MINUTES AND AGENDAS

MINUTES OF THE October 20, 2026, LENEXA ARTS COUNCIL MEETING, LENEXA CITY HALL, SANTA FE CONFERENCE ROOM, 17101 W. 87 STREET PARKWAY, LENEXA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Ms. Carol Leligdon.

Arts Council members present: Emily Behrmann, Ann Lawrence-Cherry, Wayne Dothage, Sarah Homan, Carol Leligdon, Daniel Parker, Judy Tuckness and Jennifer Wampler.

Arts Council members absent: Cheryl Kimmi.

Staff members present: Susanne Neely, Recreation Supervisor.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Lenexa resident Renee Cassidy attended the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the September 14th, 2026, minutes was made by Mr. Dothage, seconded by Ms. Behrmann, and approved 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Peace Poles
    a. The city will partner with the Lenexa Rotary Club for the Peace Poles Community Art Project in 2027. The plan is to display the poles at Central Green Park, but several back-up locations have been identified in case construction projects near Central Green are scheduled during the exhibit period. Artist proposals will begin to be accepted in mid-November (deadline will be mid-February). The exhibit will be on display June 15-September 30. The poles will be displayed in the City Hall gallery for about a week prior to the Rotary Club's auction in mid-November.

Dan Parker arrived to the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Motion for approval of the LAC providing volunteer support to the Peace Poles Community Art Project in 2027 was made by Ms. Tuckness, seconded by Ms. Leligdon, and approved 7-0.

Lenexa Resident Asia Starr arrived to the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Calendar Review – Volunteer Opportunities
A list of upcoming LAC opportunities through January was passed around for sign-ups.

B. Programs/Project Updates
1. Public Art
   a. Black Hoof Park
      The agreement with Merideth McKinley (Via Partnership) is in process.
   b. Justice Center
      Maura Cluthe plans to finish/install her piece in the Community Room in mid-January.
   c. City Website
      Staff is working with the Communications Department to revamp the public art section of the website.

2. Outdoor Concerts
   Approximately 250 people attended each of the last three concerts. The performances were very well received. Planning for the 2027 series will begin soon.

3. City Center Live and Theater
   War of the Worlds attracted about 180 attendees. The show was well received, and all went smoothly. Upcoming shows include: Fountain City Strings Quartet in November, Mandolin Orchestra of KC in December, Jackie Myers Quartet featuring Seth Lee, Matt Leifer and Rich Wheeler in January, Morris & Depew in February, Lyric Arts Trio in March, Leia Barrett's presentation of "Odd Dog" with a string quartet in October and Mid-Life Players in November. Plans for the December 2027 show will be discussed in the near future.

4. Literary Arts
   The questions for the December 29 trivia contest have been completed. The trivia will focus on a variety of authors.

5. Gallery
   The current show featuring Kim Pjecha and Bob Kolar will be taken down on October 26, and the Place of Peace show will be installed on the same day. The deadline to apply for the HeART of Lenexa show is Oct. 31. Digital Dimensions photography and a 3D exhibit about Family Traditions, organized by the Lenexa Historical Society, will be on display in December and January. The gallery planning team met following the regular LAC meeting to finalize plans for 2027 exhibits

7. Manhattan Short Film Festival
   About 160-180 people attended the event. Feedback from attendees was positive, and all went smoothly. This event is hosted in partnership with the Johnson County Library.
8. Sponsorships
   Mr. Dothage is looking into grant opportunities.

OPEN DISCUSSION

St. James Academy is planning to build a new $16M arts center on campus. Plan were recently approved by the Planning Commission and went to the City Council for approval at the October 20th meeting. An article in the Johnson County Post reported St. James is planning a 20,967 square foot auditorium and several classrooms. They hope to break ground in Spring 2027 and complete the project in 2028.

Ms. Tuckness, Mr. Dothage, Ms. Leligdon, Ms. Wampler, and Mr. Parker plan to attend the Creative Connections Breakfast.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Dothage, seconded by Ms. Homan, and approved 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Kendall Kingry, Recording Secretary