



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR HYBRID MEETING

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harrington called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

ROLL CALL

Chair Jonathan Harrington, Vice Chair Suzanne Skone, and Councilors Pam Rock, Katie Kratzer, and Irene Rajagopal were present. City Council Liaison Julie Hsieh was present.

Councilor Smriti Agarwal was absent.

Parks, Recreation & Facilities Director (interim) Ryan Daly, Recreation Manager (interim) Katie Herzog, CIP Project Manager Sarah Bluvas, and Recreation Specialist Raven Gillis were present.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Anne Hritzay addressed the Arts Council regarding Sculpture Park

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

1. Staff Liaison Report & Planning Schedule Update

Katie Herzog, Recreation Manager (interim), and Ryan Daly, Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Director (Interim) reported on the following:

- Updates
 - First Hill Park Ribbon Cutting
 - Annual Board & Commission Recruitment March 25 – May 8
- Programs/Events
 - Earth Month Events
 - Curating the Curator Show & MIVAL Art Workshop
 - Mercer Island Summer Camps
 - Open Art Studio – Next one on April 24th
- Arts Council Planning Schedule

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from January 21, 2026, Regular Meeting

It was moved by Skone; seconded by Rajagopal to:

Approve the minutes from January 21, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Passed: 5 – 0

3. AC26-05: Clarke and Groveland Joint Infrastructure Plan – Public Art Opportunities

Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager, presented. Councilors asked questions and engaged in discussion.

4. AC26-06: Standing Strong Veterans Pergola – Cost Estimates, Appropriate Use and Maintenance Guidelines

Katie Herzog, Recreation Manager (Interim), presented. Councilors asked questions and engaged in discussion.

It was moved by Kratzer; seconded by Rock to:

Endorse the draft Pergola Appropriate Use and Maintenance Guidelines.

Passed: 5 – 0

It was moved by Skone; seconded by Harrington to:

Recommend staff include repainting costs, procurement and installation of U.S. Space Force plaque in the 2027-2028 biennial operating budget

Passed: 5 – 0

OTHER BUSINESS

5. Absences

No future absences reported

Chair Harrington asked if anyone had any other business to discuss:

Councilor Kratzer shared the 2022 PROS Plan vision statement for Mercer Island parks, recreation, and open space as a suggested way to provide context for ongoing discussions, including future decisions regarding arts funding on Mercer Island.

Chair Harrington noted that the July meeting will provide an opportunity to consider priorities for the coming year and encouraged members of the Arts Council to gather input from the community in advance.

Vice Chair Skone asked for more information related to the “Arts on the Island Weekend” event in August. Councilors discussed the event and ways they might support it.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Hybrid Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.