



CULTURAL COMMISSION

LEE'S SUMMIT

Cultural Commission
Action Letter
May 21, 2025

1. **Call to Order**

Chairperson Eames called the May 21, 2025 Cultural Commission to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Strother Conference room at 220 SE Green St, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.

2. **Roll Call**

Members Present

Chair Eames
Commissioner Chubbuck
Commissioner Thill
Commissioner Taylor
Commissioner Smith (arrived at 6:09 pm)
Commissioner Hennequin
Commissioner Townsend
Commissioner Gale
Commissioner Keshner
Commissioner Flowers
Commissioner Spangler

Absent

Commissioner Soucie
Commissioner Forton

Staff

Christal Weber
Silvia Arellano Fernandez
Adair Bright
Lisa Azimi

3. **Public Comments** None

4. **Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thill, seconded by Commissioner Townsend to approve the agenda as published. The motion carried by an 11-0 vote (Commissioners Soucie and Forton absent).

5. **Approval of the April Action Letter**

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Chubbuck to approve the April 16, 2025 Action Letter. The motion carried by an 11 to 0 vote (Commissioners Soucie and Forton absent).

6. **Presentation on Preservation Policies and Processes**

Senior Planner Adair Bright spoke about historic building preservation regulations and process in Lee' Summit. She shared that there are only 3 local districts within the City: the Cemetery, the Depot, and and Todd George House. Any renovations would come to this Commission for review



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and then to staff processes for the improvements. The downtown area has zoning and architectural design requirements. There are also renovation permits staff reviews to make sure all the downtown buildings are kept within the same architectural design. There are also zoning classifications which give the staff some ability to protect the external character of buildings. For example, a home with traditional residential zoning does not allow staff to limit external changes. If that home has TNZ (transitional neighborhood zone) designation, then staff can review external changes from a preservation lens.

Ms. Weber said the TNCs on the transitional zone just came up at Council. The house on Douglas and 1st was transitioning to commercial use and applied for rezoning. It will remain with that home through the future unless there is rezoning. The Commission discussed overlay districts and their use. They also discussed preservation through education instead of enforcement.

7. Discussion on Good Neighbor Art Week

Ms. Weber shared info on Show Me Neighborhood Art Week. Participants register and display art on the front porch or lawn to be seen in public right of way using supplies from your home and landscape. Ms. Weber asked the Commission if they wanted to sponsor a community participation project. The idea of a community-driven chalk mural in the garage stairwell was approved by the Commission starting June 1st. Ms. Weber and Ms. Fernandez will provide the materials and flyers for decorating the stairwell.

8. Committee and Task Force Reports:

- a. **Preservation Committee Report** –Commissioners Smith, Keshner, and Hennequin form this Committee. The Committee met and planned activities for May Preservation Month. The LS History Museum came up with a good idea for preservation month for young children at the farmers market booth. The Idea was for participants to decorate a treasure chest or keepsake box to be done the last weekend in May on 5/31. A Photography Contest was also mentioned and has been posted on social media with instructions on how to submit photos. The winning photos will be displayed at City Hall, the police station, and the historical museum. Rights to photos will be acquired for future use.
- b. **Public Education/Engagement Committee Report** – Chair Eames said the objective of the public outreach education is to do activities to get the word out on the role and goals of the Commission and the things going on in the City. One idea to start with is a Speakers Bureau where a couple Commissioners go to a Rotary meeting to talk about the Commission's goals and successes. Another is to take advantage of things already happening, i.e. the sculpture walk by doing an interpretive walk of the sculpture pieces in Downtown LS. Also partnering with the museum to do a history walk. Another idea for a workshop for gardening with native plants on a Saturday. The Pollinator Fest won't happen this year or next because of the World Cup. There will be another Neon Night in the fall. The Commission is looking at designs for shirts for the Commission to wear to give unity and approachability.



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9. Roundtable

- a. Ms. Weber gave an update on Pollinator Habitat Project at the Amtrak Station. Amtrak is doing updates to improve platform accessibility and safety. They will be tearing out the garden bed. The City has requested they put the plant bed back and make it bigger but unsure of the construction date. Master Gardeners will plant regardless in two weeks. If the bed is torn out during construction and not replaced, the History Museum has agreed to host a habitat. The Master Gardeners want to be available to be at the Art Walks and Extension opportunities for community participation and are looking for opportunities to involve youth to build future gardeners.

- b. Ms. Fernandez gave an update on Public Art. The last sculpture for the Sculpture Walk will be installed this week. For the Art Walk on 5/23 the project will be compostable potted plants. The project for June is friendship bracelets and chalk art in July. An artist will come and lay out a chalk coloring book design for the community to fill in and add to. For the Art Walk in August Mark Dunning has given a handmade Jenga set for people to color and once completed it can live in Green Street. She also mentioned talking with the Canine Memorial team which will have a final concept in a few weeks. One private property owner in Downtown will possibly put a rotating mural on the side of their building to be announced later.

Ms. Weber shared that the Master Gardeners tour is in a couple of weeks. It is \$20 with 7 gardens with several in Lee's Summit. She will email the flyers to the Commission. The Wellness Commission offered to lead an activity partnered with a master birder to do a guided bird walk June 7 at 8 am at Velie Park. You will use your ears as much as your eyes and talk about ways to attract birds. Limited to 20 participants. This will be our June Discovery Series event.

Commissioner Taylor gave an update on food waste composting at the Resource Recovery Park. It was approved through MDNR and is listed on the City's website. There is a flyer to post of what's accepted/not accepted and the fee of \$2 for a 3-5 gallon bucket or recycling bag.

Commissioner Chubbuck's mentioned the Green Alliance and explained that if 25% of a City's restaurants use healthy and eco-friendly practices then they bring money in and promote the whole City. It would be a great thing to have on record before the World Cup and for those looking for healthy eating establishments. She will send information to Chair Eames.

Ms. Bright shared that the City was awarded a Creating Sustainable Places grant through MARC. Staff would like somebody from this Commission to be part of the Steering Committee. The project is to find an appropriate alignment from the Rock Island Trail to Downtown with wayfinding signage. The first meeting is June 17th at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Gale asked about joining Microsoft Teams. Ms. Weber will send out the invitations again. He couldn't recall about the volunteer time for the Friday Art Walk.

Commissioner Townsend brought flyers of the summer theater program at Longview to get information out about performing arts and to integrate it into the community. He will send invites to the Commissioners to attend performances as their guests.



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Commissioner Spangler asked how the local High Schools can put their flyers in one location for the community to know about current performances. The community would show support but there is not a centralized place to market. Ms. Weber said the City is working on building a digital calendar to list all the cultural arts events going on in Lee's Summit. The schools can send the information to the City to be posted.

Chair Eames talked about the first Sketch Crawl and the need to get more folks out. They walked up to Howard Park, drew and then talked about the experience. Ms. Fernandez shared the experience with the staff and encouraged involvement.

Commissioner Thill gave an update from Visitor's Bureau that they received a grant from the Missouri Division of Tourism for a Visitor Profile Study and Market Research to help in the development of the Marketing Plan. The Director Cori Day is working with Trozollo Marketing to develop the plan. Once the report and recommendations are received in the following months she will share that with the Commission. Ms. Day was elected to be Chair of the World Cup Committee of 100 + people. They are still looking for volunteers so those interested should contact at www.lsgoal26.org

10. Adjourn Commission Meeting 7:42 p.m.