

**VILLAGE OF GURNEE
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Monday, June 9, 2025
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers at the Gurnee Village Hall located at
325 N. O'Plaine Road, Gurnee, IL

1. Call to Order

- A** Matt called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- B In Attendance:** Matt Trujillo, Beth Keslinke, Kirsten Saunders, April Colette, Jason Wilbur, Jay Stuckwisch, Roger Eaton, Randy Blaser, Greg Alderson, Lei Mangaran, Fiona Tranter, Ron Arden
- C Absent:** Lynn Granstrom, Amy Kostadinov, Angela Baldwin, Manny Aguero, Selene Cortes, Janelle Rominski, David Narens, Sage Ramirez
- D In Audience:** Jeanne Zemaitis, Amanda Kochenash

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

- A** There was no public comment.

4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- A May 12, 2025**
 - Randy pointed out an error in the minutes regarding the adjournment. It will be corrected to indicate that Randy "adjourned the meeting" rather than "approved the minutes.
 - Additionally, April Colette's name will be corrected from "Amy" to "April," as mentioned later.
 - Beth made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, and Ron seconded the motion. The group approved the minutes with the amendments.
 - There were all "Ayes," no "Nays," and no abstentions. The minutes were approved.

5. Discussion Items

A Art related program announcements

- Matt discussed the Gateway Open House scheduled for June 20. Jeanne shared a flyer from her chamber winds group, encouraging people to attend and spread the word. The group suggested that she try posting the flyer on the Arts Link North website.

6. New Business

A Gurnee Days

- Amanda outlined opportunities for the Arts Commission at Gurnee Days, including applying for their art show, participating in "Chalk the Drive," joining the Talent Show,

and having a booth in the Kid Zone.

- The park district is seeking participants for their activities, and it was noted that the Art Show is open to all ages.
- There was a question about whether "Movies in the Park" will take place this year. Amanda mentioned she didn't think there were any plans for it. Randy suggested that it could evolve into a film festival in the future.
- Jay proposed the idea of rolling out a large piece of paper during the parade, which could be included in the Kid Zone. Matt suggested that this could take place at the Gurnee Open House.
- Beth mentioned that her Art Honor Society students would be interested in volunteering if the Park District needed assistance.

B Creation of Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Core Values for the Gurnee Arts Commission

- The group discussed the idea of inviting different organizations to meet with them. The Arts Commission aims to learn about the current programs these organizations offer and explore potential partnerships.
- The group reviewed the Mission and Vision statements and discussed the structure of the Arts Commission. April inquired about the possibility of an ordinance to formally approve the Arts Commission. Matt mentioned that formal appointments would occur in the Fall.
- It was suggested that the group research potential partners to collaborate with.
- Fiona proposed hosting a workshop with various organizations to gather information about their activities and initiatives.
- The group began working on the mission statement, sharing their favorite wording. Beth compiled a vision statement that incorporated the ideas submitted by everyone.
- Some of the top ideas that resonated with the group included terms like "diverse artistic expression," "champion," and "ignite."
- Jason shared his mission and vision statement, emphasizing the perspective of art as a means to create a tourism destination, highlighting the potential for the group to undertake significant projects that make this an arts destination.
- Ron Arden proposed a motion for Roger to create three mission statements options for the group to review at the next meeting, and the group unanimously agreed. There were all "Ayes," no "Nays," and no abstentions.
- Matt will email Roger's proposed mission statements to the group, and they will be discussed at the next meeting.

- The group also talked about establishing sub-committees once they have finalized the mission and vision statements to provide clearer direction.

7. Next Meeting

A July 14, 2025

8. Public Comment

A There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

A Beth made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Randy seconded. There were all "Ayes," no "Nays," and no abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities are required to contact Austin Pollack, Assistant to Village Administrator, at (847) 599-7500 promptly to allow the Village to make reasonable accommodations for those persons. www.gurnee.il.us