

Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee

April 9, 2026

4:00 pm

Freedom Community Center

7340 SW 41 Place, Gainesville, FL 32608

Pages

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2. **Public Comment**
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7. **Discuss Day/Time/Location of Future Meetings**
8. **Public Comment**
9. **Adjournment**

Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee

Date: February 12, 2026
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Freedom Community Center
7340 SW 41 Place, Gainesville, FL 32608

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:10PM.

Members Present: Sarah Bruning, Jane Luzar (Vice Chair), Steven Scott (Chair), Christina Carter

Members Absent: None.

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of the Agenda

Sarah Brunnig made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Jane Luzar second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Jane Luzar made a motion to approve and amend the minutes; Sarah brunnig second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

5. Parks & Open Space Director Update - Jason Maurer

Jason Gave an overview of the budget meeting that was held. He explained the 20% cut that could take place in 2027. "In a worse scenario the county will be facing an 85 million shortage.". This will happen if they pass certain property tax law. It was mentioned that it will be a likelihood that the parks budget may also just be the same as they would receive this year 2026 without gaining any additional funds to their budget in 2027.

Mentions were made of the new fencings that were placed over by the Westend Community Park to help with the vehicles going in certain direction on the parks ground.

At this time focus is being placed on getting ready for the presentation to get certain things done for the upcoming World Masters.

Grounds will not be break until 2028 assuming everything goes accordingly.

We are working with tourist and the Sport Center to get them to fund the bathroom before the competition.

At this moment the sport center would like to host their cross country later this year.

We are now fully staffed; Construction person will be starting in April.

6. Park Projects Update - Ed Williams

Mr. Ed gave and full breakdown of the Westend Community meeting that was held in January. He went ahead and explain the two plans that were drawn up for the Westend community Park. Two separate plans were drawn up, plan A and Plan B. He thoroughly explains how each of the concept and dynamics would work. He went ahead to make mentions of the Tourist part of the park and the World Masters event That is expected to come back in 2027.

A motioned was made by Jane Luzar to accept the Disc Golf for the West end Park, and not accept outside partnership, this was seconded by Sarah Brunnig, Unanimously carried by the ROSCO members.

7. Discuss Day/Time/Location of Future Meetings

Next meeting will be held on April 9th @ Veteran memorial Park @4:00pm

8. Public Comment

Miss Leslie gave her overview on her thoughts on the Westend project as to what she thinks the resident preferred; she also made mentions asking if the county had taken the environment in to concern when thinking of what to place within the project for the Westend Community.

Mr. Ed and Mr. Jason was able to answer her questions and gave reassurance as to what was in place.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31pm.

Arts Council of Alachua County
Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments Report: 2025

Chair: Carol Velasques Richardson

Board Liaison: Gina Peebles

Brief History of Board: The Arts Council of Alachua County was established by Ordinance 18-07 on February 13, 2018 and Resolution 18-17 on February 13, 2018.

Responsibilities and Duties:

1. Serve as a resource for local artists and art agencies, including all municipalities, throughout Alachua County.
2. Prepare applications for state and federal grants and re-grant eligible grants to local artists and local arts agencies.
3. Prepare applications for eligible state and federal grants to provide enhanced resources for local artists and local arts agencies.
4. Educate and advocate at the state and federal level on issues affecting the arts.
5. Promote and facilitate the inclusion of art into an established process that connects artists, partners and communities for the purpose of enhancing the vitality of the County.
6. Responsible for oversight, administration and promotion of Art Tag proceeds and Local Arts Agency dedicated funding.
7. Develop an inclusive strategic plan for county-wide arts and cultural assets that is reviewed and updated annually.
8. Report annually, or as necessary, to the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners on the goals and accomplishments of the Advisory Committee.
9. Updated the Strategic Plan (2025-2028)

Accomplishments:

- Held meetings on Oct. 7, Nov. 4, and Dec. 9, 2024 and Feb. 3, Mar. 3, Apr. 7, Jun. 3, Aug. 4, and Sep. 2, 2025.
- Completed the Fire Station 21 sculpture installation “Bunker Gear” and Fire Training Facility “Burning Bush.”
- Completed the Call to Artists for the Court Complex and Poet Laureate.
- Held the fourth Annual Artists Conference at the Extension Auditorium in April with 10 arts related presentations.
- Received \$10,000 from *Visit Gainesville, Alachua County* for Art Grants. Made recommendation to award \$2,000-3,000 to five applicants.
- Reviewed Jack Durrance Art loans from Laura Predny and Teralyn Legall.
- Recommended updates to the Code to ensure Call to Artists are not in violation.

Goals:

- Finalize the installation of the Court Complex sculpture and Pleasant Street Mosaic.
- Complete Call to Artist for the Animal Shelter, Armory, and Parking Garage.
- Finalize logistics for the Fifth Annual Artists Conference to provide education on a variety of topics for artists.

- Develop a Craftsmen's Guild to temporarily display crafts – similar to the Jack Durrance Art Loan.