

MINUTES

Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission

Special Meeting*

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Page Memorial Building

Lake Odessa, Michigan

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call:** Chair Hermes called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
Present: Karen Banks, Meg Hermes, Nancy Mattson, Ty Nurenberg, Elizabeth Stoneman
Absent: Melanie Baker
Visitors: Susan Mesack
Staff: None
2. **Agenda:** Motion by Banks, support by Hermes, to approve agenda as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
3. **Public Comment:** Susan Mesack suggested the Arts Commission put some of its funds into a six-month CD, and asked questions about artist referral rebates.
4. **Minutes:** Motion by Mattson, support by Stoneman, to approve minutes of 10/13/25 regular meeting. All ayes; motion carried.
5. **Finance:**
 - a. Revenue/Expense report for October 2025 was reviewed, reflecting total revenues of \$11,024.56 and total expenditures of \$21,731.56.
 - b. Accounts Payable:
 - Motion by Mattson, support by Hermes to approve expenditures for month of October totaling \$3,255.65. All ayes; motion carried.
 - Motion by Mattson, support by Hermes to approve reimbursement to Karen Banks of \$64.50 for Sunshine Artist Magazine event listing (\$25.50) and postage for self-addressed envelopes for artist mailing (\$39.00). All ayes; motion carried.
6. **Action / Discussion Items:**
 - a. **2025 Art in the Park:**
 - Thank You letter to sponsors and volunteers have been sent.
 - Follow-up letter to artists still needs to be revised and mailed.
 - Discussion was held re: pre-juried status for artists and problems caused by artists who apply after the August 31 deadline without submitting jury photos. Consensus was beginning in 2026 to only give pre-juried status to artists who apply the same day as Art in the Park, and any applications submitted thereafter must include the required jury photos.

b. Holiday Decorating Contest:

- Banks presented the price sheet for display advertising in The Reminder. Consensus was to only issue a press release (by November 29 or earlier), and not do a paid display ad.
- Banks, Hermes, Nurenberg and Stoneman volunteered to install the contest yard signs and take photos the evening of Thursday, November 11.
- Motion by Nurenberg, support by Hermes, to authorize Banks to issue prize awards to winners of the decorating contest based on public voting, and the winning parade entries as communicated to the LOAAC by the Chamber of Commerce. All ayes; motion carried.

c. Mural Project: The beach mural is ready to install and a date needs to be set for the mural unveiling. Banks will send a Doodle link to Arts Commission members and artist Dave Kippen to find an agreeable date for an unveiling ceremony.

d. Grant Funding: Banks reported that she has submitted the final report for the current year's grant in the amount of \$12,000 from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council. As of this date, it appears no further grant funds are available.

e. 2026 Art in the Park:

- Update on artist/artisan applications: 47 applications received and 60 booth spaces sold. Two applications pending.
- Entertainment Recruitment: Tabled until Baker can be present to give an update.

f. 2026 Meeting Schedule: Motion by Hermes, support by Mattson to approve the following regular meeting schedule for 2026, all meetings to be at 7 PM: January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, July 27, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9.

g. Miscellaneous:

- Nurenberg asked if a new time/date had been set to redraw the park map, due to new tree planting. Hermes stated that the map will be redrawn in the spring of 2026, and currently registered artists will be notified of changes to the map in their follow-up letters.
- Stoneman stated she will contact Tim Rice to inquire if he will be available to perform magic for next year's Kids' Zone, and she will talk with Martha Yoder to see if Zion Lutheran Church would like to partner with the LOAAC to be present in and/or assist with the Kids' Zone next year.

7. **Board Member Comments:** None.

8. **Adjournment:** Without objection, meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Banks, Secretary/Treasurer

***NOTE:** The 11/10/2025 regular meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.