



TOWN OF PUTNAM
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
TOWN HALL
200 SCHOOL STREET • PUTNAM, CT 06260

Putnam Arts Council
REGULAR MEETING
May 26, 2026 - 5:30 PM
MINUTES

PRESENT: L. Moorehead, Chair, E. Turner, Vice-Chair, Carmine Angeloni, Oliver Williamson, Anna Ionkin, Beth Johnston (via ZOOM)

ALSO PRESENT: M. A. Chinatti, Director, Econ. & Comm. Dev./Redev., L. Colangelo, MuralFest

1. Roll Call: Chair Moorehead called the meeting to order at 5:33PM. Roll call was taken; it was determined a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- I. April 27, 2026*; Special Meeting Minutes May 7, 2026* **added to agenda: March 23, 2026 minutes**
(M/S/C Williamson/Angeloni) to approve the minutes of April 27, 2026 as presented. Approved unanimously.
(M/S/C Williamson/Turner) to approve the minutes of May 7, 2026 as presented. Approved unanimously.
(M/S/C Turner/Angeloni) to approve the minutes of March 23, 2026 as presented. Approved unanimously.

3. Additions to the Agenda: None

4. Finances:

- I. Budget Report – The budget report was reviewed.

5. New Business:

- I. Muralfest Putnam Request

E. Turner distributed talking points to members, reviewed the background and brought members up to date on progress thus far. She stated MuralFest Putnam participants are strictly volunteer and there is no formal “organizational structure”. She stated there is currently an executive committee and that there are currently no established subcommittees, but they will be established as they become necessary.

L. Colangelo discussed the purpose of the request, noting that she did not think anyone expected as much money to be raised so soon, noting that they are only \$11,000 short of the \$250,000 call. She stated she had an “ah ha” moment that all MuralFestPutnam is is a group of community minded citizens with the best of intent organizing this “thing” that continues to grow. She stated MuralFest is not a tax-exempt entity, and that the Town is acting as fiduciary. She continued, stating questions subsequently arose as to who should be sending out donation thank-you letters, noting that the group needed to “find a home” and have more formal structure. She stated the project is heavily focused on art and history – Putnam Arts Council and Aspinock Historical Society are important to the mission.

She continued, stating it makes the most sense to approach the Putnam Arts Council and see what this relationship could look like, noting that right now communications and marketing and membership and fund raising and historical are the sub-committees so far. She stated that when ready, and when the other committees are needed, they will be organized.

MuralFest organizers said that, in 35 years, no other community has come so far as Putnam has in such a short time.

She noted that a decision need not be made at this meeting, that this is an “exploratory tour” to see if MuralFest and PAC goals align. She continued, stating that there are certain considerations if under the PAC, such as: does MuralFest form as a special event committee under the umbrella of the PAC or should MuralFest become a PAC event.

She discussed safety as the #1 concern, that she wants to avoid becoming a stand-alone committee but offer monthly MuralFest reports at the PAC meetings. She stated what is being asked is they would like to collaborate w/PAC so MuralFest has the benefit of the PAC name, reputation and what PAC represents in the arts community.

She continued, stating she wants to avoid “stepping on local toes” and that artists are impressed and there will be local artists participating. She stated some autonomy should be allowed to make subcommittees, etc.

M. Chinatti noted that, should the MuralFest fall under the PAC umbrella, work groups (as opposed to “subcommittees”) should be created for any sub-groups (such as marketing, fundraising, etc.), and the MuralFest Executive Committee should become the *Executive Work Group*. She further stated that the work groups should provide monthly updates to PAC, and that monthly expenditure reports/funding requests must also be provided to PAC, noting that work groups would have no voting power and all votes are to be made by PAC in response to work group recommendations.

E. Turner stated the group is trying to make as little work as possible for the PAC.

Chair Moorehead asked how much of the “nitty gritty” needs to be approved, to which **M. Chinatti** stated purchases, expenses related to things like fundraising events, gala, etc.

L. Colangelo stated MuralFest must still meet with Special Services District, PZC, etc..

E. Turner stated that the intent is to eventually transfer the MuralFest budget to the PAC for the maintenance funds.

L. Colangelo stated MuralFest would like its own website and would like people to be able to contribute on-line. She stated the autonomy of being able to “keep the wheels rolling on the MuralFest train.” She stated the momentum will only get bigger, and she thinks bringing this to the table gives the opportunity to come up with the questions. She stated that, for this Council to be the overseer for an event that will be huge at a state and national level would put PAC “on the map.” She stated the main issue is for MuralFest to maintain its autonomy and efficiency.

E. Turner stated MuralFest has members who are not Putnam residents and questioned whether residency is a requirement for MuralFest to be under the auspices of the PAC. **M. Chinatti** stated she would check with the attorney on this.

(O. Williamson left the meeting at 6:47PM and returned at 6:50PM)

L. Moorehead recommended tabling further discussion on this item to the Council’s June regular meeting, to which members agreed.

6. Old Business:

- I. Term Limits – Tabled to the June meeting
- II. Particle Accelerator – **B. Johnston** asked if the PAC should reach out re advertising, and asked about shuttle pick-up locations, to which Chair Moorehead responded that she spoke with Eric, explaining what the PAC is doing, and he stated he was doing the same. She stated the shuttle question should be directed to Jimmy Callaghan and that she would reach out to him this week.
- III. Muralfest Update – Discussed under item 5I.
- III. Art Festival – **B. Johnston** stated 32 people have paid and sent in their forms, 20 have paid and not sent in their forms, two have requested double booths and have paid the fee, six people withdrew and a couple of people are sharing booths. She continued, stating the digital campaign starts tomorrow. She is still working on the booth layout, and suggested that she and Chair Moorehead discuss having a “go to” person to respond to any questions, noting that D. Sullivan did it last year.

Chair Moorehead stated she has been thinking about that and asked **E. Turner** if she would agree to do it on Sunday, to which **E. Turner** responded she would, but could not do it Saturday. **Chair Moorehead** stated she would talk with S. Moorehead to see if he would be available to do it on Saturday.

B. Johnston continued, stated she would also like to have an information booth set up, but in a better location than last year's which was behind the band.

E. Turner asked if registration would be done all day Friday, and the response was registration booth hours are from 12P – 7P.

Chair Moorehead stated the banner will be hung tomorrow (May 27), and noted she brought a couple of lawn signs to tonight's meeting if anyone needs them and just asked anyone taking a sign notify B. Johnston of placement location. She continued, noting there will be no food truck on Saturday, though a couple of sweets trucks will be on-site. She noted Renee's was willing to take orders and deliver last year, and stated she would stop and get copies of their menus to put in artists' packets.

B. Johnston stated the Council needs to hold a special meeting prior to the Arts Festival, and it was decided that (hybrid) meeting will be scheduled for Monday, June 8 at 5:30PM. M. Chinatti will check on room availability.

Chair Moorehead stated she is not sure if Parents Corner will be here this year.

- V. Scholarships – **Chair Moorehead** noted that the deadline for applications is the end of the month. She noted that, if no applications are submitted, this would need to be evaluated for next year.
- VI. Corridor Gallery – Chair Moorehead stated preparations are being made for the next artist following completion of A. Lonkin's exhibit the end of June.
- VII. 501c3 – Tabled until further notice.

7. Public Participation: None.

8. Adjournment* (**M/S/C Angeloni/Williamson**) to adjourn at 7:07PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ramos, Economic Development Coordinator
Vote required*