



**CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS
CIVIC CENTER PARK - PAVILION A
ARTS BOARD MEETING AGENDA
AUGUST 19, 2026 AT 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER at 6:02

ROLL CALL

Toya Aaron, *Council Representative (absent)*

Mark Bliss, *Member*

Michael Covert, *Chair (absent)*

Laurie Geraldts, *Council Alternate*

Susie King, *Member (absent)*

Harley Mordarski, *Staff Liaison*

Jennifer Nagle, *Vice Chair / Social Media*

Kimberly Oprins, *Member (absent)*

Keaton Soto-Olson, *Member (absent)*

Thomas Wrona, *Alternate*

Sandie Young, *Alternate*

Motion by Bliss, seconded by Wrona, to excuse those who gave notice: Covert, Aaron, King, Soto-Olson.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Motion Carries

Geraldts will contact Oprins and Soto-Olson regarding their interest in the Board.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Wrona, seconded by Young, to approve July 22nd, 2026 meeting minutes as presented.

Yea: Bliss, Wrona, Young, Nagle

Nay: None

Abstain: 1 (Geraldts, absent from July meeting)

Motion Carries

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Arielle Bliss is present as a member of the public.

REPORTS

2. Treasurer Report

Mordarski reported that the Trail Tunes account has a balance of \$3,968.07, with approximately \$3,500 anticipated in expenses, leaving an estimated balance of \$468.07. The regular Arts Board account has a balance of \$2,851.55. Approximately \$5,000 was spent on summer activities, with some expenses offset by sponsorships.

2. Social Media Report

Nagle reported an 87% increase in social media activity compared to the previous reporting period, largely attributed to posts highlighting Trail Tunes sponsors. The Arts Board also gained 32 new followers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. Trail Tunes (Bliss, Aaron, Nagle, Young)

Mordarski presented the proposed reallocation of Community Foundation funds (see Exhibit A), noting that the change would directly impact Trail Tunes. Grant Funds originally budgeted for a banner and advertisements that were not needed could instead be used to cover additional summer concert expenses and increase the Trail Tunes allocation from \$700 to \$2,050.

Motion by Bliss, Seconded by Wrona to approve the proposed reallocation of Community Foundation funds as presented.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Motion Carries

Geralds asked whether the Trail Tunes Subcommittee would have sufficient funding available upfront to cover event expenses, given that reimbursement funds would be received after the event. The Subcommittee agreed that it may be necessary to temporarily borrow funds from the Arts Board Escrow Account until the Trail Tunes reimbursement is received.

Motion by Wrona, seconded by Young, to authorize the Trail Tunes Subcommittee to temporarily borrow an amount not to exceed \$1,000 from the Arts Board Escrow Account to cover immediate event-related expenses, with the borrowed funds to be reimbursed to the escrow account upon reimbursement by the Madison Heights Community Foundation.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Motion Carries

5. Summer Concert Series (Aaron, Bliss, Covert, Oprins)

Bliss reported that the Summer Concert Series is running well overall. He also noted that the new band contracts were successful and could be used for future concert series. Questions were raised regarding the shade structures near the bandshell, which Mordarski will follow up on with the Parks team. The Board also noted that Sterling Heights hosts concerts on Wednesday evenings, which should be taken into account when selecting dates for next year's series.

6. Bandshell Utilization Subcommittee (Geralds, Covert, King, Wrona)

Geralds reported disappointing attendance at events and noted that while the public appears to respond positively to event ideas, that interest has not translated into strong attendance.

The board discussed reconsidering the approach to event programming and promotion. Additional signage, including sandwich boards, was suggested to better indicate that events are open to the public and to promote upcoming events in the park. Nagle suggested a road sign, while Geralds noted that a semi-permanent sign may not be feasible, but smaller signage within the park could be considered. The Subcommittee also discussed prioritizing video content to increase social media engagement and promote future events.

The Dancing Under the Stars event is scheduled for next week at no cost to the Board, with the Subcommittee providing speakers and music. Nagle suggested issuing a press release to promote events.

7. USA 250th Backyard & Beyond Photography Exhibit (Geralds, Young)

Mordarski reported 11 submissions so far.

8. Civic Center Hopscotch (Geralds)

Geralds will reach out to Eve Sandoval for the mural. Bliss recommended waiting until next Spring, since it is already nearing the end of the summer season.

9. Arts & Crafts Swap (Young, Nagle, King, Wrona)

The subcommittee is looking to host another swap before the holidays, but will need to meet to discuss the details.

10. Student Outreach (Wrona, Geralds, King, Nagle)

Wrona reported a productive meeting and discussed opportunities to increase student involvement in Arts Board programs. Wrona suggested partnering with nearby high school and middle school theatre departments to recruit students for the Skelebration Trail, particularly for age-appropriate, less-spooky activities for younger children. Nagle offered to develop an email list of teachers at the schools to facilitate outreach and explore opportunities for members to visit schools to discuss working with the City, the arts, and potential student art projects. The photography event was identified as another opportunity for student engagement, and Mordarski recommended sharing information about the photography exhibit with local teachers. Wrona also noted outreach

opportunities through Oakland Community College, including connecting with its photography department. Bliss suggested incorporating short, 10-minute one-act plays or performances into Skelebration. Skelebration Trail is scheduled for October 18.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Madison Heights Community Foundation Funding

Discussed under Item 4; no further discussion.

12. Harvest Festival 2026

Mordarski will notify Brendan that the Arts Board will provide funding toward pumpkins for the Harvest Festival. Nagle confirmed that she will be in attendance at Harvest Festival on October 10th. The Board discussed concerns about attendees taking pumpkins that do not belong to them and considered implementing a system to ensure pumpkins are matched with the appropriate participant. Gerald's suggested having children take a photo with their pumpkin and present the photo when picking it up, with a ticket system as an alternative for those who do not wish to take photos. Wrona will take the lead on developing and coordinating the pumpkin identification system.

Motion by Gerald's, seconded by Wrona, to authorize up to \$500 for the purchase of pumpkins for the Harvest Festival.

Yea: All

Nay: None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm

Next Meeting: October 13th at 6 pm in City Hall

NOTICE: Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation through electronic means in this meeting should contact the City Clerk at (248) 583-0826 or by email: clerks@madisonheightsmi.gov at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.

Exhibit A

Community Foundation Grant, 2026

Item	Budget	Spent	Proposed Allocation
Summer Concert Bands Payments	1900	1900	2400
Live Events	1000	350	350
Advertising for events	1000	200	200
Trail Tunes	700	700	2050
Banner	400	0	0
	5000	3150	5000