



Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Jen Perry, Chair
Katie Gasper, Vice Chair
Colleen Andrus
Dana Frazee
Inger Hiller
KC Neel
Adam Thornton

Thursday, February 12, 2026

4:00 PM

Central Service Center
1400 Caprice Drive
Castle Rock, CO 80109

This meeting is open to the public. All times indicated on the agenda are approximate. Three or more Council members may also attend this meeting, during which the items listed herein will be discussed.

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CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jen Perry at approximately 4 p.m. Staff Liaison Maia Yates was present, as was Council Liaison Ryan Hollingshead. Soon-to-be appointed member Adam Thornton also attended. Adam was welcomed to the meeting. He teaches high school photography and graphic design at Douglas County High School and has lived in Castle Rock since 2006. Adam grew up in Douglas County and graduated from Highlands Ranch High School. Following his introduction, all attendees introduced themselves to the group.

Present 6 - Chair Jen Perry, Vice-Chair Katie Gasper, Commissioner Colleen Andrus, Commissioner Dana Frazee, Commissioner Inger Hiller, and Commissioner KC Neel

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[PAC 2026-003](#) Approval of the Minutes

Dana Frazee motioned and Inger Hiller seconded the approval of the minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

"I move to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025 and January 8, 2026 Public Art Commission meetings."

Yes: 6 - Chair Perry, Vice-Chair Gasper, Commissioner Andrus, Commissioner Frazee, Commissioner Hiller, and Commissioner Neel

STAFF UPDATES

Staff provided updates on the Art and Culture Grant Program. An information session was held on Tuesday, February 10, with seven individuals in attendance. The application portal is currently open and will remain available through March 20. The grant review panel will convene between March 20 and April 17 to review applications and develop funding recommendations for Town Council. Panel members will need to coordinate a time to meet during that period. Staff also noted

that the Teen Advisory Group plans to attend the March meeting to explore a potential partnership and possible involvement with ArtFest activities.

Staff also shared updates regarding proposed ordinance changes related to Town boards and commissions. Under the proposed updates, members of all Town boards and commissions must be residents of the Town, with the exception of the Downtown Development Authority and the Public Art Commission. For the Public Art Commission, preference will first be given to Town residents and second to individuals who reside within Douglas County.

Additional updates address attendance requirements. Board and commission members may not miss more than 26 percent of meetings within a rolling 12-month period. Exceeding the permitted number of unexcused absences will result in automatic resignation, after which Town Council will appoint a replacement.

The ordinance updates also address term lengths. Moving forward, board and commission terms will be three years rather than the traditional two-year terms. Members will be eligible to serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. Current members will remain eligible to serve up to two consecutive two- or three-year terms.

Finally, the proposed ordinance clarifies that board and commission members and the public are not permitted to attend or participate in meetings remotely, such as by phone or other electronic means.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

[PAC 2026-004](#) Strategic Goals and Objectives Review

The Commission discussed the Castle Rock Historical Society's proposed sculpture project and associated grant application. Per direction from the December meeting, the Historical Society requested review and approval of draft documents intended to support a future grant submission. These included a site letter for Town staff approval, a selection and ownership letter for Public Art Commission approval, and a draft call for art. Staff recommended that the Commission review the materials, provide comments, and consider a motion to approve the letters and the call for art as appropriate.

During review of the draft call for art, several Commissioners expressed concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest and the perception of favoritism if the Commission appeared to endorse a project prior to the independent grant review process. Members discussed the challenge this created for the Historical Society, as the grant program requires projects to be "shovel-ready," yet early endorsement by the Commission could be interpreted as preferential treatment. The discussion included several potential approaches, including using the Town's CaFÉ platform to issue a call for artists in partnership with the Historical Society and potentially separating the project from the Art and Culture Grant Program to avoid procedural conflicts.

Commissioners also discussed the budget implications of a potential collaborative call for art and how such a project might align with the Commission's existing priorities. Some members expressed support for the concept of a sculpture

located on Town-owned property and selected through an open process, while others noted concerns about establishing precedent for future projects. Because of these concerns, the Commission determined that additional discussion and clarification would be needed before proceeding with the original request.

A motion was ultimately revised during the meeting. The Commission voted to decline approval of the Historical Society's request as presented that evening while expressing a willingness to continue working with the organization to identify an appropriate path forward. The Commission also approved the Historical Society's general intent to place a sculpture on Town property adjacent to the museum, contingent upon review and approval by the Public Art Commission and acceptance into the Town's permanent public art collection, including future maintenance responsibility. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff would plan to discuss the concern with Town leadership and began exploring alternative pathways for the project, including the possibility of pursuing funding through the Town's 250/150 Service Contract Partner grant program. If approved through the program, the final sculpture would return to the Public Art Commission for acceptance into the Town's permanent collection due to its location on Town-owned property. Staff will continue coordinating internally and with the Historical Society to determine the most appropriate next steps.

The Commission also discussed the Douglas County Art Encounters program. Staff noted that the call for artwork has been posted by Douglas County and is scheduled to close on February 27. The draft selection meeting is planned for Friday, March 13, the day following the Commission's March meeting, with the exact timing still to be determined. Commissioner Colleen Andrus expressed interest in attending the Art Encounters selection meeting and serving as the Commission's liaison for the program.

The Commission then reviewed planning priorities for 2026, including the need to update and distribute a community questionnaire. Chair Jen Perry shared that the Commission has not conducted a survey since 2023 and presented a draft questionnaire that she updated based on the previous version. She noted that the 2023 survey was developed during the Commission's strategic planning process and while assessing funding priorities. Many of the questions remain similar in order to track consistency in responses and measure changes in community values and perceptions over time. Chair Perry indicated she would distribute the draft questionnaire to Commissioners for additional review following the meeting.

The Commission also discussed potential planning and enhancement opportunities related to existing public art installations. Members expressed interest in exploring possible improvements to the space surrounding the round glass, mosaic sculpture located at Rhyolite Regional Park as part of a potential 2026 enhancement project. To better evaluate the site and surrounding areas, the Commission scheduled a field trip on March 23 to visit the Crystal Valley Interchange area near the Burt development as well as Rhyolite Regional Park. The field trip will take place as a special meeting outside of the Commission's regular meeting schedule.

Additional ideas for engagement and planning were also discussed. Vice Chair Katie Gasper shared that she would invite representatives from the Castle Rock

Band to attend a future meeting to present as part of the Commission's ongoing efforts to broaden arts-related conversations. Chair Jen Perry also noted that she would take on a "road show" style outreach effort as part of the Commission's strategic planning work to gather additional input from community partners and stakeholders.

COMMISSION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.