

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071



Meeting Minutes

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

The Norcross Public Arts Commission was called to order at 6:33 PM by Chair Elizabeth Simpson.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Elizabeth Simpson	Chair	Present	
Yamily Mijes-O'Reilly	Board Member	Late	6:36 PM
Nicole Morgan	Board Member	Present	
Robert Forro	Board Member	Present	
Jacques Murphy	Board Member	Present	
Michael MacManus	Board Member	Present	

B. Citizen Input

Tracy from Norcross Gallery attended. Photography contest of Norcross Gallery ongoing.

C. Minutes Approval**Norcross Public Arts Commission – Regular Meeting - May 27, 2025 6:30 PM**

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

D. Treasurer's Report

Presented by Board Member Yamily Mijes-O'Reilly.

- * Art Supply Expenditures for FLAG
Art supplies expenditures for the Free Little Art Gallery (FLAG). These free to the public supplies total \$88.11 for canvases, brushes, little easels, for about 200.
- * Budget Amendment (Item D1)
Visioning Session dinner \$118.72 expense. \$12,448.61 remaining. Initially shifted funds due to the Board Retreat.
- * Submission of FY 2026 NPAC Budget

1. 25-7368: Budget Amendment

The board voted to amend the FY25 budget to reallocate funds from wooden fence mural at The Crossing 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.

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

E. Board Updates

- * FLAGS featured in July Newsletter & SM Kickoff Friday June 20th - Yamily
Paul Duke is the supply box; Norcross is the display box. We could supply cheap watercolor paints in the supply box. There were pictures of boxes made. FLAGS will be featured in the July Norcross newsletter.
- * Scavenger Hunt - Prototype and walk around Update - Liz
walked around about where white squirrels could be placed with Mayor Newton. Plaster squirrels will have white patina like an acid wash. They are oyster colored, white on top of bronze. Each squirrel relates to the location.
- * Norcross Forever Stamp Program - Art Selection Update & IGA – Mike
conversation held for later in the Agenda.
- * Norcross Forever Stamp Program - IGA , cost sharing from CID – Shayla
Conversations are currently in progress. Shayla is not ready to share more information.
- * Gwinnett Creativity Fund - Placemaking Grant Application - Jacques
The Committee has begun their review. An update will be provided later.
- * Board Appointment Interview (*Executive Session*)
Andrew Tanko was invited to attend the meeting. (The candidate did not attend the meeting.)

F. Council Updates

No Updates.

G. Returning Agenda Items

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

This project is indefinitely on hold. There are several concerns including confirming which wall is available for art; if the wall is visible by drivers and/or pedestrians.

RESULT:	TABLED INDEFINITELY (WITH VOTE) [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jacques Murphy, Board Member
SECONDER:	Nicole Morgan, Board Member
AYES:	Simpson, Mijes-O'Reilly, Morgan, Forro, Murphy, MacManus

2. 25-7236: Location Identification by Zones

This Agenda item can be removed from future agenda meetings. Each member of the Board surveyed a particular area of Norcross. This was completed in order to have better understanding of where art could be in each zone of the community. This task has been completed.

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

3. 25-7251: Norcross Forever Stamp Program

We currently have the budget for 3 boxes; we'd like to do 5 boxes. Important to be inside the Community Improvement District (CID). Gathering art work for a project is time consuming. We must diligently move forward to research art work to move this project forward. What can we get completed in this budget year? Next budget year begins in September 2025. For art work we need legal rights to use and manipulate.

There was also a conversation regarding the box at Atlantic and Holcomb Bridge. This location is a 'gateway' for Norcross. Robert mentioned many people use Norcross as a "cut thru" to other places. So many people will see that box. He recommended a being mindful of this location as a "gateway to Norcross." Nicole suggested squirrels as a theme for that box.

Yamily contacting Victory Church; Nicole researching postcards

RESULT:	THIS MATTER WAS REFERRED TO
	Next: 7/10/2025 6:00 PM
TO:	Norcross Public Arts Commission

4. 25-7238: Maintenance of Metal Sculptures Mantis and George

Ran Durrett of Durrett Forge and Fab will update the metal sculptures. Bruce Gaynor made this request of the update of these sculptures. The cost is ~\$400/sculpture and \$150 for materials = \$950. NPAC does not have the budget for this requested task.

Jacque continues towards completion of the project. Need to submit to City Council for budget approval.

RESULT:	THIS MATTER WAS REFERRED TO
	Next: 7/29/2025 6:30 PM
TO:	Norcross Public Arts Commission

5. 25-7252: 25-7252 : White Squirrels of Norcross Project

Much of this conversation happened earlier in the Agenda.

The current plan is to install squirrels in Thrasher Park near the playground; Lillian Webb Park by the upper level fountain. Squirrels take 6 months to create. \$3,100 to \$3,500 for mold casting (position dependent). Each squirrel needs a nameplate.

RESULT:	THIS MATTER WAS REFERRED TO
	Next: 7/10/2025 6:00 PM
TO:	Norcross Public Arts Commission

6. 25-7338: Greetings from Norcross Mural Refresh

Jacques is leading this project. Funding source needs to be determined. Determine if there is an outstanding payment.

RESULT:	THIS MATTER WAS REFERRED TO
	Next: 7/29/2025 6:30 PM
TO:	Norcross Public Arts Commission

H. New Agenda Items**1. 25-7369: White Squirrels of Norcross Fundraiser Ideas**

There is much to consider regarding raising funds to purchase the squirrels.

Gala = require 'high' monetary investment; a number of people to execute; doesn't always raise the amount of money hoped (particularly to offset the expenses to create.

5K Run/Walk = funds are generated by people paying to participate. Could also sell t-shirts for this event.

Tour of Homes = Jacques mentioned this has been done in the past. Perhaps consideration again?

Name the Squirrel = could we charge individuals to pay for squirrel naming?

Many ideas to talk through and decide what could be successful.

Also for conversation is whether NPAC needs to be a non-profit organization. If we raise funds from the public, how do we manage the funds? How does NPAC maintain its status with the city? How do we responsibly oversee the donated money?

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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I. Additional Input/Discussion Not Otherwise Addressed by this Agenda**J. Adjourn to Executive Session for Personnel**

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session for Personnel at 8:30 PM, with a motion to adjourn made by Mike, seconded by Jacques.

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

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