

CITY OF ROCKVILLE
Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 9, 2025
7:00 pm

Link for Webex meeting recording:

<https://rockvillemd.webex.com/rockvillemd/jdr.php?RCID=fe412f0d06eb1992325a62e274edf901>

Attendees:

- Commissioners: Karen Askin (left meeting at 7:50pm), Melissa Beattie, Frances Bevington, Susan Hoffmann (joined meeting at 7:16pm), Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers
- City Staff: Linda Moran, Assistant to the City Manager; Anne O'Dell, Arts and Culture Program Manager, Staff Liaison
- Community Member: Ethan Goffman

Commission vote to have Frances Bevington lead the meeting in place of Commission Chair Karen Askin.

Motion made by Liz Ortuzar; Seconded by Brian Rogers; All in Favor: Karen Askin, Melissa Beattie, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers

Abstain: Frances Bevington

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.

Welcome: Frances Bevington

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Frances Bevington

Motion to approve made by Liz Ortuzar; Seconded by Brian Rogers; All in Favor: unanimous.

Old Business

- Commission vote on the final draft of the CAC Annual Report. - Karen Askin

Motion made to approve the report with Goals written as proposed by Liz Ortuzar, Seconded by Brian Rogers; In Favor: Melissa Beattie, Liz Ortuzar; Not in Favor: Karen Askin, Frances Bevington.

Discussion about Fiscal Year 2026 goals led to two additional goals being added:

- The CAC continues to advocate that the city begin the process of developing a long-term strategic plan for the arts in Rockville. As is noted in the permanent and temporary public art subcommittee reports, a strategic plan would provide much needed guidance to City's public art programs, in addition to providing a roadmap for the city to achieve other desired outcomes in the arts, such as the designation of the city as an arts and entertainment district.

- As was noted in the temporary public art subcommittee report, the CAC recommends developing a plan for diverse perspectives that represents a shared understanding among mayor and council, city staff, and the CAC about expectations for community engagement in the art in public places and art in public development programs.

Discussion about the Publicly Accessible Art in Private Development program: Commissioner Askin made remarks about staff lacking qualifications to manage the program and staff not managing the program. Commissioner Hoffmann made remarks about the Commission not knowing about funds associated with the program and funds had not been managed by staff. Anne O'Dell commented that per the Ordinance, the Commission is not involved in the financial or administrative management of the program, she is regularly involved in managing the program, and that her mentorship and work experience in Public Art in private development qualifies her to manage the program.

Motion to approve report with the addition of the two goals as written made by Susan Hoffmann; Seconded by Liz Ortuzar; All in Favor: Karen Askin, Melissa Beattie, Susan Hoffmann, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers.

Chairperson Report: Karen Askin
No report, Chair not present.

Mayor Report: Mayor Monique Ashton, The Mayor and Council Liaison
No report, Mayor not present.

Staff Report: Anne O'Dell, Arts and Culture Program Manager and Staff Liaison
Susan Hoffmann gave remarks about the mosaic, *Wave: A Celebration of Maryland's Biome*, by artist Paul Santoleri, and expressed thanks to staff who worked on the project. Also gave remarks about how proud people are of the artwork and that Rockville includes public art in public development projects. Anne O'Dell will pass comments to both the Mayor and Council and staff who led the project.

Committee Updates

- Art in Public Places Temporary Works Committee - Francis Bevington
 - Updates on mural projects.
 - Volunteers for community arts activity at Rocktoberfest: Susan Hoffmann and Liz Ortuzar.
- Art in Public Places Permanent Works Committee - Liz Ortuzar
 - Updates on permanent public art projects.

New Business

- Commission discussion and vote to draft a letter recommending a performing arts venue be included in the King Farm Farmstead Redevelopment Project. - Howard Jung
 - Moved to August meeting agenda because Howard Jung was not present.

- Presentation by Moyi Arts Concept, LLC, at the September CAC Meeting. - Karen Askin
 - Moved to August meeting agenda because Karen Askin was not present.

Announcements

- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center Annex mural will be on the Mayor and Council meeting agenda for July 21, 2025.
 - Motion made to have Karen Askin attend and speak on behalf of the Cultural Arts Commission if she is available to do so made by Susan Hoffmann; seconded by Liz Ortuzar; All in Favor: Melissa Beattie, Frances Bevington, Susan Hoffmann, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers.
- Introduction of Ethan Goffman who was in attendance. Brief conversation about Ethan's work in literary arts and possible ways to be involved in the community.

Motion to adjourn made by Liz Ortuzar; Seconded by Melissa Beattie; All in Favor: Melissa Beattie, Frances Bevington, Susan Hoffmann, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Minutes approved 8.13.25.