

MINUTES

Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission

Regular Meeting

Monday, January 12, 2026

Page Memorial Building

Lake Odessa, Michigan

1. Call to Order / Roll Call: Chair Hermes called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Melanie Baker, Karen Banks, Meg Hermes, Nancy Mattson, Susan Mesack,

Elizabeth Stoneman

Absent: Ty Nurenberg

Visitors: None

Staff: None

2. Agenda: Motion by Banks, support by Mattson, to approve agenda with addition of "Food Vendors" under Item 7.a). All ayes; motion carried with Baker absent.

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Minutes: Motion by Hermes, support by Mattson to approve minutes of 11/13/25 special meeting and 12/11/25 special meeting. All ayes; motion carried with Baker absent.

Baker arrived at 7:07 p.m.

5. Finance:

a. Revenue/Expense report was reviewed.

b. Motion by Hermes, support by Mattson, to approve the following accounts payable:

Big L Lumber	Building materials for beach mural	47.76
Karen Banks	"Where the Shows Are!" display ad	70.00
Karen Banks	MACC grant application fee	10.00
Karen Banks	Window posters for businesses - Holiday Decorating Contest	33.00
Karen Banks	One-month subscription to Survey Monkey - Holiday Decorating Contest	99.00
Village of Lake Odessa	Postage 1/1/25 - 12/26/25	325.41

All ayes; motion carried.

c. 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget: Preliminary draft budget was prepared and will be forwarded to Village Clerk/Treasurer to finalize.

6. Election of Officers:

- a. Motion by Banks, support by Mesack to appoint Hermes as chair. All ayes; motion carried.
- b. Motion by Hermes, support by Banks, to appoint Mesack as vice chair. All ayes; motion carried.
- c. Motion by Hermes, support by Mesack, to appoint Banks secretary/treasurer. All ayes; motion carried.

7. Action/Discussion Items:

a. 2026 Art in the Park

- 1) Artists/Artisans: 60 artisan applications received, 74 booth spaces purchased, 4 new artist referrals.
- 2) Food Vendors: Mattson received a referral from Breanna Chase for a potential food vendor, Chickie's Bevi Bar. Discussion was held re: vendor's utility needs and potential site placement at event. Mattson will attempt to make contact.
- 3) Entertainment: Baker will confirm Center Stage Dance Academy, fee for Michael Hulett, and will make contact with LaJoye quartet or quintet re: availability.
- 4) Sponsorships: Motion by Hermes, support by Banks, to reduce Title Sponsor level from \$2,000 to \$1,500. Banks will revise chart showing sponsorship levels and send to board members for review. Consensus was to change Visitors Guide from a book-style format to a single-page flier.
- 5) Kids' Zone:
 - Stoneman asked to bring back "Chalk the Walk" this year, with more advance publicity. Discussion was held. Consensus was to hold the event on the Saturday or Sunday prior to Art in the Park.
 - Stoneman has ideas for a children's activity involving gardening and plants. She will also contact Zion Lutheran Church (Martha Yoder) and the library to ask for their participation.
- 6) Fire Department: Hermes will contact Chief Perkins to discuss food vendor and overnight security opportunities.

b. Mural Project: Mattson contacted artist Dan Arens around Christmastime. His health issues have somewhat abated and he has resumed work on his mural. The building

repairs at 1001 Fourth Avenue were completed last fall, but painting was delayed until spring. Mattson will contact the building owner to get the name of her business's LLC so that we can begin work with legal counsel on a easement agreement between the Village, Simple Truth Chiropractic and Jackson Realty, LLC.

- c. 2/3/26 Lakewood Area Chamber Breakfast: Mesack has offered to make a Valentine-themed small gift basket for their door prize drawing. Mesack and Hermes will attend and will launch the sponsorship recruitment drive at that time.

Stoneman left meeting at 9:05 p.m.

8. Board Member Comments:

Mattson suggested we consider changing the \$20 referral rebate or increasing artist booth fees. Consensus was to review again prior to this year's show and discuss potential changes for the 2027 Art in the Park.

Discussion was held re: the pre-jury process. Hermes suggested that artists who submit an application during Art in the Park for the following year's show should have their booth photographed. Banks suggested adding a disclaimer to the application for "day-of" applicants that by receiving pre-juried status, they agree to allow the LOAAC to photograph their booth.

9. Adjournment: Without objection, meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Banks, Secretary/Treasurer