

Columbia City Arts Commission Minutes

Called to order at 5:05 p.m. on June 2, 2026

Roll Call

Present: April Frazier, Connie Boggs, Greg Hockemeyer, Mike Thomas, Taylor Ford and Jennifer Zartman Romano and Chip Hill (staff).

Absent: Doug Egolf

Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the March 3, 2026, meeting:

A motion was made by Greg Hockemeyer to approve the minutes. Mike Thomas provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved.

Open Issues

Artist Studio Tour - April provided an update about the hardware. The company isn't budging, but Mark has agreed to make it right. We didn't get what we paid for, but we are glad Mark is making it right. He will be getting us three immediately and will get 12 in total when they come in as they are on back order right now. April will get them and assemble them immediately. Greg thanked April for her due diligence on this matter. We learned an important lesson about immediately checking our order.

Calendar: Jennifer will reach out to local photographers. Goal might be to have the calendar done by September.

Public Art:

Mural - Leah Hopkins has been selected to be the Pursuit of Happiness mural artist.

Infrastructure - Chip provided dimensions of electrical boxes and April said we need to decide next steps to do those. Jennifer said it might be a good idea to contact 46 Graphics and Paint the Town Graphics and Blue River to find out cost. April will talk to Paint the Town, Greg will talk to Blue River, Mike will talk to 46 Graphics. Chip will email the specs to companies. Jennifer said the cost needs to include scanning the art, all production and installation. That way, our quotes are apples to apples. They will bring them to the next meeting.

Caricature Artist - Mike stated the group went with someone else and no longer requested. Jennifer noted that having not been told of Mike's update, she had reached out to Michael Lude, a Columbia City artist, and he agreed to do it for \$300. Greg suggested we reach back out to Michael and ask if we could pay him to do caricatures at our Studio Tour in the park.

Artist Meet & Greet - We talked about Sunny Sips, Janie's Donuts, Brewha or some other vendors we might be able to bring in.

Greg suggested maybe we look into a several food trucks and maybe we could charge a fee to vend at our event. Taylor though she might be interested in attending. Greg suggested telling vendors we'd like to purchase some food for artists, but then they could vend for visitors. We need to gather information on who might be interested. We would want them there by 8 a.m. and until 2 p.m. hopefully. Jennifer suggested we might consider purchasing vendor tickets they can use at the food/drink booths.

Baker Park Studio Art Tour - Jennifer said we need to determine parameters for registration. Greg suggested

we need to get an aerial map, mark it out for space assignments. Greg asked April to point a committee of three that would include Taylor, Jennifer and April next week. County GIS might be able to provide a map of the space for us. Mike said we would probably want to mark out 10 x 10 spaces. We can check with Joann Bird and also 46 Graphics for a cost to update banners.

OSD Coloring Contest - Jennifer designed the coloring page once again this year. Last year, CCAC and the Whitley County Historical Museum partnered on this and then a couple of prizes were awarded which the museum covered cost-wise. Jennifer will create baskets of art supplies for the winners. Greg moved that we partner with the Museum on the Coloring Contest. Seconded by Connie. The motion was unanimously approved. The entries are due June 12. They can be judged on June 16. Jennifer will make a tally sheet. The museum is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Artist meet ups - we can consider later.

Art at the Museum - Jennifer talked about Art @ The Museum and invited people to help spread the word about the show.

Other-

Adjournment:

Greg motioned to adjourn at 5:53 p.m. Seconded by Connie. Unanimously approved.

Reopening of Meeting:

The meeting reopened at 5:54 p.m. to discuss Spark Arts Camp. April talked to everyone about doing it. Last year we had a grant and this year we do not. April shared a rough estimate for the event as costing \$2775. April plans to reach out to BABE and Mission 25. We partnered with Whitley County Transit last year and kids were also provided with a daily meal before leaving. Park Terrace is already reaching out about it. Greg moved to authorize the expenditure of up to \$2800 for expenses related to Spark Arts camp and authorize April to spearhead it. June 22-25. Gala is on the Friday at 6 p.m. Participation will be limited to 12-15 children. It will be offered from 8 to 11 a.m. They are sent home with sack lunches and a snack break. They will do dance, music and art.

Adjournment:

Greg moved to adjourn at 6 p.m. Seconded by Connie. Unanimously approved.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting is July 7, 2026.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

THIS 7th DAY OF JULY 2026.

April H. Frazer vice-chair