



CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

DECEMBER 5, 2023

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

This summary is provided as a convenience and service to the public, media, and staff. It is not the intent to record proceedings verbatim. Any reproduction of this summary must include this notice. Public comments are noted as heard by the Cultural Arts Commission, but not quoted or paraphrased. This document includes limited presentation by the Cultural Arts Commission and invited speakers in summary form.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Cookson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- Cultural Arts Commission Members - Present
 - Melody Cookson (Chair)
 - Michael Barsky (Vice Chair)
 - Gene Andrews
 - Shital Foster
 - Dianna Smeal
 - Sabine Genet
- Cultural Arts Commission Members - Absent
 - Sumita Patel
- Staff
 - James Drinkard, Assistant City Administrator
 - Morgan Rodgers – Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Kim Manning – Cultural Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Nancy Murphy – Cultural Services Gallery Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Amber O'Dwyer – Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

a. North Fulton Rotary "Alpharetta Greenway Mural Trail" Artists

- Thomas Nolfi came forward to deliver his gratitude to the Cultural Arts Commission for approving the project for execution, for his excitement to see a project from inception to completion via the Alpharetta Rotary, and for the artists and lead artist who participated.

Additionally, he was delighted to see the City's display of recognition for the students who participated in the mural project.

- Each artist was called forward to be individually recognized for their creativity, design, and achievement of artwork in the program.
- Chairwoman Cookson thanked Mr. Nolfi and the North Fulton Rotary for helping to develop local artists of the future.
- Commissioner Foster stated this meeting was her favorite meeting thus far and stated seeing such a project unfold and at the approval and support of the Cultural Arts Commission was how she envisioned her role on the Cultural Arts Commission. She stated such opportunities were at one time, not available, so encouraged the students to savor the moment.

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

b. Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes from September 26, 2023

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion to approve the minutes.
 - Commissioner Foster offered a motion to approve the minutes, as written, from the September 26, 2023, Cultural Arts Commission Meeting.
 - Vice Chairman Barsky seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved 5-0-1 with Commissioner Smeal abstaining.

c. Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes from October 24, 2023

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion to approve the minutes.
 - Vice Chairman Barsky offered a motion to approve the minutes, as written, from the October 24, 2023, Cultural Arts Commission Meeting.
 - Commissioner Foster seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved 4-0-2 with Commissioners Genet and Smeal abstaining.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Public Art Approval – Manning on the Square Art Sculpture, Taylor Morrison

- Brian Taylor, Vice President of Land Development with Taylor Morrison and sculpture artist, Michael Dillon came forward to present the item.
- Taylor Morrison is a national home builder with developments across the U.S. in (19) cities. The company has had a division in Atlanta for the last seven years.
- The company is in partnership with the philanthropic organization, The National Wildlife Federation. All of the unused greenspace in the neighborhoods built to date have been certified and dedicated to the National Wildlife Federation.
- The public art sculpture proposed for the Manning on the Square development, a neighborhood of new construction homes located at 198 Anglin Walk (off Cumming Street) would pay tribute to that partnership.

- The company has taken The National Wildlife Federation's Monarch Butterfly Preservation Pledge. The sculpture design is made of (3) butterflies to pay homage to the monarch butterfly.
- The sculpture is approximately 7 feet tall and will stand on a 3-foot column already in place for a total height of 10 feet.
- The artist selected by Taylor Morrison is Michael Dillon.
 - He owns and operates a blacksmith shop called Dillon Forge located in Crabapple, Georgia. Michael has more than thirty years' experience producing both functional and non-representational metal sculptures.
 - He creates railings, furniture, and sculpture primarily forged from iron.
 - He designed another sculpture for the company at a development in Suwanee.

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION Q & A

RE: Manning on the Square Art Sculpture

Q What is the "hashed" area on the development's rendering? (Barsky)

A The "hashed" area is an easement for public access (originally planned for the Alpha Loop) that will have a walking trail and house the sculpture being presented. (Taylor)

Q The wingspan seems to be 11-12 inches in total per butterfly. Is that not rather small for a stationary piece (as I know some of your pieces move)? (Smeal)

A The sculpture is in collaboration and can be adjusted. 12-14 inches per butterfly would be appropriate for this size sculpture. There will be three butterflies in total for the overall scale. (Dillon)

Q Can you explain the blue coloring used in the rendering? (Smeal)

A The blue represents the stainless steel in the sunlight that will gradually transition to the iron on the lower half of the piece. (Dillon)

Q Do you have pictures of the sign monument for reference in terms of scale against the art piece? (Barsky)

A The monument is already in place and is not massive with a sign that cantilevers out from the monument. It is rather small and should not be disproportionate to the sculpture. (Taylor)

Q Do you have pictures of other completed art pieces for reference? (Foster)

A Unfortunately not with me. (Dillon)

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion.
 - Commissioner Smeal offered a motion to approve the art sculpture, as presented, for installation at the Manning on the Square residential development.
 - Commissioner Foster seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – December 2023

- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

Monthly Highlights

- The Arts Alpharetta Holiday Market was successful.
- Zeal Parikh, with the Cultural Services Division of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department recently made a presentation at Creekview Elementary on "Career Day".
- Art Camp and Rock Band Camp took place over Thanksgiving.
- Music Match continues year-round so January performances will be taking place!
- A few upcoming classes at the Alpharetta Arts Center include a vision book workshop and a holiday card and ornament making course.

Monthly Initiatives

- The Crosswalks in Parks project has seen another mural completed at the Alpharetta Community Center. The art is called "Green Harmony: Where Nature and Community Meet".
- Additionally, the crosswalk at the Wills Park Pool now has an added component – an art sculpture crafted from an old baby grand piano. As the sculpture is currently installed slightly after the mural's current length, the mural will be extended to end at the sculpture to blend the two pieces.
- The community theater is being renamed the community stage, specifically "The Spotlight" community stage to encompass not only theater but music, comedy shows, and other genres. The Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the North Point Mall is currently planned for City Council approval at the December 18, 2023 Council Meeting.
- The Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau has donated \$5,000 for the repair and refurbishment of "The Visitor" art sculpture.

Current & Upcoming Happenings

- The Arts & Culture online calendar may be viewed at the link below.
 - <https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/recreation-parks/cultural-services>
- The Alpharetta Music City – Live Music Calendar may be viewed at the link below.
 - <https://www.awesomealpharetta.com/calendar/category/alpharetta-music-city-live-music/>

- *She Loves Me* presented by ACT1 Community Theater is showing Dec 1-17, 2023 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and on Sundays at 2pm.
 - Tickets are available at <https://act1theater.org/shelovesme>.
- *The Nutcracker* presented by Metropolitan Ballet Theatre is showing at Innovation Academy Dec 8-10, 2024.
 - Tickets are available at <https://www.metropolitanballet.org/tickets>.
- *Wreaths Across America Event* presented by Alpharetta Old Milton County Historical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution will be at Resthaven Cemetery and several other cemeteries in Alpharetta. Online orders can be made by clicking on the link: www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/GA0270P. If you would like to attend one of the wreath laying ceremonies, please contact jfboren52@gmail.com.

Current Gallery Exhibits

- Nancy Murphy, Cultural Services Gallery Coordinator for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to speak on the exhibits.
- *Heartwarming Sights & Scenes by Tony Thomas* is currently on display in the Community Gallery at City Hall through January 12, 2024.
 - The work features places visited by the artist and includes the initial drawings that led to the completed pieces.
- *Atlanta Portrait Society Annual Exhibit* is currently on display at the Alpharetta Arts Center Gallery through January 20, 2024.
 - (47) artworks are on display. The art is from Atlanta, but the artists come from all over the world (New Zealand, New York, Tennessee). The opening reception had over 190 guests.
 - Additionally, the studio gallery at the Arts Center has artwork on display by French artist Christian Pasterel, an artist featured at the *Wood Works* exhibit earlier in the year.
- An artist who painted in the 2023 Paint the Town event painted children playing in the creek behind City Hall. The artwork will be featured at City Hall and staff will reach out to the community to see if the subjects can be located and properly named for the piece.
- Additionally, a piece painted at the Arts Center has been donated to the City by an artist who was preparing for one of his shows.

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION Q & A

RE: Art Leader Group & City Cultural Services Events

- Q Will the links be posted on social media or on a particular channel for sharing? (Genet)
- A Yes, the events are posted on the Arts & Culture online calendar as well as on social media. Staff is happy to send those links along. (Manning)

IX. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Commissioner Andrews stated Fulton County will be voting tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. to cut \$1.5M funding for the county's cultural arts budget. He stated commissioners could attend the County Commissioners Meeting to try and sway the vote. The meeting will take place at the Fulton County Government Building, 141 Pryor Street, Atlanta, GA.

In addition, on Friday, Vice President Harris will be in Atlanta to recognize Commissioner Andrews with a Presidential Achievement Award for his work in the arts.

- Chairwoman Cookson stated she noticed several advertisements for The Metropolitan Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker and would love to have such art leader groups reach out to the Alpharetta Chamber of Commerce to help foster promotion.
 - The Cultural Arts Commission may also visit www.alpharetta.ga.us/arts for any and all details regarding upcoming events and art exhibits. (Drinkard)

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was no public comment.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - Commissioner Smeal made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - Commissioner Foster seconded the motion.
- ❖ With there being no further business to consider or discuss, Chairwoman Cookson adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amber O'Dwyer
Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services