

Committee for Art and Culture

August 13, 2025 Meeting Notes

Present: Peggy Saporito, Genevieve Stewart, Paige Griffin, Andy Garman, Kelly Wyatt

Members of the Public: Danie Hutchison, Farmers Market Vendor

Staff provided an update on the Summer Market season, noting strong attendance and overall success.

Summer Programming Highlights

Staff provided an overview of summer programming and attendance trends:

- **Waggin' Wednesdays:** Held at the Satterfield Landing Dog Park, averaging 7–8 dogs per event. Emma Ortega managed the event, providing activities such as toys, small pools, and paw-print painting. Staff noted that next season the event will shift from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. to improve comfort for participants, as it was getting hot and humid for dogs and owners alike.
- **Yoga and Fitness Fridays:** Yoga attendance ranged from 38 to a high of 67 participants. Coastal Carolina Vacations sponsored the program, providing cooling towels and receiving recognition through signage and social media. Fitness Fridays, now in its third year, continued to see strong participation, with upwards of 30 participants. Programming included resistance bands, Pilates, and core and stretch. Tortuga's Lie Restaurant Sponsored Fitness Fridays and was recognized.
- **Family Fun Programming:** Family Fun activities were moved from evenings to Tuesday mornings, resulting in improved attendance. The nine-week series included enrichment activities such as drum circles, storytelling, variety shows, and educational programming with partners including the Corolla Wild Horse Fund. Attendance included a strong local presence, with one program drawing 89 attendees.
- **Kids Move More:** This was the first year for the Kids Move More event, which featured obstacle courses, bubbles, music, hula hoops, and relay races. Emma Ortega provided significant support. Students from Nags Head Elementary's special education program participated alongside other children, creating an inclusive environment. The program primarily served local families and was well received.

Staff noted that overall, summer activities were highly successful and attracted a strong mix of local families and participants.

Summer Concert Series

Staff reported that the Summer Concert Series experienced two cancellations that were successfully rescheduled, extending concerts into mid-September. Soul One drew the largest crowd of the season, largely due to strong local attendance. Staff noted that local bands tend to attract a higher percentage of local residents, while visitors often attend after hearing the music.

Art Mast Program

Staff provided an overview of the Art Mast Program for new committee member Genevieve Stewart, including its origins and purpose. Updates were provided on existing and upcoming art masts. Staff is awaiting completion of panels from Noah Snyder and Brent N. before determining final installation locations.

Staff noted that installation and seasonal art mast take down procedures are well coordinated with Public Services, with masts removed in advance of severe weather to prevent damage.

Paige Griffin also reported meeting with artist Carol Hennessey, who will provide a panel in the coming year. Red Dawn has been invited to work on a tribute art panel honoring Kerry Oaksmith Sanders. Staff will request preliminary sketches to ensure designs are consistent with Nags Head style and not duplicative.

Attendance and Community Engagement

Staff discussed participation trends across programs, noting that yoga attendance averages approximately 60% visitors and 40% locals, while summer concerts trend closer to 70% locals and 30% visitors. Children's programming primarily serves local families.

Staff emphasized the goal of serving as many people as possible in a safe and inclusive environment. Support from The Studio, Sam Lock and her youth volunteers was acknowledged, along with occasional participation from children at Wilbur Gardens.

Movies in the Park

Staff discussed fall movie programming, noting that movies are typically scheduled in the fall to allow for earlier start times due to daylight. Tentative movie dates include September 6, October 3, and November 7. Staff plan to use social media polling to select movie titles.

Holiday Markets and Tree Lighting

Staff noted that discussion regarding the Holiday Market application process could not move forward due to lack of quorum and will be revisited in September.

Staff provided background on Holiday Markets and Night Markets, noting that night markets have declined in success due to competing events and low vendor sales. Vendors have expressed reluctance to participate in night markets. The committee discussed alternative scheduling options, including adding a fourth Saturday market and discontinuing the night market. December 13 was identified as a potential date.

Staff reviewed the annual Tree Lighting event scheduled for November 29, including traditional elements such as cocoa, cider, cookies, and Santa's arrival. The committee discussed ideas to refresh and energize the event, particularly with more family-focused activities. Ideas included children's ornament activities.

Staff also discussed the possibility of offering limited commemorative holiday ornaments from the Town as a collectible item.

Honoring Kerry Oaksmith Sanders

The committee held extensive discussion on potential ways to honor Kerry Oaksmith Sanders, recognizing her dedication to art, fitness, and community programming. Ideas discussed included functional art installations, fitness-related features, memorial elements integrated into park spaces, scholarships, and commissioned pieces that serve an active public purpose.

The committee emphasized that any tribute should be functional, evolving, and reflective of Kerry's values. Staff will continue discussions with Kerry's family and return with recommendations.

Additional Discussion

Staff discussed the existing art displayed at Town Hall. Andy Garman suggested professionally photographing the artwork and creating a dedicated page on the Town's website to document and highlight these pieces.

Adjournment

The meeting included extensive discussion and concluded at approximately 1:30 p.m.