DRAFT
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026
Time: 5:15 P.M.
Location: CONFERENCE REMOTE MEETING

The meeting was streamed live on YouTube:
https://youtube.com/live/18VSLOJWVE8?feature=share

I. Call To Order 5:18 PM

II. Roll Call

PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Robert Firger, Chair, Robin Sherwood, Lee Goode, Wendy Williams

Staff Liaison: Elizabeth Lane, Library Director

Guests: Neil Clark

ABSENT: Arshenna Hines

III. Citizens' Statements and Petitions NONE

IV. Old Business

1. Sculpture for Prosser Library from Pin Oak: Chair Firger gave an update on the process, including that TSKP will be designing a base. The Library Building Committee will be footing the bill for the base. The BPAC still needs to find the full funds to pay for the sculpture as the new budget is $5500. There is currently $3000 in the BPAC FY26 budget.
2. Percent for the Arts Policy

V. New Business

1. Engaging with youth
2. Ongoing discussion about the official role of the Public Art Commission
3. Public Art Commission Budget for Fiscal Year 2027: Chair Firger is recommending a $9000 budget for FY27 to cover the remaining cost of the bear sculpture. Ms. Williams commented on the need for BPAC to be permitted by the Town of Bloomfield to get grants to help with costs. Chair Firger commented that there was a grant from the State that BPAC was all but promised that BPAC was ultimately not given the green light to apply for. Chair Firger asked that BPAC reach out to the Mayor on this issue. Ms. Williams stated that it is mindboggling that BPAC cannot go out for grants to add beauty to our spaces. Chair Firger spoke about the Town Manager's support of BPAC.

VI. Future Meetings: March 4, 2026 at 5:15 PM

VII. Set Future Agenda Items

- Ms. Sherwood asked about adding a future agenda item about using social media to advance BPAC. She would like to include Vivian Nabeta in that discussion.

VIII. Approval of minutes from January 7, 2026: Robin made a motion to approve, and Lee seconded, voted on unanimously.

IX. Citizens' Statements and Petitions NONE

X. Committee Comments

- A robust discussion was held about the Bloomfield Town Council's proposed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Board and Commission Governance and Appointments. Chair Firger shared these comments via email and the BPAC spoke about endorsing them:
    - Commissioners: We are now in our fifth year of operation as a successful art commission and in that time we have successfully presented five major artistic projects that have fulfilled our mission as well as to entertain and bring positive attention to our town through visitors, the press and noteworthy attention from state funding organizations.

      We have in that time had a number of commissioners who contributed to our work and success but through a variety of personal conflicts and obligations have had to step down from the Commission. We are now operating with just five fully appointed commissioners to carry on this work. We also have two other individuals who are very dedicated members of our team, attend meetings and work with us, but through the long and complicated process that the town has had in place have not been able to be appointed and sworn in as full commissioners.

      The process of appointment by the town council and its committee structure is frankly an obstruction and difficulty in attracting and keeping good and committed commissioners and we have also had over recent years a number of other individuals who have attempted to join us but were discouraged by the long and unnecessary process. We have as one of our projects assembled over recent years a list of almost one hundred individuals in Bloomfield who are artists and dedicated supporters of the arts who would be a resource for us.

      I don't know why if an individual can attest as is required in swearing in after filling out an interest form that they are willing, available and do not have any conflicts it is necessary for commissioners to have to wend their way through the meeting schedule of the town council which has much more pressing and significant work in front of them. I would propose a revision on your initiative to allow individuals to join our commission without this arduous and unnecessary obstruction.

- Chair Firger shared key BPAC documents with BPAC attendees via email prior to the meeting. He plans to report and share BPAC's value to the Town via a Town Council meeting in the near future. He shared that a future goal is to get more age groups involved with BPAC activities.
- Ms. Sherwood shared that she wants to see a BPAC article in the Bloomfield Messenger.
- Ms. Sherwood shared that previously-exhibited BPAC artist and Bloomfield resident Michael Borders telephoned to share that he will be exhibiting at MoCA\CT in Westport, CT: https://mocact.org/. A BPAC field trip will be planned.

- Mr. Clark mentioned that he participated in BPL's art program on African American Artists on Feb. 3. He hopes that when the lecture about contemporary artists comes up that Michael Borders is included.
- There was discussion from Bob and Neil about serving as a sounding board for new art ideas and using the Town website to share that information.
- Mr. Clark spoke about the BPAC Public Art Policy. Chair Firger spoke about its importance and that it should be reshared with the new Town Council. He spoke about David Mann's involvement with BPAC's creation.
  https://www.bloomfieldct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/862/11010-Public-Art-Policy-PDF

XI. Adjourn: Robin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Lee seconded, voted on unanimously at 6:14 PM.