



WAYNESVILLE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION  
MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2025  
THURSDAY, 4:00PM  
TOWN HALL

***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  
Doug Garrett  
Mark James  
Kathy Swingley  
CJ Deering

**Absent:**

Tonya Harwood  
Steve Lloyd  
Ginny Moe

**Staff Present:**

Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager  
Chris Mehaffey, Fire Chief

Chairman George Kenney welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:17pm.

**1. Impact U Flood Memorial Public Art Piece Proposal**

- Josie Ostendorff

Josie presented the Impact U Flood Memorial Public Art Piece Proposal. She said the art piece would be installed in front of the Waynesville Fire Department. She said during Spring 2025, the project will be planned, artist selected, and fundraising begins. In Summer 2025, Josie said there will be continued fundraising efforts, publicity, and design mock-ups to be presented to the Commission and public for input. Josie said by September of 2025, the final design will be rendered, and there will be a groundbreaking ceremony on the one year anniversary of Helene. She added that the art will be installed May 2026. Josie said they will be commissioning Grace Cathey, a local metal artist. She said the memorial is estimated to cost \$15-\$18,000, with Haywood County Schools Foundation acting as the fiduciary agent, and students fundraising for the project. She described the art piece as being a five sided geometric pyramid mounted to another pyramid

with interpretive images on the pyramid faces. Josie said that she asking the town for assistance in endorsing the project, lighting the art piece, and installing the sculpture.

Chairman George asked about the pricing of the sculpture. Josie said that Grace quoted them the price for the art sculpture, but it could be more than \$18,000. He asked about the timeline as well. Josie said that Grace Cathey is estimating it will take roughly a year.

***A motion was made by CJ Deering, seconded by Doug Garrett, to endorse the project with final approval at the meeting next month. The motion passed unanimously.***

## **2. Approval of the April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes**

***A motion was made by Mark James, seconded by CJ Deering, to approve the February 13, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.***

## **3. Shirt Design Update**

Chairman George presented the two t-shirt designs featuring images of the animal sculptures in town. CJ said it's a little busy and suggested adding the Plott Hound. Kathy said the animals featured are animals you would find in the Smokies. Kathy said she liked the arch, but thinks the "Waynesville Public Art Commission" should be removed. Chairman George agreed. There was general consensus that the salamander wasn't an ideal depiction. Mark said the goal is to sell the shirt. Kathy said she likes the animals and the arch should be featured because of the connection of the animals that live in the Great Smoky National Park. Chairman George summarized that he will ask the artist to make the bears larger, one version with the arch with lines or dots that lighten the image, make the cougar and fox smaller, and put "Waynesville, NC" under the image, and do two versions, one with the arch and one without.

## **4. Art After Dark/Appalachian Heritage Re-Cap**

Chairman George reported that they sold only 12 t-shirts, the weather did not participate, and the crowds were small. The commission agreed to do Art After Dark in July.

## **5. Mural Fundraising Update**

Chairman George reported that there is an article that will go out in the paper about the fundraising efforts for the Main Street mural. He said they have about \$15,000 fundraised and they need \$30,000

## **6. Report for Chefs On Fire**

Chairman George presented fliers for the event. He rescheduled the special called meeting at Frog Level for July.

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**8. Adjourn**

*A motion was made by Doug Garrett, seconded by CJ Deering, to adjourn the meeting at 5:00pm. The motion passed unanimously.*

ATTEST:

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Candace Poolton, Town Clerk

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Chairman George Kenney