



# CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

JANUARY 27, 2026

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 2 PARK PLAZA | 5:30 PM

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 5:31 p.m.

## II. ROLL CALL

### • Cultural Arts Commission Members - Present

- Melody Cookson (Chair)
- Sumita Patel
- Dianna Smeal
- Susan Hanna
- Michael Barsky (Vice Chair)
- Luis Gonzalez

### • Staff

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

## III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

## IV. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Election of 2026 Chair

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion to elect the Chair for the Cultural Arts Commission.
  - Vice Chairman Barsky offered a motion to re-elect Chairwoman Cookson as the Chair for the Cultural Arts Commission.
  - Commissioner Smeal seconded the motion
  - The motion was approved 5-0-2 no votes

### b. Election of 2026 Vice Chair

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion to elect the Vice Chair for the Cultural Arts Commission.

- Commissioner Smeal offered a motion to re-elect Vice Chairman Barsky as the Vice Chair for the Cultural Arts Commission.
- Commissioner Patel seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved 5-0-2 no votes

c. Welcome Susan Hanna to the Cultural Arts Commission.

## V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes from September 23, 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 September 23, 2025, Cultural Arts Commission Meeting.
  - Commissioner Patel seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (5-1).

b. Cultural Arts Commission Work Session Minutes from December 2, 2025

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion to approve the minutes.
  - Commissioner Gonzalez offered a motion to approve the minutes, as written, from the December 2, 2025, Cultural Arts Commission Work Session.
  - Vice Chair Barsky seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (4-2-1).

## VI. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

a. Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – January 2026

- Kim Zane, Cultural Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Director Rodgers came forward talk about Wacky World and the Community Build that is going to happen at Wills Park.

### CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION Q & A:

#### RE: Staff Presentation

- Q Where do we sign up to volunteer for Wacky World? (Smeal)
- A We will send you the link (Bausano)
- Q Are the lunch and learns part of the Master Plan? (Gonzalez)
- A Yes, we are trying to incorporate the non-profits more. (Zane)

## VII. CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- None

## VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- ❖ Commissioner Smeal made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - Commissioner Patel seconded the motion.
  - The motion was approved unanimously (6-0-1).
- ❖ With there being no further business to consider or discuss, Chairwoman Cookson adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sarah Bausano*

Sarah Bausano  
Administrative Office Coordinator  
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services