



Independence Arts Council Minutes

July 1, 2025 5:30 PM

**111 E Maple Ave
Independence, MO 64050
Conference Room D**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

Commission members Stacie Short, Byron Constance, Cindy McClain and Nancy Eppert were present.

Commission members Tom Hall and Katie Gall were absent.

Councilmember Heather Wiley and Assistant City Manager Charlie Dissell, representing the City, as well as Travis Boley, representing the Oregon-California Trails Association, were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of May 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Commission Member Constance moved to approve the minutes with corrections, and the motion was seconded by Commission Member McClain. On a voice vote, the May 6, 2025, minutes were approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Hiram Young Park Statue Presentation

Mr. Boley shared some background on the proposed statue, noting that with the American 250 and the World Cup coming up in 2026, this would be an opportune time to initiate the project. He further discussed the history of Hiram Young, including both positive and negative aspects. Mr. Boley expressed his desire to involve an African American student in the creation of the statue and mentioned that he had requested funding from the Independence Rotary Club.

Commission Member Constance inquired about the budget for the statue, to which Mr. Boley responded that a budget had not yet been established.

Mr. Boley clarified that he is currently seeking permission from the City to place the statue in the park. He noted that if the statue is installed, the City would be responsible for its maintenance. Additionally, Mr. Boley stated that the goal is to have the statue placed by Juneteenth of 2026. Chairperson Short reminded the Commission of previous rules requiring annual maintenance of art.

Chairperson Short also noted that Hiram Young Park was identified as lacking art in a previous Arts Commission study.

Commission Member McClain moved to support the placement of a statue in Hiram Young Park, and the motion was seconded by Commission Member Eppert. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

2. Arts Commission Roles, Responsibilities, and Membership.

A discussion took place between the Commission Members present, Assistant City Manager Charlie Dissell, and Councilmember Heather Wiley regarding the Commission's roles and responsibilities. The conversation included a review of the previously formed Arts Commission and the steps it had taken to advance the arts in the City before its elimination in August 2022.

Assistant City Manager Dissell discussed Resolution 6962, which reestablished the Arts Commission in October 2023. He noted that although the Commission was reformed in October 2023, members were not appointed until October 2024. Chairperson Short expressed her dissatisfaction with the 1% of funds dedicated to the Independence Municipal Commons (IMC). Dissell reminded the Commission that the IMC design was finalized before the reappointment of the Arts Commission members, and assured that future projects would involve the Arts Commission for better input.

Dissell also reviewed the membership requirements for the Commission, asked members to identify their respective categories, and outlined the requirements for the three remaining vacant positions.

ADJOURNMENT

Commission Member Eppert moved for adjournment at 6:41 PM, and Commission Member McClain seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.