

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

6:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Norcross Public Arts Commission

Chair Elizabeth Simpson

Board Member Yamily Mijes-O'Reilly

Board Member Nicole Morgan

Board Member Robert Forro

Board Member Jacques Murphy

Board Member Michael MacManus

A. Call to Order by Chair Elizabeth Simpson**PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES****B. Citizen Input****C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

1. [Norcross Public Arts Commission – Regular Meeting - May 27, 2025 6:30 PM](#)

D. Treasurer's Report

Presented by Board Member Yamily Mijes-O'Reilly.

- * Art Supply Expenditures for FLAG
- * Budget Amendment (*Item D1*)
- * Submission of FY 2026 NPAC Budget

1. **25-7368** **FY 25 Budget Amendment**

The board will vote to amend the FY25 budget to reallocate funds from the Fence Mural Paintings project to the 2025 Visioning Session facilitated by Purpose Possible, which took place in February 2025. The Fence Mural project has been tabled indefinitely and deferred to FY27, as the City is planning to rebuild the entire structure, potentially using a different material.

E. Board Updates

- * FLAGs featured in July Newsletter & SM Kickoff Friday, June 20th - Yamily
- * Scavenger Hunt - Prototype and walk around update - Liz
- * Norcross Forever Stamp Program - Art Selection Update & IGA - Mike
- * Norcross Forever Stamp Program - IGA , cost sharing from CID - Shayla
- * Gwinnett Creativity Fund - Placemaking Grant Application - Jacques
- * Board Appointment Interview (*Executive Session*)

F. Council Updates**G. Returning Agenda Items**

1. **25-7237** **Community Mural - Wall by Lowes**

Explore the possibility of a community mural on the wall near Lowe's, across from Beaver Ruin Elementary.

2. **25-7236** **Location Identification by Zones**

Each board member was assigned a zone to research, focusing on its history and current condition. Members were asked to complete and submit location identification forms for review and discussion. This location ID effort will be separated from the Scavenger Hunt project and re-launched. The board will also discuss renaming the "Scavenger Hunt" project.

3. **25-7251** **Norcross Forever Stamp Program**
Discuss next steps and review feedback from the Mayor and Council following the Norcross Forever Stamp Program presentation at the May Policy Work Session.

[Agenda Report - Norcross Forever Stamp Program](#)

[May PWS Takeaways Stamps](#)
4. **25-7238** **Maintenance of Metal Sculptures Mantis and George**
Discuss next steps in addressing maintenance needs for the metal sculptures.

[Metal Art Sculpture - Mantis](#)

[Metal Art Sculpture - George](#)
5. **25-7252** **White Squirrels of Norcross Project**
The board will vote on the first two squirrels.

[May PWS Session Takeaways -WSquirrel](#)
6. **25-7338** **Greetings from Norcross Mural Refresh**
Discuss plans to refresh the Greetings from Norcross mural located on the outer side wall of Savage Pizza. The concept was designed and donated by Atomic Wash.

[Greetings from Norcross Mural](#)
- H. **New Agenda Items**
 1. **25-7369** **White Squirrels of Norcross Fundraiser Ideas**
 - a) Gala at the Rectory/Community Center
 - b) Name that Squirrel
 - i. Offer 3 choices and the public can buy a vote (\$ low cost)
 - c) Adoption - a set price and close the bidding process (\$\$)
 - i. Buy a Squirrel for your home or garden \$\$
- I. **Additional Input/Discussion Not Otherwise Addressed by this Agenda**
- J. **Adjourn to Executive Session for Personnel**
- K. **Signed By: _____ Elizabeth Simpson, Chair**
- L. **Attested By: _____ Shayla Alexis, Deputy City Clerk**

City of Norcross

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

6:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Norcross Public Arts Commission

Chair Elizabeth Simpson

Board Member Yamily Mijes-O'Reilly

Board Member Nicole Morgan

Board Member Robert Forro

Board Member Jacques Murphy

Board Member Michael MacManus

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of May 27, 2025 6:30 PM (Minutes Approval)

A. Call to Order

The NPAC meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Elizabeth Simpson.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Elizabeth Simpson	Chair	Present	
Yamily Mijes-O'Reilly	Board Member	Present	
Nicole Morgan	Board Member	Present	
Robert Forro	Board Member	Late Arrival	
Jacques Murphy	Board Member	Late Arrival	
Michael MacManus	Board Member	Present	

B. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**1. Norcross Public Arts Commission – Regular Meeting - Apr 22, 2025 6:30 PM**

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Michael MacManus, Board Member
SECONDER: Yamily Mijes-O'Reilly, Board Member
AYES: Elizabeth Simpson, Yamily Mijes-O'Reilly, Nicole Morgan, Michael MacManus
ABSENT: Robert Forro, Jacques Murphy (Late arrival)

2. Norcross Public Arts Commission - Special Called Meeting - May 6, 2025 5:30 PM

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Michael MacManus, Board Member
SECONDER: Yamily Mijes-O'Reilly, Board Member
AYES: Elizabeth Simpson, Yamily Mijes-O'Reilly, Nicole Morgan, Michael MacManus
ABSENT: Robert Forro, Jacques Murphy (Late arrival)

C. Citizen Input

- * Norcross Gallery and Studios expressed appreciation for NPAC's participation in the Reflections exhibit. NPAC plans to take part in the event again next year.

D. Treasurer's Report

- * Presented by Yamily. The Visioning Session with Purpose Possible is \$2,000, not \$500 as previously noted. The board will review and adjust the budget as needed.

E. Board Updates

- * FLAGs (Free Little Art Gallery) the door needs to be reinstalled. For 4X4 shelves were added. New FLAG will be installed (Betty Maudlin Park).
- * Who will replenish art supplies? How often will we replenish art supplies? Perhaps working with Norcross Gallery to review the FLAGs?
- * Jacques submitted the Grant. Zoom meeting may be scheduled for interview by Grantor for clarification. Decision will be June 15, 2005.
- * Update on Art Exhibit at Rectory: Mike says we should do it again next year.

F. Council Updates

- * Updates to the Mayor and Council transpired well. Councilmembers and the Mayor support both projects. A few ideas from the audience. They love both ideas. Moving forward on the Stamp Collection project, and 2 squirrels. Engage the schools in artwork on boxes.
- * Direction from Council to engage with the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) for the box for downtown.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of May 27, 2025 6:30 PM (Minutes Approval)

- * IGA (Inter Government Agreement) is still in the works. Shayla is working on this item. Need to submit with maintenance plan. Will work with Mike and then pass it to Len (Director of Public Works). The packet is: sample art, maintenance plan, IGA.
- * Squirrels who are traveling, squirrel on train engine. Brainstorm other funding methods. 3D printing a squirrel to show corporate sponsors?

G. Returning Agenda Items

1. 25-7235: Wooden Fence by the Crossing (Dumpster Enclosure)

- * Discussions with the city and conditions of the fence. Money has been reallocated away from this project. The city is rebuilding the entire structure, perhaps a different material.

A motion to table this project indefinitely until the 2027 fiscal year.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jacques Murphy, Board Member
SECONDER:	Michael MacManus, Board Member
AYES:	Simpson, Mijes-O'Reilly, Morgan, Forro, Murphy, MacManus

2. 25-7251: Norcross Forever Stamp Program

- * Mike has photo-ed all boxes and measured. Some boxes have a "backpack." Having two pieces of art and four sides. Josh was concerned about graffiti. This is more like a 'sticker.' Make sure to brainstorm ideas for each box. The council wants to work with the CID for funding. Councilmember Hixson serves as the CID representative.

RESULT:	THIS MATTER WAS REFERRED TO
	Next: 6/24/2025 6:30 PM
TO:	Norcross Public Arts Commission

3. 25-7238: Maintenance of Metal Sculptures Mantis and George

- * Public works has done all the work they can to remove rust. Sculptures need to be painted. Who can do this task? Perhaps asking Blue Moon Motorcycles? Original artists (1 moved to Montana). Is there a shop class (students) who could complete this task?

RESULT:	THIS MATTER WAS REFERRED TO
	Next: 6/24/2025 6:30 PM
TO:	Norcross Public Arts Commission

4. 25-7252: White Squirrels of Norcross

- * Will meet soon with Cherryllion Studios. Decide on the first to squirrel positions. Can have sponsors/squirrel? In other avenues art (squirrels, cows) are sponsored because the item is in front of their business. Must consistently list this item by name as White Squirrels of Norcross. Avalon declined to work with NPAC by sharing their squirrel casts.

RESULT:	THIS MATTER WAS REFERRED TO
	Next: 6/24/2025 6:30 PM
TO:	Norcross Public Arts Commission

5. **25-7305: Visioning Session Schedule Review**

- * All is going well with the major (squirrels) and small projects (FLAG) upcoming. The major projects which came out of the Visioning Session are in motion.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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H. **New Agenda Items**

1. **25-7338: Greetings from Norcross Mural Refresh**

- * Atomic Wash is out of business. The goal is to replicate and replace. Digital Precision is in business and using our "Greetings from Norcross" sign as part of their promotional materials. More research to follow.

RESULT:	THIS MATTER WAS REFERRED TO
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Next: 6/24/2025 6:30 PM

TO: Norcross Public Arts Commission

2. **25-7339: FY 25/26 NPAC Budget Discussion**

- * Shayla will submit the proposed budget tomorrow.
- * Making an announcement for budget reallocation for this year.

A motion to approve the FY 2026 NPAC budget as discussed and presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
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MOVER:	Jacques Murphy, Board Member
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SECONDER:	Michael MacManus, Board Member
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AYES:	Simpson, Mijes-O'Reilly, Morgan, Forro, Murphy, MacManus
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I. **Additional Input/Discussion Not Otherwise Addressed by this Agenda**

- * Robert gave a great overview of the selecting the student the NPAC award.

J. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM with a motion by Jacques, seconded by Nicole.

K. **Signed By:** _____ **Elizabeth Simpson, Chair**

L. **Attested By:** _____ **Shayla Alexis, Deputy City Clerk**

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of May 27, 2025 6:30 PM (Minutes Approval)



CHAIR **ELIZABETH SIMPSON** · BOARD MEMBER **YAMILY MIJES-O'REILLY** · BOARD MEMBER **NICOLE MORGAN** · BOARD MEMBER **ROBERT FORRO**
BOARD MEMBER **JACQUES MURPHY** · BOARD MEMBER **MICHAEL MACMANUS** · STAFF LIAISON **SHAYLA ALEXIS**

Agenda Report

To: Norcross Public Arts Commission (NPAC)
From: Michael MacManus, Board Member
Date: February 25, 2025 – Regular NPAC Meeting
Item #: 25-7251
Title: **Norcross Forever Stamp Program**

Recommendation:

Create a consistent program of creating art on the Norcross Power Boxes throughout the city using an image of a Stamp. Each stamp would commemorate or identify with the location. In addition, each stamp would include the words "Norcross Forever" similar to the "USA Forever" stamps. Plus, there would be a short few words to identify the picture. With different stamps throughout Norcross, we would create a great community interest by encouraging visitors and residents to go "Stamp Collecting."

Background:

NPAC is looking at the 12 different zones on how to impact the individual areas with art that is meaningful to the area but consistent with the overall Master Plan. This may work but should be investigated further.

Financial Impact:

At first glance, the cost could be minimal. We need to investigate options on how to apply the art – pain, sticker, cover, etc.

Consistent with Master Arts & Cultural Plan?

Yes. The program would touch all zones of Norcross with art designed for that particular area. It encourages residents and visitors to visit parts of the city previously unknown and learn about the history and heritage of the areas. It creates a sense of pride in the City of Norcross with the Norcross Forever theme.

Next Steps:

Need to meet with Norcross Power to gain their cooperation with the concept. Need to look at costs to apply the art. Need to look at power box locations and suggestions on individual themes. Need to get City approval.

Attachments:**Updates:**

TBD

Norcross Forever Stamps

- Find a way to engage the students at Paul Duke and Norcross High
 - Creating Art for the stamps
- Engage with DDA for wrap decisions in the Downtown area
- Start discussions with RR about wrapping those boxes (this will take time)
- Council will need to approve IGA (get to Gwinnett Co as early as possible)
 - City attorney is working on this and will have it ready before the June 3rd voting meeting. Council will vote on IGA at the voting meeting.



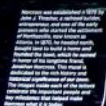
Attachment: Metal Art Sculpture - Mantis (25-7238 : Maintenance of Metal Sculptures Mantis and George)



Attachment: Metal Art Sculpture - George (25-7238 : Maintenance of Metal Sculptures Mantis and George)

I Spy a White Squirrel

- Find a way to engage the students at Paul Duke and Norcross High
 - Creating different poses for the white squirrel
- Consider different art mediums - Talk to Library about a 3D printing option for one white squirrel
- Explore a way to incorporate a train element into one of the squirrels – perhaps a “squirrel on a locomotive” (first phase) And a “squirrel on a caboose” (last phase)
- Idea: Can we have a few traveling squirrels? Ex: move one from business to business, one from tree to tree, etc.
- Brainstorm other funding methods
 - Business
 - Citizens



Jonathan Harcourt
Our donor's namesake,
Jonathan Harcourt settled
in Marietta, Ga., known
as Atlanta, in 1844, around
the same time as founder
John Thomas. A dry goods
merchant and tavern
operator known for his
courage spirit and position,
he became the first mayor
of Atlanta (1847-1852).
Dubbed the "Father of
Atlanta," by the press, he
also can be considered
of Atlanta.

Trains and Railroads
In 1880, the citizens of
Norcross founded Atlanta
and Charlotte Air Line
Railway. Management be-
lieved the Airline Route, a
connector line that took
passengers to Atlanta in
the morning and brought
them home in the evening.
The accidental train was
detained to serve Norcross
as far away as Thomas, and
operated for over 50 years.

The Cotton Gin
Cotton was the main cash crop in the agriculturally-based economy of Georgia in the late 1800s and early 1900s (until the replacement of the devastating boll weevil insects). The *Mechanical Cotton Gin* (short for "ginners"), which is still standing today, allowed farmers to separate the valuable lint (which was made into thread) from the seeds in the cotton ball, and thus process their crop for market.

The Brunswick Hotel
In the 1970s, lawn founder John Thresher marketed Hampton as a resort destination, offering visitors clean air and water, along with solar sunbath. He built a few-story resort hotel, The Brunswick, which stood across from the city park and accommodated visitors for many years.

Lat. Howell
Around 1885, local black citizens founded the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church. Located just a few blocks away on Hunter Street, the still-standing church boasts thousands of members today. Blacksmith Columbus "Lum" Howell, who operated a shop on Main Alley from the 1920s to the 1960s, was a respected community leader and active advocate for the education of black children.

Ray Carlyle was one
fine young man that
passed in Thurston. He
played major league
baseball in the 1960s.
Carlyle, who was hit by
a powerful hitler, set
the record for the hit
measured home run
professional baseball
history, at 616 feet.

The first cotton shipment from Norcross was shipped to market by rail in October 1876. The current (second) Norcross depot was built in 1929, by John Perdue & Company for The Southern Railway for \$4,700.00. It was built a year after the first building caught fire in the middle of the night and burned to the ground.

Salmon, sailor, and photo from Monterey have served in the armed forces since the beginning of our town's history. Georgia Tech graduates and World War I veterans Hugo Frosch, shown here, sold his services in France. "We went over there to win the war. It was dangerous, and it meant us our lives, but we didn't stop it."



DIGITAL
PRECISION