpose.

Ms. Ariail suggests implementing a model similar to that of Orange County, which allocates $5,000 per sculpture for one year, totaling a commitment of $20,000. Concrete slabs will need to be poured, and their dimensions will be discussed. The costs for the concrete pads and lighting are each estimated at $5,000. With two existing sculptures in MLK Park, appropriate placement for new sculptures must be considered. The initial expense is projected to be $50,000, covering the artist's fee, installation, insurance, and concrete pads, with an annual cost of $30,000 thereafter. Artists will be responsible for the transportation of their sculptures.

Additional discussions are necessary regarding approval from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, the placement of the pads with Parks & Recreation, and the responsibilities for the repair and maintenance of the sculptures.

Motion made by Mr. Humphress to move forward with the Art on the Green partnership with Orange County initiative; agreed to by consensus.

5. Non-Action Items

a. UCF School of Visual Arts & Design

Byron Clercx, the Director of the University of Central Florida (UCF) School of Visual Art and Design, delivered a comprehensive overview of UCF's Immersive Experience Design and the Advanced Design Lab. He provided examples of various projects in which students have engaged on behalf of different organizations. Mr. Clercx acknowledged the contributions of UCF staff members and highlighted their areas of expertise within the department. The students are well-equipped to work on projects of any scale, accommodating diverse scopes, and are capable of managing both short-term and long-term endeavors. Moreover, examples of proposals that encompassed building plans, building codes, and technical drawings were submitted to Mr. O'Neil for review.

Mr. Clercx recommended that PAAB support the project by providing funding through donations to the foundation. These funds would be allocated to cover all materials, research, and to help with staffing. Subsequently, 60 to 90 students will be identified from several classes, depending on the project's scope, who will collaborate on this initiative. The students might create a sculpture for a specific location and explore various themes, including safety concerns and aesthetics. They could internalize these concepts and work on the project throughout the semester or longer.

Mr. Clercx addressed the question regarding whether funding will be used for concept development or implementation. He explained that if the goal is to create an art piece valued at $30K or $50K, it will be their responsibility to develop a budget and plan to bring that vision to life. Mr. O'Neil thanked Mr. Clercx for his presentation and invited him to return in the future.

6. Staff Updates

a. Board Member Photo Next to Highwaymen Painting for Press Release and Social Media

The Highwaymen painting is displayed in the trophy case on the second floor of City Hall and will remain there for one year. A press release including a picture of the PAAB will be published this week.

7. Board Comments

Ms. Ingram proposed a collaboration similar to the UCF art students' project at Mead Gardens. She suggested responding to a Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ), with the board selecting one project annually. The winning entry would have the opportunity to install their sculpture on the designated concrete pads.

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

Ms. Bohl would like to include the restoration of the post office mural on a future agenda and will check if the Post Office is interested in having the City of Winter Park restore it. The board approved this decision by consensus. The Procurement Manager will discuss RFP's and RFQ's. Additionally, there will be a discussion about the scope for Seven Oaks Park and updates on Bloomberg Connects.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Approved by the board with edits on May 19, 2025
/s/ Bahiyyah Layton, Board Coordinator