



Public Art Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2026 at 12:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Peggy Bohl, Carolyn Fennell, Laura Burst, Elizabeth Ingram

Absent

Charles Hamilton, Danny Humphress

Staff Present

Assistant Director of Communications Craig O'Neil, Sr. Advisor Arts & Culture Anda Ariail, Events & Marketing Coordination Stephanie Silva

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. Decorum statement was read.

2. Approval of Minutes

**Motion made by Ms. Ingram to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Bohl.
Motion carried unanimously.**

- a. Minutes of December 15, 2025

3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda): Three minutes allowed for each speaker

Mr. O'Neil congratulated Ms. Ingram on her appointment to the commission and informed the board that this would be her final meeting.

4. Action Items

- a. Art Sculpture Installation Proposal

Mr. O'Neil introduced Dr. Stan Sujka, who presented a proposed art piece for installation at the corner of New England Avenue and Canton Avenue, near the Morse Museum. The art piece is made out of aluminum and there are two sizes to choose from: 99 by 48 inches and a second size unspecified. The city can decide what type of base to sit them on. It would not obstruct any type of traffic pattern. He would undertake the fundraising efforts. The purpose of this initiative is to enhance the aesthetic appeal of a currently uninspired area within the community. The artwork is dedicated in honor of a respected friend, Larry Ruggiero, who served as the director of the Morse Museum for many years. A brass plaque would bear the inscription "In honor and memory of Dr. Lawrence J. Ruggiero, Morse Museum Director 1995-2023,"

alongside the phrase, "sit and enjoy the beauty." Mr. Ruggiero was often observed seated in a chair, simply observing the art and remarking that he had the best seat in the house to appreciate the beauty. Dr. Sujka expressed openness to considering alternative locations; however, he noted that this specific corner could benefit from some beautification.

Ms. Bohl appreciated the proposal. Ms. Ingram admired the location, but would be interested in considering other pieces. Dr. Sujka explained that he selected the specific artwork by the artist Levitt, which is available in various sizes and is made of aluminum, requiring less maintenance. He expressed his admiration for the community, the museum, and Winter Park. Dr. Sujka's fundraising efforts would be supported by local residents.

The board deliberated on the location, involving the absent board members prior to reaching a decision, and discussed the acceptance of the larger piece, the colorfulness of the piece, honoring Dr. Ruggiero and the fundraising efforts by Dr. Sujka. Mr. O'Neil mentioned that the proposed location would require approval from the Parks and Recreation Department as well as the Police Department. Additionally, he noted that the city commission's approval would be necessary. He also informed that art installations are insured by the city.

Ms. Bohl made a motion to accept Dr. Sujka's recommendation of the art piece, Ms. Burst seconded. Ms. Ingram recused herself from voting because she will be a member of the commission when the item is reviewed. She proposed tabling the matter until the next monthly meeting and to consider other pieces. **Ms. Bohl withdrew her motion.**

Ms. Fennell inquired whether this would establish a precedent or if there should be a discussion among the board to set guidelines for this type of project. Mr. O'Neil explained that the city has a public art guidelines document created about 20 years ago, which must align with the updated public arts mission and vision document that the board is currently revising. Ms. Fennell suggested that the board review both documents.

5. Non-Action Items

6. Staff Updates

a. Arts Weekend - A Tapestry of Experiences

Mr. O'Neil reviewed the photographs and activities related to the Art Weekend. Director of Communications Clarissa Howard expressed commendation for the team, including a special acknowledgment of Sr. Advisor Arts & Culture Ms. Anda Ariail.

Ms. Ariail expressed her gratitude to the board for their financial support of the tapestry project and introduced Ms. Anna McCambridge, who actualized Ms. Ariail's tapestry idea. While the city was experiencing technical difficulties, Ms. Fennell extended her appreciation to the staff for their exemplary coordination of three consecutive events.

Ms. McCambridge noted that each tapestry was one-of-a-kind, created by the community. She thanked Minotaur Mazes for providing access to their workshop and warehouse tools. She also highlighted the diverse range of visitors, with 157 guestbook entries from 29 local and national locations, as well as several cities in Canada and Britain.

The tapestry fixtures consisted of starboard bases and aluminum poles for durability and potential reuse. Each tapestry image was printed on vinyl and displayed behind the loom for weavers to follow. A guide featuring text and illustrations was developed to assist weavers with instructions. The project promoted community involvement, and being present enabled Ms. McCambridge to educate and troubleshoot. Ms. Anna mentioned she took numerous documentary photos and videos throughout the process.

The project's success was driven by the people, their relationships, what they gained, the conversations they exchanged, and the bonds formed. Ms. McCambridge mentioned that one person encouraged another to contact her about starting a tapestry project in Illinois. Another instance involved a pair of burly men working on a project at Hannibal Square, who paused to weave and struck up a conversation with her. Additionally, while weaving with the widow of her high school art teacher, they were approached by a stranger who turned out to be a retired high school teacher. A meaningful discussion ensued about the challenges and joys of the school system. These connections were made possible by the tapestry program.

There is room for improvement in accommodating people with mobility issues who cannot reach the bottom of the tapestry. With reliable hardware, this project could become an annual event eagerly anticipated by many. Ms. McCambridge demonstrated that the community desires engaging, tactile, collaborative art experiences that unite people. Many look forward to working on the America 250 project at the History Museum and have expressed interest in seeing the final tapestry exhibit. She displayed feedback from the community and proposed repurposing the vinyl tapestry images into bags for sale. Mr. O'Neil suggested that the board should consider sponsoring it again, as it presents a great opportunity for PAAB to support public art.

b. Art on the Green in Seven Oaks Park

Mr. O'Neil expressed appreciation to the board for their support and observed that the feedback regarding Art on the Green at Seven Oaks Park has been positive. He anticipates repeating the event annually in January, coinciding with the arrival of the new artworks from Orange County. The press release pertaining to this event was included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Ariail announced that an advertisement will be placed in the Flamingo Magazine to promote the Alliance, featuring the Melt Piece. The photograph is of outstanding quality, and the caption indicates the Public Art Advisory Board.

7. Board Comments

Ms. Bohl suggested that the city adopt the Private Public Partnerships program, which could facilitate growth through effective collaborations. She encourages the city to partner with various organizations, individuals, and corporations to develop donations. Additionally, she recommends a voluntary initiative inviting residential houses to display art.

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

On the upcoming agenda, Ms. Bohl would like to address the issue of increasing public donations. Ms. Fennell clarified that the discussion must incorporate guidelines for accepting donations.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Approved by the board on March 16, 2026

/s/ Bahiyyah Layton, Board Coordinator