



May 14th 2026 Meeting Minutes
at 5:32 PM at Brooksville City Hall
201 Howell Avenue Brooksville, FL 34601

A. Call to Order (Pedram Moghaddam called the meeting to order at 5:32)

1. Pledge to the Flag
2. Roll call and establish a quorum. The following members were present: Pedram Moghaddam, Cheryl Hill, Joan LoBianco, Lisa Council, Diane Greenwell, Nina Mattei, Deanna Passarelli, Nidia Pierre, Cindy Gandy, Roxanne Campbell, Jan Howser, Russel Jaeger, and Ryan Amsler (county liaison), Ron Coles was excused. Marie Rode and Vanessa Northcott, both council applicants, were guests that were present.

B. Approval of Minutes (Joan LoBianco)

Approval of February 2026 meeting minutes. Diane made a motion to approve the January 2026 minutes. Cheryl 2nd the motion. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Financial Matters (Cheryl Hill)

1. (Treasurers report) March, April and May. Reconciliation for these past 3 months can be found on the Google drive.
2. Cheryl shared a packet she compiled entitled "Project description" outlining project goals and objectives and monitoring of usage funds the Council receives from the Florida Arts License plates. The council has received approximately \$3,000. a year from this initiative. This money has been left in reserves and can be used following a request from the council chair. Cheryl stated that this money is Intended mainly for projects, workshops and community art grants. She stressed that it would not be used for administrative purposes, only projects and grants. Diane suggested That we add in writing what the funds can be used for. Diane made a motion to add The "what the license plate funds can be used for" to next month's treasurer report and added to the agenda. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

D. Action Items

1. Oath of Office- Russell Jaeger, new member was sworn in, Joan LoBianco witnessed.
2. Potential members: 2 spots available with 4 potential members. Pedram shared that we have 4 wonderful applicants. Pedram opened discussion about state statues and the allowing of alternates or advisory positions since we have more applicants than positions available. Cheryl shared bylaws saying that we can have ex-official members. Lisa asked Marie Rode and Vanessa Northcott to share about themselves to help the council make an informed decision for selecting our new members which is due by May 28th. The council ended up choosing Marie and Vanessa to join the council and Ezequiel Merino And Megan Champagne could reapply to fill soon to be open positions but become official

advisors to the council pending their approval of these proposed membership positions. Motions were made to vote on their pending advisory member positions, all approved.

3. Art in the Park- What worked? What can be improved? Weather conditions were discussed. Pedram shared that all went well up until the storm hit. Lisa shared procedures used by her company in the event of dangerous weather conditions stressing the need for safety procedures being in place. Nina shared that the council needs to review safety protocol and amend where necessary. Pedram shared that this action will be put on June agenda. It was also recommended by council members that a safety team should be formed who should meet each year before AITP and a packet of best practices and procedures should be created and shared with this team.
4. Track lighting for Student Art Show: Pedram shared that Sandy's lights from the student Art tent are for sale. She is offering them to the council. Receipts for the equipment were shared. Discussion followed whether the council should buy. Lisa shared about a possible sponsor offering lights with an acknowledgement and recognition. Next Pedram discussed setting up an AITP follow up "wrap up" meeting. Dates were considered. Pedram will send out potential tentative dates for late June/July.

D. Volunteer Log updates (Nina Mattei)

1. Quarterly review for volunteer log updates. A Link was shared. Record your Volunteer hours. Cheryl shared that this helps when we apply for grants.
2. Upcoming volunteer requests:
FPAW: June 6th Volunteers are always needed. Diane shared that phase 3 of Pole Painting Initiative is open
3. WWJB is on the third Monday every month. May 20th 2026. Pedram will be on radio discussing what the art council is currently involved in. Contact him if you are interested in going on the air with him.

E. Work Plans: Status Update & Discussion

1. Public Art: Nina shared a request from a community member Maureen who discussed A mermaid being created for Tom Varn Park since this is the park that artists' gather to Exhibit their beautiful artwork at AITP annually. Ideas for funding this project were discussed by Maureen and council members. Cheryl shared the need for someone making a project plan to pursue this mermaid project in Tom Varn Park. Nina agreed to write the project plan. A public art note will be added to June's agenda regarding the mermaid in Tom Varn park.
2. Jessica's Responsibilities: Pedram opened a discussion about Jessica's responsibilities and the need for her responsibilities being delegated in response to her resignation as office manager. Pedram offered to take over some of the responsibilities. Discussion of Other responsibilities needing to be picked up by council members was shared. A lot of concern about communications on the website and other outlets was addressed. Diane talked about the need for a new communication committee needs to be formed. Responsibilities discussed: Newsletter, social media, Grants,
3. Fund Raising: Lisa Council passed out thank you letters to be given to companies and Individuals that donated baskets to the AITP basket raffles.
4. Arts in Education – Nidia shared about upcoming workshops at the libraries. She solicited for more teachers for the workshops. Roxanne Campbell volunteered. Council members

discussed and voted on a stipend amount of \$30. an hour for teachers. She asked for Volunteers for the workshops. Cheryl shared about the council receiving the Cornelia T. Bailey Grant that falls under the umbrella of Arts in Education. This money must be spent by February. A committee will be formed to discuss uses for this \$10,000. Nidia voiced that she would like to offer other workshops through the council next June, with better options and themes allowing us more control over the direction of the work shops. Money for workshop teachers would be paid through Cornelia T Bailey Grant. Cheryl also shared that another \$20,000 NEA grant was applied for that we received a follow up letter asking for our project plan and budget. Our answer is due by May 22nd, but we will ask for an extension. Nidia offered to take the lead on this project which would Include tracking expenses. Jessica offered to meet with who ever volunteers to take the lead to help them take advantage of this grant. Pedram will still work with Nidia on this Committee.

5. Community outreach: Diane shared about attending an art show in Brooksville. She also shared about outreach at the county fair, the congressional art show and asked for members to share ideas about outreach.
6. Nidia discussed the need for volunteers to do outreach at the "Reading Bash" Lake House on June 6th.
7. Cheryl shared she will be going to France in June and any treasure needs will need to be given to Pedram.

F. Members Comments

1. Ryan Amsler suggested that Art Council members take turns attending county commissioner meetings to present students or artists from the community as well as share about ongoing projects the arts council is working on. He also spoke of looking into a way of displaying and showcasing local artists' artwork again and said he knows of some buildings in the community that might work for this endeavor. Members stressed that they would like it to be locations where the community can view the artwork and the council could host receptions.
2. Joan shared about gathering artwork for the tax collectors office. She met with Amy Blackburn and Joan LoBianco Photography will be displaying 9 photos in the lobby and she will be soliciting artists from the Nature Coast Art league and other local artists to display their art work which she hopes will be changed out at least 3x a year.
3. Deanna shared about a large local art festival that allowed pre-sales of art work. She said there are links about how these "prepurchase" sales worked . She suggested that the council members sign up to watch the demo. She will write up a proposal to put on the next agenda to put this idea into action, so that this option can be offered to artists at the next Art in the Park event.
4. Pedram asked about setting up a Tik Tok account for the council to use to reach a wider audience on social media. Discussion on the topic continued including the need for posts to regular weekly posts.

H. Dates to Remember

- a. **Volunteer Log updates & Agenda Items due May 31st, 2026**
- b. **Front Porch Art Walk** –June 6th, 2026 10AM-2PM
- c. **Next Monthly Meeting** –June 11th