

Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting

February 25, 2025

12:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, 305 SW A Street

Contact skerr@bentonvillear.com to request participation via Zoom.



MINUTES

Attendance

Member	Attendance	Ex Officio	Attendance
1 Elizabeth Miller	Virtual	Beckie Seba, City Council	In person
2 Allan Paulose	In person	Kalene Griffith, Visit Bentonville	Absent
3 Chad Nicholson, Chairperson	In person	Alison Nation, Visit Bentonville	Absent
4 Kate Schaffer	In person	Cynthia Post Hunt, Crystal Bridges/The Momentary	In person
5 Anne Jackson, Vice Chairperson	In person	Melisa Durkee, OZ Art	In person
6 Clint Schaff	Virtual		
7 Tom Hoehn	In-person	Staff	
		Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning Manager	In person
		Josh Stacey, Deputy Director of Parks	In person

CALL TO ORDER Chairperson Nicholson called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes – Jan. 28, 2025

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes for January 28, 2025. Allan seconded. All in favor, motion passed 6-0 (Clint had not yet joined online).

2. Project Advisors. Shelli included a memo in the meeting packet recommending the committee begin identifying a project advisor for each project to assist in maintaining project momentum. The committee was supportive of the recommendation.

Anne made a motion for Tom to serve as the project advisor for the Crystal Bridges Roundabout project giving him authority to speak on behalf of the PAAC related to this project. Kate seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0.

3. 2025 Strategic Plan. Tom prepared the 2025 Strategic Plan for the PAAC. Elizabeth requested that the artist's names appear with the photographs. Cynthia requested the hyphen between her last name, Post Hunt, be removed.

Tom made a motion to adopt the 2025 Strategic Plan with the edits mentioned. Anne seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed 7-0.

CURRENT PROJECTS

4. Singing Kites New Proposal. Shelli reported that a new proposal was not received and proceeded to read a statement from the artist, Simone Cottrell. Based on this statement the committee believes the workload involved would lead the committee to become more of a co-creator, which is not their focus. Also, since the artist mentioned feeling like all options had been exhausted, they didn't feel confident in their capacity to offer the necessary support. They concluded that it's in everyone's best interest to withdraw from this project. They expressed their gratitude for Simone's thoughtfulness and continued efforts to push the project forward despite the challenges.

5. J and John DeShields Roundabout. No update available.

6. Final Condition Assessment - Maintenance Planning. The final report with cost estimates has not been received. Shelli shared a cost estimate for repairs to PacMan provided by the artist. Members felt the estimate was a little high and would need a more detailed budget that included travel costs. The committee agreed to wait until the final condition assessment comes in before making any decisions on dedicating funding for maintenance.

7. **Bus Shelter/Storm Wood Repurpose.** Shelli reported that the bus shelter grant application is not yet ready.

UPDATES

8. **Sewer Main at Town Branch.** Shelli reported that she and Anne are meeting with the artists on Wednesday. The anticipated budget is \$500: \$150 for honorarium and \$350 for paint and supplies.

Kate made a motion to assign Anne as the project advisor for the Sewer Main Art project giving her authority to speak on behalf of the PAAC related to this project. Tom seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed 7-0.

9. **Bentonville Bat.** Josh reported that the metal is aging and installation is expected in the fall.

10. **Physics of Being(You are Here).** The artist is expected to be in town next month or two to install in Creekside Park.

PROPOSALS

11. **The PAAC Race.** Allan submitted this proposal that was provided in the meeting packet. The proposal was to establish a race that included stops at public art locations. The committee is generally supportive and would like to include other organizations, such as Parks and Recreation, Visit Bentonville, and/or Downtown Bentonville and wants to be sure that we notify property owners of those public art pieces that sit on private property that are included in the race.

Tom made a motion to assign Allan as project advisor for the PAAC Race giving him authority to speak on behalf of the PAAC related to this project. Kate seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed 7-0.

12. **Make Music.** This item was tabled and will be under Old Business on the March agenda.

13. **Welcome to Northwest Arkansas.** Shelli included information about this project in the meeting packet, which included a request for funding as matching for a grant application. While generally supportive of the project, the committee did not feel comfortable committing funds without a proposal that included final designs.

Anne made a motion for Tom to serve as the project advisor for the Welcome to Northwest Arkansas project giving him authority to speak on behalf of the PAAC related to this project. Allan seconded the motion. Six in favor with Clint abstaining, the motion passed 6-0-1.

14. **Bentonville Nature Seek and Find.** This item was tabled and will be under Old Business on the March agenda.

15. **Vivid Uplift by Milan Kovacevic.** This item was tabled and will be under Old Business on the March agenda.

Anne made a motion to table items 12, 14, and 15 and place as Old Business on the March agenda. Allan seconded. All in favor, motion passed 7-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

16. **Announcements**

ADJOURNMENT

Anne made a motion to adjourn. Tom seconded. All in favor, motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.