



Public Art Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2025 at 12:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Charles Hamilton, Danny Humphress, Elizabeth Ingram, Peggy Bohl, Carolyn Fennell, Laura Burst

Absent

Austin Reeves

Staff Present

Assistant Director of Communications Craig O'Neil, Sr. Advisor Arts & Culture Anda Ariail, Events & Marketing Coordinator Stephanie Silva, City Manager Randy Knight

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. The decorum statement was read.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of October 20, 2025

Motion made by Mr. Humphress to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

The board moved to agenda item 6b.

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

4. Action Items

- a. New Meeting Date for January 2026

The January meeting was canceled because it coincided with the MLK holiday. The board agreed to hold the next regular meeting in February 2026.

- b. Board Staffing and Activity for Booth at Art in the Park

Art in the Park is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, with two shifts, each staffed by two volunteers for three hours. Ms. Ariail will coordinate with Communications to develop didactics for the tapestries, framing the event as promotion for Arts Weekend, called "A Tapestry of Experiences." The tapestries are presented as public artworks created openly in public spaces, brought to the community by PAAB. Installation will start on January 6 at two sites and on January 8 at two more. A press release will be distributed through Communications with details on each location. The library's theme is centered on literature, Hannibal Square highlights heritage, The Center for Wellbeing

emphasizes the seven pillars of health, particularly social wellbeing, and the History Museum features the peacock. The tapestries will stay in their designated facilities until Art in the Park during Arts Weekend, when they will be moved to the park to be displayed with a fifth tapestry depicting the American flag. The PAAB booth will be located near the tapestries, where you will help Anna McCambridge guide visitors in weaving the fifth tapestry. It was recommended to include a one-page explanation of the tapestries, a laptop showing the online public art collection on a continuous loop, and a one-page handout about the Art on the Green sculptures in Seven Oaks Park.

Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Humphress volunteered for the 11am to 2pm shift, while Ms. Fennell and Ms. Bohl volunteered for the 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. shift.

5. Non-Action Items

6. Staff Updates

Mr. O'Neil congratulated Ms. Ingram on her upcoming appointment to the city commission in March.

a. Supplement to August 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Mr. O'Neil informed that the supplement to be included in the minutes of August 18, 2025, has been requested for withdrawal.

b. Discussion Regarding Seven Oaks Park Art Sculpture RFQ

Mr. O'Neil announced that the RFQ for the permanent art sculpture at Seven Oaks Park is now ready. The three temporary sculptures are scheduled to be installed on Friday, January 16, 2026, at 9am. An e-vite is being prepared for the installation celebration. Later that day, January 16, 2026, there will be an America 250 event in Central Park, and a postcard for the Winter Park Celebrates America250 initiative has been placed in the seats. Regarding the RFQ for the permanent sculpture, a decision must be made regarding the three board members who will serve on the selection committee.

City Manager Randy Knight shared key details about upcoming tax reforms in the state. Legislative sessions begin in January, and several proposals may appear on the ballot in November. The concern today for the Public Art Advisory Board (PAAB) is that many nearby cities are undergoing Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) audits criticized for spending, which could include public art expenditures. Two tax reform measures have advanced through committees; one proposes that all homesteaded properties be exempt from non-school taxes, costing the city approximately \$18 million of our \$60 million general fund. Since 44% of Winter Park's tax revenue comes from homesteaded properties, this is significant. The other measure involves properties with property tax insurance, allowing a \$200,000 homestead exemption, estimated to cost about \$4.5 million. Mr. Knight recommended delaying the RFQ or consulting the City Commission first for a policy decision, questioning whether to proceed now given concerns about perceived frivolous spending. While art is valued in the City of Winter Park, outside perspectives might differ. This is not a City Commission policy but a staff suggestion.

Mr. Hamilton asked if the concern was more about optics versus funding. Mr. Knight agreed that it was mainly about optics, but if one of the larger budget hits occurs, the commission might have to consider reallocating art funding to cover basic necessities such as police, fire, public works, and even parks and recreation. A discussion took place, and Mr. Knight reiterated that he was offering a suggestion should some of these reforms occur. This will be a priority for the legislature, so by March, it will be known if what they propose will go on the November 2026 ballot, to take effect in November 2027, which aligns with the city's fiscal year 2028 budget. No replacement income proposals have been submitted, so hopefully, an implementation bill will be introduced to create an alternative funding source, as police spending cannot be cut.

Ms. Fennell and board members agreed to revisit the agenda item in the new year, possibly in March, when the board will be better informed.

The board moved to Action Item 4a.

7. Board Comments

Mr. O'Neil announced that the Fourth of July celebration will be held on Friday, July 3rd, from 6-9pm in Central Park, featuring a special America 250 theme. Ms. Ariail extended invitations to the board for all four days of Art in the Park, especially highlighting the VIP reception on Friday, February 6, from 5:30 to 7 am in Central Park, followed by a performance by Broadway singer Jasmine Forsberg. An additional invite was issued for the Art on the Green sculpture Installation Celebration on January 16, at 9 a.m. in Seven Oaks Park. During Arts Weekend, the woven flag created in the park will be displayed at the History Museum from mid-May through mid-July.

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

9. Adjournment

The board and staff members extended holiday wishes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Approved by the board on
/s/ Bahiyyah Layton, Board Coordinator