

Committee for Art and Culture June 11, 2025 Meeting Notes

Present: Emma Ortega, Peggy Saporito, Ginny Flowers, Paige Griffin, Kelly Wyatt

Staff Updates

Staff provided brief updates on current and upcoming events and programming. The Farmer's Market is scheduled to begin tomorrow. Staff noted that signage for the Nature Loom at Town Park has been installed, and additional updates will be shared via email with committee members who were unable to attend the meeting.

Staff reported that the Summer Concert Series will begin next week, with Will Overman as the opening performer.

Marketing and Outreach

Staff noted that Emma Ortega, present today and new seasonal employee, assisted with posting and distributing event posters throughout the beach area. Additional distribution locations may include local businesses such as the Cottage Shop, Yellow Submarine, and Grits Grill.

Summer Programming and Events

Staff provided updates on several summer programs and events:

- **Waggin' Wednesdays:** A new event this year at the Satterfield Landing Dog Park.
- **Fitness Fridays:** A new program kicking off with offerings including Pilates, Tai Chi, and Core & Stretch, led by three instructors.
- **Yoga Programming:** Yoga participation remains very strong, with high attendance anticipated through late June and July. Staff noted that the week of July 4th may be especially crowded.

Staff also noted a family movie night sponsored by Outer Banks Health, featuring *The Sandlot*, which has been successful in attracting families.

Whalebone Park Improvements

Staff provided an update on Whalebone Park improvements. The pavilion structure is up, with shingles installed. Fixtures are currently being installed, and while progress is ongoing, the project is taking slightly longer than anticipated.

Holiday Happenings Discussion

The committee discussed the need to revitalize Holiday Happenings programming. Staff noted that evening holiday markets have seen lower attendance, likely due to competition with other markets and events. The committee discussed whether to discontinue the night market and instead focus on three Saturday holiday markets.

Ideas discussed included strengthening the family and children's focus of holiday markets. Suggestions included hands-on children's activities, such as metal stamping for ornaments, and increased collaboration with youth groups.

Holiday Market Dates and Concepts

Staff reviewed tentative holiday market dates, including:

- November 8
- November 29
- December 4 (Night Market)

The committee discussed additional ideas to increase festivity and community engagement, including:

- A Town of Nags Head commemorative ornament exchange concept
- A children's art contest for holiday or Christmas cards
- Exploring alternatives to the decorating contest, which has seen declining participation
- A homegrown parade concept, such as decorating bicycles or golf carts

Next Steps

Staff will continue evaluating holiday programming formats and exploring ideas to enhance participation and community energy. Committee members were encouraged to share additional ideas and potential partners.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned following discussion.