

# ***Columbia City Arts Commission Meeting Minutes***

August 5, 2025

## **I. Call to order**

Commission Chair Romano called to order the regular meeting of the Columbia City Arts Commission (CCAC) at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, in the Common Council Chambers of Columbia City Hall, Columbia City, Indiana.

## **II. Roll call**

The following people were present: Jennifer Romano (member), Greg Hockemeyer (member), Mike Thomas (member), Connie Boggs (member), Doug Egolf (member), and Chip Hill (staff). April Frazier (member) was not present.

## **III. Approval of minutes from the last meetings**

Connie Boggs moved to approve the July 1, 2025, meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Mike Thomas, and the motion was approved by voice vote.

## **IV. Open issues**

- *SPARK*: Jennifer Romano reported that the closing report has been filed for the IAC grant used to help fund the event.
- *Artists' Studio Tour*: (SEPTEMBER 6, 2025, FROM 9 AM TO 2 PM)
  - Mike Thomas noted that one musical act has been booked with another pending and asked about a stipend for a sound engineer for the bands. Greg Hockemeyer moved to authorize a stipend of \$500 for such purpose, seconded by Connie Boggs, and passed by voice vote.
  - Jennifer Romano noted that she and April Frazier met to discuss the conduct and marketing of the event, covering registration forms, social media posts, preparation of a press release, table tents, and event map QR codes. Ms. Romano also noted that two artists new to the event have registered. Greg Hockemeyer moved to authorize expenditures of up to \$1000 for promotional materials, seconded by Mike Thomas, and passed by voice vote.
  - The members noted that the banner over Line Street is in place right now, will be briefly displaced, and then replaced just before the event.
  - Greg Hockemeyer moved to authorize a supply stipend of \$100 for each participating artist, seconded by Doug Egolf, and passed by voice vote.
- *September First Friday*: (SEPTEMBER 5, 2025, FROM 6 PM TO 9 PM)
  - Mike Thomas confirmed that he has reserved a booth space for the Commission and that the general theme will be "Arts on the Square."
  - Doug Egolf discussed the possibility of doing a canvas swap event.
  - Jennifer Romano plans to share invitations to additional artists.
- *Calendar*: The Commissioners agreed to have the 2026 calendar take a historical theme and feature Whitley County artists of the past, possibly seeking partnership with the America250 celebration. Jennifer Romano noted that she is working on a related project

for the library and volunteered to spearhead the calendar efforts again. Connie Boggs provided Jennifer Romano with a list of current artists to consider for future calendars. The group discussed its desire to, again, provide

- *Bones Theater and WJHS*: Jennifer Romano noted that the focus of these promotions is shifting to the Artist Studio Tour.
- *Public Art*: Tabled.
- *Chess Club*: No additional information.
- *Holiday Events*: Tabled.
- *Old Settlers*: Jennifer Romano reported that fourteen entered the coloring contest and that the two winners received arts supplies as prizes.

#### V. Other business

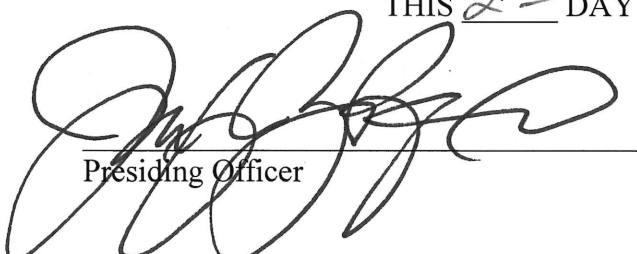
- Jennifer Romano shared information regarding a volunteer with special interest in Eagle Park.
- Jennifer Romano noted that the display panels are now located at the Whitley County Historical Museum, but that they need new fabric and replacement parts.
- Greg Hockemeyer agreed to investigate the cost of a large tent to house Artists' Studio Tour participants at his office parking lot.
- Chip Hill agreed to investigate the possible location of an art supply public pantry cupboard in the lobby of City Hall.
- Jennifer Romano informed the members of an artist open house on September 26, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. as part of the Whitley County Historical Museum's exhibition.

#### VI. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

AUGUST 5, 2025, MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

THIS 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF September, 2025.

  
Presiding Officer

  
Secretary