



**Franklin Cultural Council
Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2025**

Date: Monday, October 27, 2025

Time: 7 PM

Location: Franklin Municipal Building Training Room

**Present: John Ristaino, Nicole Horsman, Heather Carroll, Ryan Hanley,
Will Lee, Caryn Parnell, Lisa Oxford, Tim Ayers-Kerr**

1. Welcome

- a. John Ristaino called the meeting to order at 7:00PM**
- b. We received 75 grant applications, which is more than last year.**
- c. Printed applications for our panel books will be available next week. John will let us know when/how to get them.**

2. Approval of August and September Meetings Minutes Lisa Oxford

- a. We will approve minutes at our next meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report Nicole Horsman

- a. We received one more reimbursement request from FY25

- b. Symposium expenses were not as high as planned. We are starting to pay them.

- i. We budgeted 18K, estimated 15K and spent 11K. John suggested that we ask the Cultural District to reimburse us \$500.00.

- c. Due to confusion between FCC, FCD and ACCE, there are errors in our records (in regard to bills being paid) that date back to when Cory was hired. Cory is working through the matter, and our records should be in order by our next meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding the differences between FCC, FCD and ACCE.

4. Franklin Historic Commission Request JR Ristaino

- a. The Historical Commission received a \$500.00 grant last year for their Ben Franklin's Birthday celebration, which they did not use. Alan Earls (FHC Chair) reached out to ask if the funds were still available. We discussed the best course of action, as follows:

- i. Alan must submit, in writing, what the funds will be used for. It must be in an area related to the original intended use.
- ii. Funds must be used by June 30, 2026.
- iii. There was a motion to approve the plan, a second, and a unanimous vote in favor.
- iv. John will reach out to Alan with the plan we decided upon.

5. Funding for FY26 Grants JR Ristaino and Nicole Horsman

6. Artsy Box Funding for Franklin Children's Museum All

- a. There was discussion regarding allocating \$1,500.00 from our Operating Budget to fund painting of the utility box in front of the Franklin Children's Museum. The artist will be Kayla Nisbett. John and Kayla discussed a possible design, which would honor the museum, the railroad and agriculture (alluding to Agway's long history in the building). There was a motion made, seconded, and a unanimous vote to approve.

7. Building the Panel Books All

- a. We will receive materials next week.

8. November and December Meeting Dates Selection All

- a. John proposed having 3 meetings in November to review grant applications.
- b. Our final decisions must be made by December 11th.

- c. We will meet on November 13th, November 19th, November 24th and December 2nd.

9. A-Wreath-of-Franklin 2025 Update

- a. Franklin Welcomes the World
- b. The subcommittee met last week to brainstorm ideas.
- c. There will be musical performances
- d. La Cantina will be involved at the end of the event
- e. There will be a pop-up event at The Black Box
 - i. FPAC will sell hot cocoa and snacks.
 - ii. Possibly characters from Humbug
 - iii. There will be a photo opp space
- f. Live entertainment at Methodist Church, Fiori and Birchwood
- g. Hoping to kick off the event at The Children's Museum
- h. Looking for other venues to host pop-ups if needed. Working with downtown landlords.
- i. Tim is putting together a quartet of Victorian Carolers
- j. Marcie DiChiara suggested limiting images and verbiage in our communication to promote the event to one that will be used consistently.

10. Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy Update JR Ristaino

- a. The train station dedication was a great success.
- b. Since the symposium there has been a lot of inquiry about more pop-ups downtown. A committee was formed.

- c. There has been dialogue around filling the old Acapulcos.
- d. There was discussion by the Town Council regarding economic interest in developing the crossing area.

11. Motion to adjourn, second, unanimous. Time was 8:25PM.