

## Public Art Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, 305 SW A Street

Contact [skerr@bentonvillear.com](mailto:skerr@bentonvillear.com) to request participation via Zoom.



## AGENDA

### Members

- 1 Elizabeth Miller
- 2 Allan Paulose, online
- 3 Sara Asplund
- 4 Catherine Bays
- 5 Anne Jackson, Chairperson, online
- 6 Clint Schaff
- 7 Tom Hoehn, Vice Chairperson

### Ex Officio

- Beckie Seba, City Council  
Kalene Griffith, Visit Bentonville - absent  
Alison Nation, Visit Bentonville - absent  
Cynthia Post Hunt, Crystal Bridges/The Momentary - absent  
Payton Wiedner, OZ Art

### Staff

- Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning Manager  
Baylea Birchfield, Planner 1  
Josh Stacey, Deputy Director of Parks

1. Call to Order – Anne Jackson called the meeting to order at 3:31
2. Approval of Minutes \* – April 16, 2026
  - a. Tom Hoen made a motion to approve. Elizabeth seconded. Motion passed.

## OLD BUSINESS

3. Skate Park Mural Removal

*The Board's recommendation is to keep the mural as is for the time being. The ultimate plan is to expand the skate park in the future and at that time the board can look at other art options.*

## NEW BUSINESS

4. Near the Pitch Proposal Evaluations \*
  - Staff shared that 14 proposals were received for the Near the Pitch public art project. Staff completed a compliance review, and the evaluation form was sent to the board in accordance with the new policy. The review criteria were presented to each board member, and staff displayed each proposal digitally for board discussion.
  - Anne began the discussion with the highest-scoring proposal, The Delivery, listed as number 14 on the evaluation form. Elizabeth noted that the artist appeared to have strong sculpture experience. Clint shared that this was also his highest-scoring proposal.
  - Tom shared that The Delivery was his fourth-highest score. He expressed concern about the proposed 6-foot height and noted that the narrow metal pieces may not hold up well long term. Catherine agreed that some of the more delicate details could create durability or safety concerns and suggested working with the artist to limit potential issues. Elizabeth added that the height may be more appropriate for the project budget.
  - Anne then moved to the second-highest-ranked proposal, Team Spirit, listed as number 7 on the evaluation form. This was Anne's top choice. Elizabeth appreciated that the proposal came from a local artist. The board liked that the piece was colorful, fun, and energetic. Tom shared that Team Spirit was his first choice because many people in Northwest Arkansas may not be familiar with cricket, and he felt the piece was engaging and helped bring energy to the sport.

- Clint also liked Team Spirit but noted that the paint could fade over time. However, because the piece is modular, he felt individual pieces may be easier to replace if needed.
- Anne then discussed the third-highest-scoring proposal, Wicket, listed as number 11. The board felt this proposal was very different from the others and had a more subdued appearance. Clint said he had originally scored it higher on the evaluation form, but after further discussion, felt it may be less fun than some of the other options. Tom described the piece as more serious, and both Tom and Anne felt it had a more memorial-like quality. Elizabeth said that, for this location, the selected artwork may need to feel more fun and engaging.
- Anne then moved to Corka, listed as number 8. Elizabeth said she would prefer a piece that more directly acknowledges the cricket theme. Sara thought Corka was fun and interactive but liked other proposals better. Tom also liked the interactive element but felt the concept required too much explanation.
- The board then discussed Knocking It Out of the Park, listed as number 3. Elizabeth expressed concern that the artist did not appear to have sculpture experience. Tom agreed, noting that the artist's background appeared to be primarily architectural work. Sara was concerned that the ball elements may not be durable. The group agreed that the durability of the balls in the first two pieces could be a concern in this setting.
- Tom mentioned the marble sculpture proposal from Egypt, listed as number 5. He noted that Bentonville does not currently have anything like it in the area. Elizabeth said it was interesting that the proposal came from a company rather than an individual artist.
- Clint brought up Three Brothers, listed as number 6. Allan noted that the proposal should include two circles instead of three, but felt the piece may be easier to maintain than some of the other options.
- Josh asked whether the use of certain colors could unintentionally offend members of the cricket community. Shelli clarified that the board's recommendations would be shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the cricket league for feedback. If more than one option remains under consideration, the feedback would come back to the board for approval.
- Tom summarized that the board appeared most interested in Team Spirit, The Delivery, and Three Brothers, and the board agreed. The board requested that scale be included in the list of the top three proposals. Shelli agreed to include a one-page summary and the full proposals for each option. The board also discussed sharing the options with the cricket league and the Ravi Foundation. Josh clarified that City Council will receive one final recommendation, not all three options.
- The board's top three options were:
  - Team Spirit
  - Three Brothers
  - The Delivery
- Elizabeth made a motion to recommend that the proposal be taken to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and community groups for feedback. The board's primary recommendation is Team Spirit, but the board is open to feedback on the other top options. Tom seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Allan clarified that staff should reach out to the Three Brothers artist to ask whether the three circles were intentional and whether the design could be revised to reflect two circles instead. Becky agreed. Shelli said she would contact the artist for clarification.

## PROJECT UPDATES

### 5. America 250 Call for Art

- Staff shared an update on the America 250 Call for Art. Local teachers currently have students submitting artwork, and 18 submissions have been received so far.
- One challenge has been the quality of the photos submitted with the artwork. Staff has contacted the schools to let them know that original artwork may need to be collected and scanned by staff to ensure the final images are high enough quality for printing.
- Staff also shared that they are connecting with Crystal Bridges about the possibility of offering a summer art program related to the project. The board has also discussed a potential new installation location on an exterior wall along Main Street, which would make the artwork more accessible to the public. The current plan is to print the selected artwork on vinyl.
- Staff is also sharing the opportunity with Bentonville History Museum and Bentonville Public Library programming.
- Sara recommended opening the call to high school students. The board discussed concerns that students outside of 7th and 8th grade had not yet had an opportunity to submit artwork.
- Elizabeth recommended extending the deadline. Josh suggested sharing the opportunity through Peachjar specifically with junior high students. Elizabeth also suggested promoting the call for art at the Farmers Market. The board discussed the possibility of hosting a booth where students could create artwork on site. Shelli mentioned that Crystal Bridges has done a similar setup at First Friday. Elizabeth also suggested offering an art-making opportunity during a Downtown Bentonville Inc. Movie Night.
- Beckie supported opening the call to high school students now and revisiting the deadline at the next meeting to determine whether it should be extended or whether additional outreach booths are needed.
- The board also recommended sharing the opportunity with EverHope Children's Center.
- Sara made a motion to expand the age range from 7th and 8th grade students to students in grades 7 through 12. Elizabeth seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- **Action Item:** Staff will edit the call to include 7th–12th grade students and share it with the public.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### 6. J and John DeShields Roundabout

- a. Tom shared that the plants have been installed and the sculpture is in place. He noted that the artist was very excited about the installation, as this is her first outdoor sculpture. The artist will be present for the June 6 opening of Crystal Bridges; however, no formal reveal is planned for the sculpture. Tom explained that the solid-color pieces are powder coated. The other elements are infused into the aluminum. Tom also shared that he received a comment from Becky McCoy asking whether the back of the sculpture would be painted or remain black and white. Tom clarified that the design is intentional and represents some of the seedlings still growing. Shelli said she would like to work with Crystal Bridges on any marketing materials related to the piece. Tom said he will ask what the signage will look like and where it will be located.

### 7. Adult Recreation Center – Artwork Loan

- a. Agreement is signed, approved from Council, and installed

### 8. Public Art Event at Library

- a. BHM and library are doing a pie and public art event on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. A panel discussion with Randy Townsen, Shelli, and Oz Art.

9. Application deadlines:

- a. Water Tower Rd Roundabout: May 27 (15 submittals)
- b. America 250: July 15 (18 submittals)

a. Other Business

Allen announced his resignation from the Public Art Advisory Board due to personal reasons and thanked the board for their guidance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

\*Attachment

Clint motioned to adjourn. Tom Seconded. Motion passed.

Adjourned at 4:35