



CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

APRIL 22, 2025

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 2 PARK PLAZA | 6:00 PM

OFFICIAL MINUTES

The public is advised that the following minutes are not a verbatim transcription of business presented at the Council Meeting of the date shown; but are a synopsis of pertinent information. The public is further advised that the video recording for said meeting is a matter of public record and is available to be viewed at the City Clerk's office during normal business hours or viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/alpharettagov>.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

• Cultural Arts Commission Members - Present

- Melody Cookson (Chair)
- Michael Barsky (Vice Chair)
- Shital Foster
- Dianna Smeal
- Luis Gonzalez

• Staff

- Morgan Rodgers, Director – Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Division Manager – Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Sarah Bausano, Administrative Office Coordinator – Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- David Palmieri, Cultural Services Staff – Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Lara Haddadin, Cultural Services Staff – Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2025

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion to approve the minutes.
 - Vice Chair Barsky offered a motion to approve the minutes, as written, from the January 28, 2025, Cultural Arts Commission Meeting.
 - Commissioner Foster seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

b. Cultural Arts Commission Work Session Minutes from February 25, 2025

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion to approve the minutes.

- Commissioner Foster offered a motion to approve the minutes, as written, from the February 25, 2025, Cultural Arts Commission special called work session.
- Commissioner Gonzalez seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

V. ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

- Arcadia Theater presentation by Randy Bamfield. Arcadia Theater is a brand-new theater that branched off from ACT1. ACT1 is a faith-based theater and that created some issues with funding. Randy stated that Arcadia is currently in the process of getting a 501c3 status from the IRS which will help with funding. ACT1 will remain a drama ministry for the church. Creating Arcadia gives the theater a chance to grow. Alpharetta Presbyterian and Awesome Alpharetta have been great contributors.

CULTURAL ARTS Q & A:

Q Growth is amazing! Who are you seeing coming? (Smeal)

A Comes from a lot of different places, engaging with a lot of talented artists that were coming to Alpharetta that were in the film community. Having an influx of people has helped the growth. Combination of dumb luck and planning seasons. Welcoming as many new people as possible. (Bamfield)

Q Are there more organizations that you are trying to work with? (Gonzalez)

A Yes, the Metropolitan Ballet is one. The Eagle Theater in Sugar Hill is the one I am following the closest. Spotlight Stage is another avenue. Working with the City to get a theater is a high priority. (Bamfield)

C Park of the growth come from the growth of Alpharetta. (Cookson)

Q Kim, what about the space at North Point Mall? (Smeal)

A Arcadia Theater will be one of the Art Leader groups, the church has been so generous to make all the props and costumes for the theater groups.

Q Do you have enough funding? Are you continuing to look for funding?

A We are always looking for funding. As a non-profit you have to get licensing which is costly, but we have been adequately funding these items. (Bamfield)

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Activate Games at the Terraces at Windward Parkway

- Greg and Tonya presented a mural by Margo Perkins. Activate Games had to get a different type of permit and the requirement was to put up a mural. The artist has a few murals throughout the area. This mural will be approximately 20' by 20'.
- ❖ Commissioner Foster motioned to discuss the mural.
- ❖ Vice Chair Barsky 2nd the motion.
- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson opened the item up for discussion.

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSON Q & A:

Q Do you have a rendering of the CVS building? (Barsky)

A No, we do not. (Greg)

Q What was the motivation to do it on top of the dumpsters? (Gonzalez)

A This is the only place available on the building to put a mural. (Greg)

- Q Is it going to have lighting? (Gonzalez)
- A Nothing planned for additional lighting. (Greg)
- Q Is there another way that this can be put on another part of the building? (Foster)
- A We have to be sensitive to the other tenants. (Greg)
- Q The balance is off with Windward? (Gonzalez)
- A We have other properties with murals, we like that it stands out. (Greg)
- Q What is below is a bit of an eye sore. (Smeal)
- A We could paint the gates on the dumpster enclosures, hoping to draw the eye past them. (Greg)
- Q What is the general idea? (Foster)
- A Adding a splash of color. (Greg)
- Q Do you own the property? (Barsky)
- A Yes and manage it. (Greg)
- Q What is Activate Games? (Barsky)
- A Interactive gaming location. (Greg)
- Q Which space are they leasing? (Foster)
- A The old CVS building, which is an out parcel. The City is requiring us to add Art. (Greg)
- Q Kim, can you come forward? (Cookson)
- A The City is adding it as a condition to get more Art on the East Side of Alpharetta. There are options to paint the dumpsters to blend them into the brick. The thought was that it being high up, your eye would be drawn away from the dumpsters and you could see it when driving. This freshens up the older areas. (Zane)
- Q Who is responsible for maintenance? (Cookson)
- A Management is responsible for maintenance. The maintenance plan includes a clear coat on top. (Greg)
- C Make the dumpster look like a basket or a flowerpot. (Foster)
- C Traffic would be intrigued by the flowers. Anything to make the space look new would be helpful. (Gonzalez)
- C The CVS building has a lot of bank walls. (Barsky)
- C You are proposing that the mural goes on the CVS building instead? (Greg)
- ❖ Commissioner Foster offered a motion to approve Activate Games Mural at the Terraces at Windward.
 - ❖ Commissioner Barsky 2nd the motion to approve Activate Games Mural at the Terraces at Windward
 - ❖ The motion was denied unanimously (0-5).
 - ❖ Commissioner Smeal offered a motion to defer the Activate Games Mural at the Terraces at Windward until the next Cultural Arts Commission meeting.

- ❖ Commissioner Foster seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

VII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORK SESSION DISCUSSION

a. Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – April 2025

- Kim Zane, Cultural Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION Q & A:

RE: Staff Presentation

- Q How many theater groups came to the Spotlight Stage preview? (Smeal)
- A We had four groups come. (Zane)
- Q How many have signed up for Paint the Town? (Smeal)
- A Around 35 or 40 at this point. (Zane)
- Q Is the Art in the Dark a new segment? (Smeal)
- A Yes, it is. (Zane)
- Q Can you send the presentations to us? (Foster)
- A Yes, I can. (Zane)

VIII. CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- There were no items from commissioners.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Local boy scout came forward to fulfill a merit badge. He asked two questions.
 - Q How do you work to better the community? (Boy Scout)
 - A Being a Commissioner is a wonderful position. (Smeal)
 - A Gives visibility to all the new things that are happening in Alpharetta. (Foster)
 - Q What is the best part of being involved with the Commission? (Boy Scout)
 - A Get things done. (Barsky)
 - A It feels good to feel like you are contributing to the City and the ability to promote all the things happening in the City. (Cookson)
 - A We all have been involved with the Arts in the community one way or another. This is a way for us to contribute. Very passionate people involved in the Arts. (Gonzalez)

X. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- ❖ Commissioner Barsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - Commissioner Foster seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).
- ❖ With there being no further business to consider or discuss, Chairwoman Cookson adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Bausano

Sarah Bausano
Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services