

MEETING MINUTES
FARMINGTON AREA ARTS COMMISSION
February 13, 2025 -6:30 PM
THE HAWK FARMINGTON HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER
Lesson Studio Room, First Floor
29995 TWELVE MILE ROAD
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48334
(248) 699-6712 www.fhgov.com

CALLED TO ORDER BY: Chair Perko AT: 6:33 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Claire Perko, Lindsay Janoch, Ted Hadfield, Jeff Dutka, Celeste McDermott, Lesa Ferencz, Craig Nowak, Bree Schwartz, Don Fritz, Cheryl Blau

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nora Mason, Cindy Carleton, Sean Deason

OTHERS PRESENT: Rachel Timlin, Cultural Arts Supervisor/Staff Liaison
Johnna Balk, Farmington City Council Representative
Jackie Boleware, Farmington Hills City Council
Keith Janoch, Public

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Commissioner McDermott support by Commissioner Ferencz to approve the agenda without amendments.

MOTION CARRIED 9:0:0

APPROVAL OF January 9, 2025 MINUTES:

Motion by Chair Perko support by Commissioner Ferencz to approve the minutes without amendments.

MOTION CARRIED 9:0:0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Accepted Nominations:

Chair: Lesa Ferencz
Vice Chair: Jeff Dutka, Claire Perko, Lesa Ferencz
Secretary: Lindsay Janoch

Commissioners Elected the Following:
Chair: Lesa Ferencz
Vice Chair: Jeff Dutka
Secretary: Lindsay Janoch

MOTION CARRIED: 9:0:0

FARMINGTON ARTS REPORT

Claire Perko shared that art promenade is in progress. Call for art for city hall is underway. Masonic Corner opening has been delayed.

ARTS COMMISSION BUDGET

No major updates. Cultural Arts staff shared appreciation for the offer of funds for a retreat and asked for some time to consider the best use.

CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION REPORT

Cultural Arts Supervisor Rachel Timlin shared a report, previously shared with Sports Facility Companies (SFC), about the work, history, and budget of the Cultural Arts Division and the need to be proactive about cultural programs and funding in the future. There was discussion about the differences between functioning as a business or service organization and how those differences may factor into the findings of the city's consulting firm. Cultural programming provides many benefits to a community that is hard to quantify. Chair Perko and Commissioner Ferencz gave commendations to Rachel Timlin for her work on this report and reiterated the commission's support of the Cultural Arts Division as a service organization. Commissioner Ferencz shared her concerns about a city's ability to appeal to its citizens when it loses personal programming elements as outside contractors provide services instead. Commissioner Blau shared the commission's mission statement and requested that the commission come before the city council.

Motion by Commissioner Fritz to create a subcommittee to prepare a presentation for City Council with support by Chair Perko.

Commissioners Dutka, Perko, Fritz, Schwartz, McDermott, Blau, and Ferencz expressed interest in the subcommittee.

First subcommittee meeting will be Tuesday, February 18th at 7 PM.

General discussion about gathering staff and public input for this presentation.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner McDermott thanked Chair Perko for her work for the past two years. She also asked commissioners to take the time to view City Council's last meeting and hear Councilwoman Boleware's words regarding her commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She impressed upon commissioners that that support from the commission for arts advocacy is necessary and should be of primary importance.

Commissioner Fritz shared information about upcoming Bookstock events. He attended Antiques Twelve Mile Roadshow and really enjoyed the event. He also attended Detroit Metropolitan Youth Symphony's concert and shared that it was also fabulous.

Commissioner Dutka shared that he attended the Daddy/Daughter Dance and had a wonderful time. He also shared that his subcommittee will soon have an update regarding the tree dedication.

Commissioner Janoch shared that attendance and support from commissioners and city council liaisons is very valuable to the Cultural Arts staff.

Commissioner Schwartz shared that she enjoyed the last Rock Around the Hawk and noted there were many new people in attendance.

Commissioner Ferencz shared that she heard great feedback from Yeman Al-Rawi after his concert at The Hawk. He greatly appreciated the opportunity to perform and the support that was provided.

Commissioner Hadfield attended the Amen-Ra concert and shared that it was thrilling and he was glad to have the opportunity to attend.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Councilwomen Boleware shared that she is very happy that the Commission will be coming before council and she believes that decisions about art within City Council should include the Commission.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 13, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned by: Chair Perko Time: 8:36PM

Minutes drafted by: Lindsay Janoch