



Town of Clayton
Public Art Advisory Board Minutes
Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 5:00 PM
Wooten Room, Town Hall
111 E. Second Street

Board Members Present:

Dane Martin, Chair
Tamara Smallwood
Tammy Murray
Kristin Ryan
Joanne Thomas
Adriana Ameigh
Jess Stambaugh
Nancy Crowder
Lisa Richmond

Staff Present:

Porter Casey Jr., Council Liaison
Sam Johnson-Phillips, Deputy Town Clerk

Board Members Absent:

Kelly Miller
Aaron Clinard

Pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 143-318.10(e), these minutes provide a general summary of the Public Art Advisory Board meeting and do not represent a verbatim transcript.

1 CALL TO ORDER

- a) Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) N/A

3 OLD BUSINESS

- a) Sculpture Trail Call For Artists Update
Presenter: Dane Martin, Chair

Chair Martin reported that the number of art submissions increased from 18 which was reported at the last meeting to 90, marking a record high. He noted that this year's group of artists offers a fresh mix of pieces to complement the Town's traditional selections. Mr. Martin shared that he is working with Heidi Holland, Town Clerk to engage community members in rating the submissions. He and Ms. Holland will then narrow the selections to 20–25 pieces for presentation to the Board.

Mr. Dane added that location recommendations for the selected sculptures would be needed this year. He also noted that the November 18th meeting is expected to last approximately an hour and a half due to the volume of submissions and there not being a December meeting. A board member inquired about the possibility of holding the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Dane stated that he would discuss the option with Ms. Holland to determine feasibility.

Ms. Murray inquired whether the bench art sculpture would remain for another year. Mr. Martin confirmed that the Town had decided to keep the sculpture at its current location for another year and expressed enthusiasm about its continued placement. It was noted that the Town is not required to purchase the bench since it will remain in place for an additional year.

b) Mural Application Process
Presenter: Adriana Ameigh

Ms. Ameigh asked if there were any questions; none were raised. Board members expressed their support and stated that they liked the application updates.

Ms. Ameigh stated that she followed the format, font, and logo provided by Ms. Holland, noting that the design aligns with Clayton's branding standards.

It was noted that, based on previous discussions, adjustments were made to shorten certain sections of the document. The section containing signatures and agreements was specifically modified to reduce the spacing between that area and the body of the document.

It was noted that the revised application now clearly identifies whether the applicant is the property owner or the tenant. Discussion was held regarding the original submission process, which previously required mailing applications. The process has since been updated to allow applicants to email their completed forms to Ms. Holland with "PAAB" in the subject line.

The Board discussed the potential creation of an online portal for application submissions, including who would manage the portal and how accessible the application would be. Mr. Martin stated that once the revised application is approved, it will be added to the Town's website. Board members noted that emailed submissions would include a timestamp for recordkeeping.

A suggestion was made to promote the revised mural application through an email blast to local businesses. Council Member Casey also recommended

presenting the updated application at a Downtown Development Advisory (DDA) meeting so the DDA Board could assist in spreading awareness.

There was additional discussion regarding the notary requirement, including whether it remains necessary, whether emailed notarized forms are valid, and the potential to allow initial submissions without notarization while requiring the final submittal to be notarized. Council Member Casey provided clarification on the reasoning for maintaining the notary requirement.

Ms. Ameigh clarified on the mural application, if it could be considered an advertisement, the Planning Department would need to be involved in the review process in accordance with the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

It was noted that applicants must provide sufficient design elements to illustrate what the art sculpture would look like. Applicants have the option to submit the design or meet in person. Several board members expressed the value of in-person discussions with applicants. Discussion continued on making an in-person meeting a requirement if the mural application is approved. Mr. Martin expressed support for the updates, noting that an in-person meeting would be required upon application approval.

Mr. Martin confirmed with Council Member Casey that the mural application would have to be presented to Council. Council Member Casey confirmed and stated that the Planning Department would guide the process.

A question was raised regarding whether Ms. Holland could designate a board member to monitor the portal. Discussion included consulting with the Public Information Officer (PIO) to explain the purpose of having a board member monitoring the portal and the goals of the Board. It was noted that board interaction with the public could encourage more art in the community. Another suggestion was to have a Town intern monitor portal responses and ensure the appropriate individuals are contacted. Mr. Martin noted the possibility of reaching out to the PIO to determine if this approach could be implemented.

Council Member Casey informed the Board that the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) offers façade grants. He explained that any street-facing or visible commercial building in the downtown core is eligible, and noted that the grants are matching, requiring the business owner to contribute funds as well.

- c) Emerging Art Exhibit
Presenter: Jess Stambaugh

Mr. Martin confirmed with Ms. Stambaugh that the item would be postponed until next year. Ms. Stambaugh confirmed, stating time-related conflicts.

- d) Jack-o-Lantern Jamboree
Presenter: Tammy Murray

Ms. Murray confirmed that another post went out and mentioned that advertisement has been challenging. She circulated a sign-up sheet for members to review what they had committed to bring and to allow those who had not yet signed up the opportunity to do so.

She informed the Board that she met with Deb, who attended the last meeting regarding the zombie dancers. Deb informed Ms. Murray that the zombie dancers have doubled to approximately 25-30 dancers.

- e) Downtown Clayton Dance Film Project Update
Presenter: Heidi Holland, Joanne Thomas, Tammy Murray

Sam Johnson-Phillips read a statement from Ms. Holland to the Board from. It was stated the event was well attended. The Communication's Department will share each dance performance individually throughout the Sculpture Trail season and with the artist as well. Dylan, the dance instructor, expressed that she would enjoy participating in the event annually.

Ms. Murray commended Dylan on the presentation and the performances. She suggested that the Board consider working with Dylan in the future to provide assistance.

4 OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Casey Brawner of Better Days Therapeutic Solutions contacted Town Clerk Heidi Holland regarding a proposed public art sculpture featuring interlocking locks symbolizing relationships, sobriety, and anxiety. Ms. Brawner suggested providing locks to local businesses to sell, allowing purchasers to place locks on the sculpture. She also proposed installing a sign to promote mental health awareness and requested that the sculpture be located in a walkable area, ideally within one of the Town's squares.

There was discussion regarding a potential conflict of interest in connecting the proposed art sculpture to a business, as well as concerns about the number of pads available and funding since art sculptures are typically supported through the Public Art Advisory Board's budget. It was suggested that if Ms. Brawner's business chose to sponsor the sculpture, the Board could provide assistance, which would help avoid using Board funds. Ms. Brawner stated she would need to discuss the idea with her financial partners.

Mr. Martin noted that the sculpture would need to meet the requirements of the Public Works Department. A suggestion was made to use stamped aluminum metal plates with clips, which could be attached to the sculpture without adding significant weight and would help deter the use of unauthorized locks. The plates

could feature "Clayton" on one side and "Mental Health Awareness" on the other, keeping the design community-focused rather than business-specific.

It was emphasized that this discussion was exploratory. Ms. Brawner mentioned that she had previously spoken with Council Member Casey about the idea and that one suggestion was to seek permission from an artist of an existing sculpture to adapt their work if it could support the locks. Mr. Martin encouraged her to reach out to an artist whose style she admired to explore potential collaboration. A board member provided Ms. Brawner with a brochure of current art sculptures for reference, and another suggested she contact someone at the Community Garden as a short-term option.

b) Update on Yarn Flowers
Presenter: Tamara Smallwood

Ms. Smallwood provided a status update on the yarn flowers; she mentioned additional green stakes had been located and would not require painting. She showed the Board an example of a completed flower sent by a resident from Virginia and explained that zip ties could be used to hold the flowers in place.

The Board discussed continuing to accept completed squares for future use, in case maintenance is needed. Discussion also focused on framing the flowers to create two-dimensional pieces, including what that would entail and potential display locations. Suggested locations included the Town Hall entrance, the new coffee shop, the library, and Home Square.

Ms. Murray suggested inquiring whether the Town could store items in either the Robertson Mule building or the recently purchased Clayton Fitness building. Discussion noted that the Robertson Mule building may not be completed in the near future. She also informed the Board of the Clayton Fitness open house, scheduled for Wednesday, October 29, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

It was suggested that the flowers be raffled rather than stored or alternatively installed in a permanent location. Mr. Martin noted that the Board could explore creative solutions for future storage.

c) Little Library Update
Presenter: Dana Martin

Mr. Martin informed the Board that, due to the large number of adult books, some would be removed and replaced with children's books provided by Ms. Holland. There was discussion about swapping some adult books with Pauper's Books. Mr. Martin requested that the Board vote on the proposed changes.

RESULT: CARRIED 9-0
MOVER: Jess Stambaugh
SECONDER: Tammy Murray
YES: Dane Martin, Tamara Smallwood, Tammy Murray, Kristin Ryan, Joanne Thomas, Adriana Ameigh, Jess Stambaugh, Nancy Crowder, and Lisa Richmond
NO: None
ABSENT: Kelly Miller and Aaron Clinard

5 NEW BUSINESS

6 ADJOURNMENT

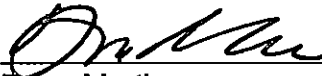
a) Adjourn

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

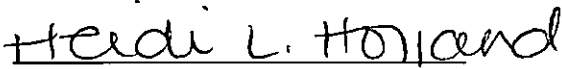
Motion To Adjourn

RESULT: CARRIED 9-0
MOVER: Jess Stambaugh
SECONDER: Adriana Ameigh
YES: Dane Martin, Tamara Smallwood, Tammy Murray, Kristin Ryan, Joanne Thomas, Adriana Ameigh, Jess Stambaugh, Nancy Crowder, and Lisa Richmond
NO: None
ABSENT: Kelly Miller and Aaron Clinard

Duly adopted this 18th day of November 2025.


Dane Martin
Chair

ATTEST:


Heidi L. Holland, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

