

2/11/26 Cultural district meeting minutes

Roll call-Beth, Tracy, Pasqualina, Juliette, Beth, Carol, Maude, Allison, Diane, Allyson, Andy, E. Maude, Andrea, Noel, Jim, Frank

Public speak

Frank-musician and retired. Offering to volunteer and participate.

Beth-support for the chaos "pause"

Noel "art in motion"-chaos is important and supported. She curates the dance acts. She feels upset about finding out the way they have. They feel pushed out.

Andrea-had a studio at cottage st. wants to know why chaos is being taken away from us.

She wants the background of how this decision was made.

Pasqualina-Chaos grows every year in terms of artists/participants and public. Incredible amount of time to prepare. We know the value of chaos. The cost has gone up. ECA pays for public safety and it's our largest cost. Requirements have increased for public safety. All overtime. Big cost. Infrastructure, stages, sound, porta potties have all gone up.

We went over the budget of the past till now.

Chaos is very fragile. It's grown but we have not. If everything goes smoothly, it's a beautiful day. The weather is a huge factor. If it is canceled, all that money is still spent. We have been very lucky. We are truly taking a pause. This year we are programming the district from April through December. More than 20 events. Helping to bring money to the artists and businesses. Every event planned has a rain date.

We are doing two things:

- 1 explore other ways of doing things
- 2 other options of having a street festival without closing the streets

The announcement did not go out the way we wanted it to. We apologize for how it was revealed but we had to get out in front of it.

\$13,000 will all go to artists rather than just infrastructure.

ECA has money in the bank. We have active participants.

MCC has granted money for many years. The last 2 years, 100% of the grant went towards chaos.

MCC was unrolling many changes to cultural district new requirements. Unattainable requirements. Staffing, mapping, matching funding etc. There was a lot of back and forth. There was a meeting in January. Mcc did make some adjustments to requirements. Funding is a huge adjustment. Significant changes are happening. Lots of unknown. Infrastructure costs will still go up.

ECA is a municipal organization. They program Millside Park and throughout the downtown area. We will be bringing programming to the cultural district.

The redesignation process of the cultural district was made a bit more flexible. If we re-apply as a cultural district we'd love to expand the district.

Draft of what we are planning:

Three tier:

1 activation of the municipality with music performances

2 partner with cottage street merchants association & direct colab with ways to support ECA

3 touchstone signature events "art in garden", "sidewalk strut", Park Hill Orchard summer concert and Boosting art walk.

Adjournment

10:08

Next meeting: March 11, 2026