

**CITY OF
MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
PUBLIC ARTS
COMMISSION
MINUTES**



**April 4, 2023
City Hall
510 N. Baker St.
Mount Dora, FL 32757**

Call to Order

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Chairman, Thomas Decker called to order the April 4, 2023, Public Arts Commission meeting at 3:32P.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Members Present

Harlow Middleton, Mayoral Appointee
John Wesner, District 1
Thomas Decker, District 2
Maryann McNamara, District 4
Rebecca Owen, At-Large

Also Present

Chris Carson, Cultural and
Special Events Manager
Amanda Ferguson,
Administrative Assistant

Members Not Present

Jane Slivka, District 3
Keashawn "Kay" Volmar, District 5

Approval of Minutes

A. January 24, 2023 Public Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

***MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MCNAMARA TO APPROVE THE
JANUARY 24, 2023 PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES;
COMMISSIONER DECKER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION APPROVED
BY A ROLL CALL VOTE.***

Mr. Middleton & Mr. Decker inquired about speaking with the city Manager in regard to funding sources. Director Troy Shonk advised that he thought it was appropriate that all questions be directed to staff and they would obtain the answers from the appropriate parties.

Public Comment

Ms. Janet Gamache said she sent out an email to artists this morning offering assistance in Lake, Orange and Osceola County with applying for a \$5,000 grant. Janet advised they are accepting applications for the grant now until May.

Presentations

A. Annual Ethics Review

Ms. Sutphen reviewed the purpose of Sunshine Law and mentioned procedures some choose to follow in order to maintain their compliance. She spoke about the concept of public record, related methods of communication and evaluating the need for abstention from conversation about topics of concern. She explained the responsibilities of board members and City staff, as well as the consequences of non-compliance. Conflict of interest and decorum were also addressed.

She also reviewed the mural permit request. She advised that this board is the first approval or denial, but the applicant would have the opportunity to appeal to City Council.

Mr. Middleton stated that the level of frustration with staff, stating they're refusing to answer questions. Ms. Sutphen advised that she does not believe they are refusing, but staff must go through the proper channels to answer some questions. Mr. Middleton inquired about a status of the Master Plan with City Council, stating that they cannot receive answers about the status. Mr. Chris Carson advised that there is a finance document needed prior to going to City Council for review and approval. Mr. Middleton and Mr. Decker brought up the last meetings discussion with the Mount Dora Community Trust and funding. Ms. Sutphen advised that due to legal issues, the MDCT and the City both could not agree to certain requirements and it prevented an agreement from being made. She also informed that an advisory board has never had a budget approved by City Council. Staff advised that the funding the board receives annually is a part of the Parks & Recreation department's annual budget. It was determined that their possibly needs to be verbiage changes made to allow the Master Plan to move forward to City Council.

Action Items

Mr. Middleton discussed the topic of approving being able to review a conceptual idea of a mural of the MLK Center coming in front of the board for their approval with the caveat that there will be no funding from the board.

MOTION BY COMMISSION WESNER TO APPROVED; COMMISSIONER MCNAMARA SECONDED THE MOTION. APPROVED BY A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

City Staff

A. Staff Update

Mr. Carson thanked Ms. Janet for bringing a grant to the board's attention. He then discussed the Martin Luther King JR building mural and that the NECRA is unable to fund the call to artist. He suggested that the board discuss the possibility of funding the call to artist for this mural. Janet informed the board that there were two Police Officers that brought art projects to the Mount Dora Center of the Arts attention, wanting their assistance with the MLK mural and loading zone art. Mr. Middleton suggested they look into different trusts with the Mount Dora Community Trust for funding. Mr. Decker asked if it could be funding by the Parks & Recreation budget. Mr. Shonk advised that it could come out of the money budgeted for the board. Mr. Decker stated he did not want to utilize the boards money, but questioned if the department could fund it. Staff advised that the department did not have funds earmarked for the projects.

Mr. Carson then moved onto the levida festival on the 30th of September in Donnelly Park. He described that the festival is to honor Hispanic artists. Janet then offered space at the event, suggested the board have a fundraiser at the event.

Communications and Reports

A. Commission Member John Wesner

Mr. Wesner discussed the crosswalk examples that were shared with the board. Mr. Shonk suggested a crosswalk between Cauley Lott and Lilly being a location to be completed.

B. Commission Member Maryann McNamara

Mrs. McNamara requested she receive information moving forward for concerts and events that are taking place. She stated that she promoted the last large concert, ABBA.

C. Commission Member Rebecca Owen

No report

D. Commission Member Jane Slivka

Not present

E. **Commission Member Keashawn "Kay" Volmer**
Not present

F. **Vice-chair Harlow Middleton**

Mr. Middleton inquired what is occurring at Donnelly Park. Mr. Shonk advised that the pavers are being redone in a more tasteful and artful manner.

G. **Chair Thomas Decker**

Mr. Decker shared ideas to paint the stairs completed with a campaign "step up to art". He requested that this be placed on the next agenda.

He also shared that he knows of an artist that would be willing to have art placed on City property as a donation and then sell it after a set time period.

Mr. Decker introduced the new board member, Rebecca Owen, to the board and she provided a brief introduction of herself.

Future Meeting Dates

A. May 23, 2023, 3:30 p.m.

B. July 25, 2023, 3:30 p.m.

C. September 26, 2023, 3:30 p.m.

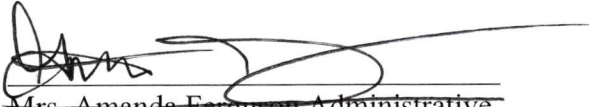
D. November 28, 2023, 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY COMMISSIONER MCNAMARA; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OWEN.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:28p.m.


Mr. Thomas Decker
Chairperson


~~Mrs. Amanda Ferguson Administrative Assistant~~
Gretchen Gomez
Parks & Rec Admin Coordinator