

MINUTES

Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission

Regular Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2025

Page Memorial Building

Lake Odessa, Michigan

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Hermes called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.
Present: Melanie Baker, Karen Banks, Meg Hermes, Nancy Mattson
Absent: Ty Nurenberg, Elizabeth Stoneman
Visitors: None
Staff: None
2. **Agenda:** Motion by Banks, support by Mattson, to change item 6.d) from "Miscellaneous," to "Board Member and Volunteer Recruitment." All ayes; motion carried.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Minutes:** Motion by Mattson, support by Hermes, to approve minutes of 8/11/25 regular meeting. All ayes; motion carried.
5. **Finance:**
 - a. Revenue/Expense report for August 2025 was reviewed, reflecting total revenues of \$10,262.88 and total expenditures of \$18,316.47. Banks reported that at this time there is no grant funding available through the Michigan Arts & Culture Council for the 2026 Art in the Park, which will likely result in a year-end budget deficit.
 - b. Motion by Hermes, support by Mattson, to approve payment of \$47.98 to Village Ace Hardware for Art in the Park supplies. All ayes; motion carried.
6. **Action Discussion Items:**
 - a. **2025 Art in the Park:**
 - 1) Artist Feedback: Complaint re: backlog of cars in cul-de-sac at end of event was discussed. Banks stated she has volunteered to assist at the Fallasburg Arts Festival in Lowell on September 21 to learn more about their end-of-day load-out procedure. Hermes offered to volunteer as well. Names were chosen from among artist comment cards for prize awards: Gregg Johnson won \$50 toward free booth in 2026, and Karen Wood will receive a \$25 pre-paid gift card.
 - 2) Sponsor Thank You Letters: Hermes will email a draft letter to everyone for review and comment.

- 3) Artist Follow-Up Letters: Hermes is in the process of drafting a letter.
- 4) Volunteer Thank You Letters: Baker will make revisions to her first draft and send to Karen to do a mail merge. Hermes will print the letters.
- 5) Request from Dave Wilson: Artist Dave Wilson cancelled on June 23, but had had a long-term hospitalization which began prior to the May 15 cutoff for receiving a 50% refund. Motion by Hermes, support by Baker, to approve giving Mr. Wilson a free booth in 2026. All ayes; motion carried.

b. Mural Project: Mattson reported that due to health issues, Dan Arens' work on his mural has been slowed. He has identified another artist who can assist with mural completion. Banks reported that electrical wiring close to Simple Truth Chiropractic's building was slowing work on the building repairs needed prior to mural installation. Before Dave Kippen's mural can be installed at the beach wellhouse, the building needs a new roof and painting.

c. 2026 Art in the Park: To date, 45 application received and 58 booths purchased.

d. Board Member and Volunteer Recruitment: Discussion was held. Consensus was to hold a brief business meeting at 6:30 p.m. on October 13, followed by a community open house at 7 p.m. to introduce current board members, to describe current and pending projects and fundraising challenges, as well as the long-range future of Art in the Park. Board members will bring refreshments:

- Veggie tray, nuts, Rice Krispie treats: Mattson
- Donut holes and cider: Banks

7. Board Member Comments:

a. 2026 Art in the Park Entertainment: Banks will send to Baker the contact information for Michael Hulett.

b. 2025 Holiday Decorating Contest: Consensus is to follow the same format as the past two years.

8. Adjournment: Without objection, meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Banks, Secretary/Treasurer