

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street

Norcross, GA 30071



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

6:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Norcross Public Arts Commission

Chair Elizabeth Simpson
Board Member Samantha Spitzner
Board Member Robert Forro
Board Member Jacques Murphy
Board Member Nicole Morgan
Board Member Michael MacManus
Board Member Angela Faustina

A. Call to Order by Chair Elizabeth Simpson (Roll Call)

Please silence cell phones and electronic devices.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Elizabeth Simpson at 6:31 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Elizabeth Simpson	Chair	Present	
Jacques Murphy	Vice Chair	Present	
Michael McManus	Board Member	Present	
Nicole Morgan	Board Member	Present	
Robert Foro	Board Member	Present	
Samantha Spitzner	Board Member	Absent	
Angela Faustina	Board Member	Present	

B. Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the Norcross Public Arts Commission Feb 24, 2026, meeting minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2026, Norcross Public Arts Commission meeting.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] 6-0
MOVER: Nicole Morgan, Board Member
SECONDER: Michael MacManus, Board Member
AYES: Simpson, Forro, MacManus, Morgan, Murphy, Faustina
ABSENT: Samantha Spitzner

Approval of the Norcross Public Arts Commission March 24, 2026, meeting minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026, Norcross Public Arts Commission meeting, as amended to correct the adjournment time from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] 6-0
MOVER: Jacques Murphy, Vice Chair
SECONDER: Nicole Morgan, Board Member
AYES: Simpson, Forro, MacManus, Morgan, Murphy, Faustina
ABSENT: Samantha Spitzner

C. Citizen Input:

Lisa Carr — Suggested that future agendas/minutes include the date of the next meeting moving forward.

D. Treasurer's Report: Mike 5 minutes

Michael MacManus presented updated financial statements, including reconciliation of the A1 Sign Company invoice and updated budget projections. Additionally, it was noted that a squirrel must be mailed to Illinois. Once the mailing is completed, NPAC will reimburse Mike for the expense.

E. Board Updates: 10 minutes

Social Media Updates — Samantha (via text) reported the following survey results: Betty Mauldin Park results showed Pearl at 25 votes and Betty at 24 votes; Thrasher Park results showed JJ as the clear winner; and Lillian Webb Park results showed Lily at 25 votes and Snowball at 21 votes.

Board members discussed the appropriateness of Spanish names such as Blanca versus Snowball and expressed concern about making culturally appropriate choices without sufficient input from the Spanish-speaking community. Michael MacManus recommended conducting an additional bilingual survey targeting Latino residents and local restaurants.

Board members agreed to conduct a runoff survey between the top two name choices for Betty Mauldin Park and Lillian Webb Park. The survey will be distributed in both English and Spanish through the Norcross newsletter, social media platforms, and in person at Latino restaurants and local parks.

Annual Report to Mayor and Council — Board members briefly acknowledged the positive feedback received from the Mayor and Council during the April 20th Policy Work Session.

NPAC Meeting Time Change — Board members agreed to adjust the Norcross Public Arts Commission meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made to adjust the Norcross Public Arts Commission meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., beginning in May 2026.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] 6-0
MOVER: Nicole Morgan, Board Member
SECONDER: Jacques Murphy, Vice Chair
AYES: Simpson, Forro, MacManus, Morgan, Murphy, Faustina
ABSENT: Samantha Spitzner

Swearing in of Board Member Angela Faustina

Angela Faustina was officially sworn in to the Norcross Public Arts Commission by Mayor Craig Newton.

F. Council Updates:

The city is moving forward with Norcross Forever canvas wraps

Installation Recap — Michael MacManus reported that the Splash Pad utility box images are too dark to be clearly visible from passing vehicles due to the current color filter and estimated approximately \$2,000 to lighten the images and overlay updated visuals. He also identified that the student art utility box front image was installed approximately six inches too high, creating an unprofessional appearance, with an estimated correction cost of \$501.75. Liz additionally shared feedback that the utility box contains confusing white circles intended as spotlights and may benefit from revised imagery, potentially using yellow instead.

Board members discussed whether the estimated \$2,000 investment for the Splash Pad box was justified and agreed that the student art box and film box should be corrected due to their prominent locations and the importance of properly recognizing student contributions.

Motion — A motion was made to utilize up to \$4,000 for the repair of the utility boxes.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] 6-0

MOVER: Michael MacManus, Board Member

SECONDER: Robert Foro, Board Member

AYES: Simpson, Forro, MacManus, Morgan, Murphy, Faustina

ABSENT: Samantha Spitzner

G. Returning Agenda Items — None

1. 25-7251: Norcross Forever Stamp Program 5 minutes

This item was not discussed.

2. 2026-75: Norcross Forever Stamp books - 10 minutes

Project Update — Jacques presented two size options for the project: an 8.5x11 folded booklet and an 11x17 folded booklet, noting only minor cost differences between the two. He also explained that custom die-cut stickers would increase costs by approximately \$1,200–\$1,800 but would allow for bilingual text and enhanced NPAC branding on sticker sheets.

Board members discussed production quantity and whether 1,000 booklets would be sufficient or if demand might exceed supply. Jacques suggested distributing the booklets through approximately 20 local businesses and restaurants in packs of 50, as well as through the Welcome Center. Robert recommended starting conservatively with 1,000 booklets and increasing production if demand proves successful.

Board Consensus: The Board agreed to proceed with the 8.5x11 folded booklet size. Custom die-cut stickers (5½" x 4¼") were approved to allow for bilingual text and branding. The total project budget will not exceed \$4,000, which includes a \$2,000 Gwinnett Creativity Fund 2026 Project Grant. An initial run of 1,000 booklets will be produced, with the option for future orders based on demand and funding. Design work will continue with Accent Creative.

3. 2025-346: Framed Art Display in City Hall 10 mins - Liz

It was noted that this item has been completed and has been paid for.

4. 25-7252: White Squirrels of Norcross 20 minutes

Liz reported that installation is scheduled to begin Tuesday, May 14th, pending Public Works confirmation. She explained that the squirrels initially appeared too dark (beige) but have since been resprayed white. Robert confirmed that one squirrel has been hand-delivered, and two additional squirrels still need to be shipped to out-of-state vendors.

5. 25-7369: White Squirrels of Norcross Fundraiser - 10 minutes

The Board discussed refining the fundraising approach for white squirrel sponsorships. Jacques proposed using “donations” instead of “sales,” and Board members agreed this approach is more appropriate.

The Board also discussed creating a fundraising thermometer display at Antique Traditions. Michael MacManus suggested a \$25,000 goal based on 25 squirrels and 25 acorns. Jacques cautioned against setting too ambitious of a goal before securing full City Council support. The Board agreed with starting with a smaller initial goal that can be exceeded if successful.

6. 2025-345: 2025-345 Gwinnett Creativity Fund Grant for 2026 - Amplified! 5 minutes

Jacques updated the Board on the Amplified Grant project. He presented an updated placemat design featuring a simplified, less detailed map intended for coloring. He also explained that the postcards will include a vertical line and address area so they can be properly mailed. Jacques noted that the materials will be distributed free of charge to local businesses for customer use.

Board members reviewed and approved the simplified design approach. Jacques confirmed that the project cannot proceed until Council approval is received.

7. 2026-111: Gwinnett Creativity Fund Grant 2026 Placemaking - 5 minutes

The Board discussed an upcoming grant opportunity for public art projects. The application is expected to be released next week with an early June deadline, and the project must be completed by November 15th. It was also noted that Mayor and Council project approval will be needed before applying, based on lessons learned from the previous year.

Board members confirmed that the Pinnacle Park white squirrels project will be phase 2 of the proposed application project.

8. 2026-119: 2027 Project Planning and Budget Considerations

Jacques presented a comprehensive list of 17 potential projects for consideration in the next fiscal year. An updated spreadsheet was distributed featuring projects ranging from approximately \$1,500 to \$75,000. It was noted that projects will need to be selected and approved by Council by October in order to be prepared for grant season beginning in November.

Board members discussed the possibility of approving projects in advance without immediate funding allocation, allowing them to move forward once grant opportunities are secured. Various proposed projects were reviewed, including the Lionheart Marquee, Tiny Door Project, living moss wall, student art at the library, and crosswalk art.

Recommendations included organizing the list by budget impact and prioritizing one large project, two medium projects, and two small projects. Board members also discussed whether certain items, such as the Heritage Park sculpture and downtown parking lot projects, should remain on the list if they may already be City-funded.

H. New Agenda Items:

Reflections at the Rectory — High School Art Show Award Basket Funding

Traci Krueger, Director of the Norcross Gallery Studios, requested that the Norcross Public Arts Commission provide a prize basket for the May 9th student art show.

Details:

Board members discussed the previous year's \$100 basket contribution and the timing for judging and the awards ceremony. Robert confirmed that judging will take place in the morning, with a reception scheduled from 2:00–4:00 p.m. on May 9, 2026.

Motion:

A motion was made to approve allocating up to \$100 from the office supplies budget to support an award basket for the upcoming high school art show on May 9, 2026.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] 6-0

MOVER: Jacques Murphy, Vice Chair

SECONDER: Michael MacManus, Board Member

AYES: Simpson, Forro, MacManus, Morgan, Murphy, Faustina

ABSENT: Samantha Spitzner

I. Additional Input/Discussion Not Otherwise Addressed By This Agenda:

The Board discussed the idea of creating an artist registry to better engage the local creative community. The topic of pursuing a public art ordinance requiring a percentage of construction costs to be allocated for public art was also raised. An inquiry regarding the potential creation of a children's play featuring white squirrels was shared with the Board. Members additionally discussed whether the new public safety building includes plans for public art.

J. Adjourn Motion

Jacques Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, seconded by Nicole Morgan. The vote was unanimous, 6-0

The next regularly scheduled Norcross Public Arts Commission meeting is at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Second Floor Conference Room, on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.