

Arts and Culture Commission Minutes

February 11, 2026

Pat Clower called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Pat Clower, Ayla Samson. Monica Sweeney and Megan Verbic were present. Greg Peerbolte arrived at 4:34 p.m.

Also present was staff liaison Melissa Mazintas.

Approval of Minutes:

Verbic made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2026 minutes. Samson seconded. The meeting minutes were approved.

Public Comment:

No Comment

New Business:

Clower asked all the Commission members to look at the Committee/Project Status list Mazintas handed out. The list breaks down each project the Arts and Culture Commission is currently taking and which Commission members are spearheading each project. She asked the commission members to update the list before each meeting to help the meeting move along.

Mazintas said she is also hoping to have the minutes and agenda done the Friday before each meeting. Last Friday she emailed the minutes and agenda along with a packet of information that we will be discussing this meeting. Mazintas said she also hopes this will help expedite the meetings. She said if any of the commission members has something to share or wants to send her their updates for the Committee/Project list that Pat created she will add them to the packet she emails the Friday before.

AACC Scholarship Fund:

Clower asked if the Village Board approved the formation of the Arts and Cultures Scholarship fund.

Mazintas said the scholarship fund was approved at the February 2nd Village Board Meeting. She said all the Arts and Culture Commission has to do is make the motion to spend the \$500.00 dollars for the scholarship fund.

Samson made a motion to spend the \$500.00 dollars for the Fine Arts Scholarship. Sweeney seconded, Verbic and Clower were ayes, Peterbolte was absent.

Clower asked if there was anything the Arts and Culture Commission has left to do.

Mazintas said she will email all of the area schools the scholarship information tomorrow and ask them to share it with their students. She said she had previously emailed several schools and unfortunately have not heard back but will be emailing them the information regardless. She said Thompson, The Village's Marketing and Communications Manager, also has all the information and will be posting it on facebook and our website. Thompson suggested the Arts and Culture Commission consider doing an \$20 ad spend since the scholarship is new.

Sweeney said she did not feel we needed to do that yet.

Verbic said the Arts and Culture Commission could reevaluate at our March meeting.

Samson asked when the deadline for submissions was and if we should pick the date for her and Verbic to review the submissions.

Mazintas said the Arts and Culture Commission chose April 3rd and advertised that we would announce the winner in early May. She suggested waiting to pick the date since the Arts and Culture Commission will also need to coordinate with the board member who will be reviewing the scholarship submissions with us.

Route 66 100th Anniversary

Clower said the Arts and Culture Commission has heard back about the benches

Mazintas said that OH! Design got the grant. Channahon will actually be receiving two benches as part of the grant. In the packet that was emailed Friday are the selections. Streit wanted to know on the 7th of this month but Durkin called and got him to extend it since our meeting was tonight. She said she was under strict instructions to give our picks to Streit as soon as this meeting is over.

Clower and Samson said they liked benches 2 and 3 because they are the larger of the 4 and have the most room for designs. Sweeney liked options 4 and 3 and Verbic liked options 4

and 2. Sweeney and Verbic both liked option 4 because it was the only option showing the front of a vehicle.

Clower said Peerbolte is on his way so he will have to be the tie breaker and the Arts and Culture Commission will come back to this discussion once he arrives.

Mazintas said she included a list of potential locations and a list of concept ideas for the Arts and Culture Commission to give to the artist.

Peerbolte arrived at 4:34. Peerbolte was informed that Channahon would be receiving two benches and was shown the 4 choices for the benches. Peerbolte chose options 2 and 4.

Mazintas included in the packet a photo of the Route 66 sign that is currently in front of the Village Hall moved to the side of the Manor Motel facing I-55 with a bench. She said she was thinking that if the Arts and Culture Commission puts a bench by the Manor Motel it should go on the side so that people can see it from the highway.

Clower said the Arts and Culture Commission moved the Route 66 sign there so we could have the two benches somewhere else.

Sweeney said it would be hard to find and people going down I-55 probably won't see it in time to get off.

Mazintas said that people who are following the roadtrip program that these benches are a part of are already going to have the address for the benches. They will be going from bench to bench and will most likely be putting the address into a GPS. Her thought of putting it so it is visible from I-55 instead of in front of the motel is to capture more day to day commuters. She is hoping to grab the attention of people in the area who may not know about the "roadtrip program". The amount of people who travel down I-55 is far greater than those that travel down Route 6.

Peerbolte said he would drive around to the places on the list and see which he likes best. He asked if the Route 66 sign could be moved closer to the sign already there for the motel.

Mazintas said she just grabbed a screenshot from google maps to show her idea but there is a lot of space over there to put it. The Arts and Culture Commission still needs to reach out to the owner of the Motel.

Verbic said another spot to consider would be the grassy area by the Thorntons.

Sweeney suggested the Arts and Culture Commission use the placement of the benches to benefit our business in town. Three Rivers Cafe was suggested.

Clower said the Arts and Culture Commission should consider putting a bench off of the bike path by the park district.

Mazintas said Verbic had mentioned at the last meeting that the Arts and Culture Commission needs to take in consideration parking and accessibility.. If it is down the bike path we may be eliminating a group of residents who may have a hard time walking the bike path to reach it.

Mazintas said the Arts and Culture Commission does not have to choose the locations tonight so if anyone has any other ideas to bring them to the next meeting. She said she also included a list of design elements/concepts to give the artists. She included things that were mentioned in previous meetings like the three rivers converging and Route 6.

Clower said to bring more ideas to the March meeting.

Mazintas said to keep in mind that depending on where the Arts and Culture Commission chooses to put the benches could mean additional costs. If we choose private property like the Manor Motel the Arts and Culture Commission will have to construct a pad but somewhere like the gateway would cost us almost nothing.

Fitness Mural:

Clower said she had her last meeting with the National Fitness Campaign. She asked Peerbolte if he was able to submit the window designs to Mike Ritoff yet for board approval.

Peerbolte said he has not as of yet. He said he is scheduled for the next call with the National Fitness Foundation.

Clower said the Arts and Culture Commission needs to write up the message for the side of the mural and it should include our mission statement, potentially our history, and a few words about Mapcraft.

Mazintas said she included a brief mockup in the packet that was emailed out. She asked the Arts and Culture Commission to review the statement and to give her feedback. She said the first portion of the blurb is the mission statement that was published on the attraction maps.

Peerbolte said he would prefer to not be named in the blurb on the mural.

Clower said the project is ahead of schedule and the park district will be breaking ground in the spring.

Sips, Sights and Sounds:

Clower asked if Sweeney or Verbic had anything to share yet even though planning had just begun.

Sweeney said the Arts and Culture Commission needs to begin marketing for our 2026 event.

Clower asked Mazintas if the Arts and Culture Commission needed to get permission from the Village Board to book the room at Four Rivers.

Mazintas said she spoke with Tom Durkin and he said the Arts and Culture Commission does not need approval for the room rental but the Arts and Culture Commission should make a motion to use the funds.

Sweeney made a motion to spend the \$1300.00 dollars for the room rental at Four Rivers Environmental Educational Center. Verbic seconded, Clower, Samson and Peerbolte were all ayes.

Mazintas said she reached out to the Grundy County Chamber to get prices to be included into their newsletter. She reached out to see if the Arts and Culture Commission could be added to the actual printing of the newsletter but they sent the cost of adding a full page sheet. The newsletter insert would be \$60 for 610 copies which the Arts and Culture Commission would need to provide. The e-blast would go to 1,200 people and would cost \$65. Mazintas said she thinks the insert would be a good idea closer to the actual event but it is too soon for that.

Sweeney said that might not be worth it but the Arts and Culture Commission can discuss it closer to the event.

Mazintas said that she reached out to Thompson and if there is room, Sips, Sights and Sounds will be included with the scholarship blurb in the Villages newsletter. Mazintas said she will also be sending out the save-the-dates to last year's participants.

Verbic asked to change the flyer for the 2026 event to say "2nd Annual" instead of just 2nd and that Four Rivers Education Center needs to say Four Rivers Environmental Education Center. She suggested changing where it says "will be auctioned off in the silent and live auction." to "will be auctioned in silent and live auctions."

Mazintas said she will go onto OneCause and set up the 2026 event so when we send out the information it will be all ready to go.

America 250:

Clower said she and Samson would be working on the 250th Anniversary Art Project. She said they will need to get together to discuss the plan.

Verbic said she thought the Arts and Culture Commission was doing the art competition to coincide with the Relay that will be going down the I and M Canal.

Mazintas said at the last meeting it was discussed having an art competition for the 250th anniversary and potentially having the winning piece be used in a button or sticker or something else to be handed out at the event for the American Discovery Relay. Mazintas said that the Arts and Culture should focus on the art competition but she would suggest not tying it to the relay since she can not confirm that the Village will be participating or to what capacity they may participate.

Clower asked if it would be a children only competition.

Verbic said she thinks the Arts and Culture Commission should advertise it to all the people who reside in Channahon including adults.

Mazintas said she will be on a call with the American Discovery Trail and other towns in Illinois and are hoping they will share their ideas.

Samson said the Arts and Culture Commission could give monetary prizes to draw more people into the event.

Mazintas said when planning the event just remember to consider if we need to add items to the budget.

Joliet Comprehensive Plan Meeting:

Sweeney and Samson attended the Arts, Culture & Heritage Workshop on January 21st as part of Joliet's Comprehensive Plan workshops.

Samson said it was very interesting even though not much of it had to do with Channahon. She said there were a lot of different groups represented in the room and a lot of them seemed to be saying similar things.

Sweeney said they seemed to be very disjointed. She thought it would be a good idea if at some point in the year the Arts and Culture Commission had all the area clubs and commissions to one big meeting to discuss what each group will be pursuing in the upcoming year.

Clower agreed. She said the Arts and Culture Commission should try to coordinate with some of our community partners.

Mazintas said she loves that idea as well and the Arts and Culture Commission should shoot for January of next year.

Sweeney said another big topic was conserving the art Joliet already had.

Peerbolte said the murals in Joliet are always a hot topic. There was no plan to maintain the murals throughout the downtown area and now they are falling apart. The big discussions centered around maintaining or replacing the murals.

Sweeney said we need to include any future maintenance into the planning and approval process of any art the Arts and Culture Commission produces.

Samson said it was good to hear from other groups of people.

Clower reminded the commission members to update the Committee/Project Status list and give the information to Mazintas before the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date:

The next scheduled meeting date is Wednesday, March 11th, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Samson made a motion to adjourn at 5:41 p.m. Sweeney seconded. All ayes approved the adjournment.

Submitted by Melissa Mazintas