

Public Arts Committee Meeting

Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building, Henry “Emmett” McCracken Jr. Council Chambers, 20
Bridge Street, Bluffton, SC

August 25, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Scott called the meeting to order at 4pm.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairperson Pearce Scott
Brynne Bowler
Rockelle Henderson
Sarah Witcher
Maria Hooper

ABSENT

Vice Chair Jamie Gall
Theodoshia Major

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. May 26, 2026 Minutes

Bowler made a motion to adopt the minutes as written.

Seconded by Hooper.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Scott, Bowler, Henderson, Witcher, Hooper

All were in favor and the motion passed.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Determination of Poetry Walk Locations in Buckwalter Place Park - Pat Rooney, Capital Improvements Project Manager

Staff reviewed potential sites at Buckwalter Place Park. Different types of signs and layout were discussed.

Henderson made a motion to approve the locations as presented with the exception of numbers 8 and 10.

Seconded by Bowler.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Scott, Bowler, Henderson, Witcher, Hooper

All were in favor and the motion passed. Twelve locations were decided on.

2. Selection of Buckwalter Place Park Poetry Submissions - Felicia Roth, Director of Compliance and Contracts

The committee discussed the poetry submittals. Since there were twelve locations approved in the prior item, twelve poems were picked.

Bowler made a motion to not have author duplications and accept poem entry numbers 6, 8, 11, 4, 28, 19, 3, 26, 20, 15, 17 and 21.

Seconded by Henderson.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Scott, Bowler, Henderson, Witcher, Hooper

All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. Proposed Acquisition of a Sculpture by Walter Palmer - Mark Maxwell, Special Projects Manager

Staff presented the sculpture information to the committee.

Bowler made a motion to recommend to Town Council to purchase the Walter Palmer sculpture for \$23,000.00.

Seconded by Hooper.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Scott, Bowler, Henderson, Witcher, Hooper

All were in favor and the motion passed.

4. Proposed Mural in Wright Family Park - Chris Forster, Assistant Town Manager

Staff reviewed the location of the proposed mural.

Henderson made a motion to deny the proposed installation of a mural over the roll up door at Wright Family Park.

Seconded by Bowler.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Scott, Bowler, Henderson, Witcher, Hooper

All were in favor and the motion passed as a denial.

5. Proposed Mural in Oscar Frazier Park - Chris Forster, Assistant Town Manager

Staff presented the mural location. The history and potential installations were reviewed.

Hooper made a motion to replace the current mural and to give the existing mural back to the school that created it.

Seconded by Henderson.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Scott, Bowler, Henderson, Witcher, Hooper

All were in favor and the motion passed.

VII. DISCUSSION

Sarah Witcher, a new committee member, was introduced.

Committee member attendance was discussed.

The committee discussed local art galleries moving off of Calhoun Street because of increased rent from property owners.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Bowler made a motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Hooper.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Scott, Bowler, Henderson, Witcher, Hooper

All were in favor and the motion adjourned at 4:58pm.

APPROVED