



WAYNESVILLE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
MINUTES-SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
FEBRUARY 10th, 2026
TUESDAY, 1:00PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Mission Statement: The mission of the Waynesville Public Art Commission is to engage the community and enrich public spaces through original art that celebrates Waynesville’s historic, cultural, natural, and human resources.

Present:

Chairman George Kenney
Mark James
Carolyn Kemmett
Steve Lloyd
Kathy Swingley
Doug Garrett
CJ Deering

Absent:

Tonya Harwood (attended virtually)

Staff Present:

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk

Others Present/Guests:

Teresa Pennington (local artist)
Doug Worrell (121 N Main Owner)
Alex McKay (local historian)
Mountaineer reporter

Chairman George Kenney welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

1. Review and Discuss Score Sheets

The Commission agreed to eliminate Dominic Laporte & Anaïs Labrèque first because they felt that the design was too generic and did not have enough historic significance. They had the lowest scores on both the public, Commission, and guests’ rubrics. Chairman George said they seemed the least receptive to input.

Overall, the Commission agreed that the elements they would like to see in the final design are:

- Feature Oscar Briggs, the arch fabricator
- Musicians or cloggers
- Recognizable historic buildings or locations
- Roosevelt motorcade
- A plaque or put into the corner of the mural, named donors of the project

After much discussion, the Commission and guests agreed that Max Dowdle’s preliminary design fit the RFP requirements the best and scored the highest on the rubrics. Public Input also reflected that.

2. Make Artist Selection for the Historic Main Street Mural Project

A motion was made by CJ Deering, seconded by Mark James, to commission artist Max Dowdle for the Historic Main Street Mural. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Next Steps-Notify Artist and Project Timeline

Kathy Swingley, George Kenney, Alex McKay, Teresa Pennington, Mark James, CJ Deering, and Steve Lloyd volunteered to be on the Mural Design Subcommittee. They agreed to hold the meeting on Monday, February 23rd at 3pm with artist Max Dowdle to finalize the mural design. Chairman George requested that Alex send 30 photos of historic places or events to the subcommittee so they could review them and bring their favorites to the February 23rd meeting.

4. Other Business

The Commission cancelled their regular meeting for February 12th, and scheduled a special called meeting on March 5th so that Candace could attend.

5. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mark James, seconded by Doug Garrett, to adjourn the meeting at 2:10pm. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk

Chairman George Kenney