

# GROVE CITY HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

**December 11, 2025**

### **Agenda Item A: Call to Order/Roll Call**

Vice Chair Shailer called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Proper public notice has been given.

Members in Attendance: Linda Hall, Member; Jeff Warner, Member; Janet Shailer, Vice Chair; John Maxson, Member; Chloe Dickson, Member; and Lisa Napier-Garcia, Member.

Members Absent: CJ Andrews, Chair. Mr. Warner made a motion to excuse the absence; seconded by Ms. Hall. Vote Taken – Motion Approved.

Others in Attendance: Frances Morrow (Daughters of the American Revolution – John Hoover Chapter), Steve Jackson, and Don Walters.

### **Agenda Item B: Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Agenda Item C: Approval of Minutes**

Reviewed minutes from the November 13, 2025, regular meeting. Mr. Maxson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Hall. Vote Taken - Motion Approved.

### **Agenda Item D: New Items:**

- 1. Finance Report** – Reviewed updated Finance Report provided by Ms. Uhrin. Mr. Warner made a motion to accept the report as submitted; seconded by Ms. Hall. Vote Taken – Motion Approved.
- 2. Proposed Expenditures** – Discussed using funds to assist in the transportation of the caboose to Century Village. Ms. Uhrin informed the Commission that funds were not available for the caboose project. Mr. Maxson explained that he had attended the Mayor's recent State of the City address and revenues were anticipated to be flat. The City would accept the caboose being placed at Century Village, if the Society pays for the transportation and maintenance. Eitels Trucking has agreed to move the caboose at a reduced rate of \$18,000, much less than the original amount of \$40,000, but that does not include any fees that could be incurred for safety services or line movement. The Society is meeting with Jack Castle, Parks and Rec. Director to discuss site preparation. Mr. Jackson stated he understands where Mayor Stage is coming from and that the City is not budgeting for this project, but the Commission can donate money to anything, and the Society will need help with the cost. Ms. Uhrin explained that the Commission's money is allocated from the City budget, not an outside source.

Ms. Hall made a motion to table this item; seconded by Mr. Warner. Vote Taken – Motion Approved.

- 3. Museum Update** – Ms. Watkins reported a very successful weekend with at least 150 visitors during the City's Christmas celebration/Mistletoe Market.

Ms. Napier-Garcia joined the meeting at 9:26 a.m.

Ms. Watkins stated that interviews are currently underway for an assistant at the museum. Additionally, she will work with Ms. Brokaw in Parks and Rec. on displays based on America 250. Mr. Jackson added that the Grant Sawyer Home had at least 125 visitors during the four-hour block of the Christmas celebration.

4. **SWFCHS Update** – Mr. Maxson reported that the Society continues to work on raising funds to move and restore the caboose. The current fundraiser is a 2026 Grove City Community Calendar featuring the America 250 themes for each month. The calendars can be purchased for \$10 at the museum via cash or on their website as a donation. He also distributed pictures of the caboose and a rendering of how it might look when placed at Century Village. Mr. Maxson stated that the City is willing to accept the caboose, but will not pay for it and further stated that the City did pay for an extensive chinking project. Also, during the Christmas celebration, there was a good circulation of visitors between the barn and the Grant Sawyer Home.
5. **LTOB Update** – Ms. Napier-Garcia reported that the theater just closed out their very successful production of “It’s a Wonderful Life.” Additionally, they have a children’s production, “The One and Only Santa Claus,” slated for this weekend. In January, they will have “On Golden Pond,” and details still need finalized for the Women’s History Month production slated for March.
6. **Active Community Projects** – None at this time.
7. **Leah Diemer Grant Dress** - Ms. Watkins reminded the Commission that the original dress was past restoration and has been archived. The Society will need to decide on which fabric type and color to use for reproduction from several samples. The dress maker is scheduled to host a program at the library on April 28, 2026 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Napier-Garcia passed around a letter and photo received by LTOB from the son of Jerry Ingram. Mr. Ingram (now 97 years old) performed at LTOB in 1959/1960 and included a 1959 photo depicting the Theater’s float in Grove City’s July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.

8. **Mill Street Historical Marker** – Vice Chair Shailer provided a recap of a potential sign/marker for Revolutionary War Veteran John Hoover. Ms. Morrow with the Daughters of the American Revolution – John Hoover Chapter, spoke with Shane Farnsworth, Jackson Township Administrator and Mayor Stage and both support the concept of a sign/marker. Potential location for sign/marker is near the Skate Park on Hoover Road. There is an entrance road, place to pull off and lots of cameras in the area. Ms. Morrow reached out to Classic Bronze Resources, who could create the sign for around \$9,000, but directed her to Sewah Studios as they have more experience in this type of sign. Ms. Morrow is waiting for a response from Sewah Studios. Mr. Walters confirmed that Sewah Studios produced the Mill Street historical marker for \$4,420 in 2023. Ms. Morrow stated the DAR – John Hoover Chapter pledges \$500 toward the cost of this marker. Jackson Township is willing to participate, but did not specify a dollar amount.

Mr. Warner made a motion to remove “Proposed Expenditures” from the table; seconded by Ms. Hall. Vote Taken – Motion Approved.

Ms. Dickson noted that the marker is in direct correlation with America 250 and asked for the timeline on the caboose project. Mr. Maxson responded that the property where the caboose is currently located has been sold. It can stay for the time being, but 2026 is the target for moving.

Mr. Warner made a motion to allocate \$3028.50 for the relocation of the caboose to Century Village and \$3028.50 for the purchase of a historical marker for John Hoover; seconded by Ms. Hall. Vote Taken – Motion Passed.

Ms. Uhrin will submit the requisitions and will report back to the Commission if they are approved.

Mr. Walters reported on the positive responses received from the recent social media campaign. “Christmas with the Grants” had over 7,000 views and the other multitude of Christmas events in the city had over 250,000 views.

**Agenda Item E: Open Discussion –**

Next meeting is January 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:34 a.m.

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Jennifer Uhrin, Secretary

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Janet Shailer, Vice Chair