

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Winslow Arts Council held on October 16, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. in the Development Services Conference Room, 119 E First Street, Winslow, Arizona.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Chavez
Vice Chair L. Sahmie
Councilmember Dixon
Councilmember M. Chavez

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilmember R. Sahmie

STAFF

David Coolidge, City Manager
Cynthia Villalpando (Recording Secretary)
Danielle Therio, City Liaison

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Chavez at 5:15 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed. Roll was called.

Motion: Moved by Chairperson Chavez seconded by Councilmember R. Sahmie to excuse councilmember R. Sahmie. Motion passed unanimously with Councilmembers Chavez, L. Sahmie, Dixon, and M. Chavez voting yes.

Discussion and/or Action to Approve Minutes – September 18, 2025

Motion: Moved by Council Chairperson Chavez, seconded by Councilperson Dixon, to approve the September 18, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously with Chairperson Chavez and Councilmembers L. Sahmie, Dixon, and M. Chavez voting yes.

STATUS REPORT

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Appointment of Vice Chair

Chairperson Chavez presented the appointment of Council Member Lisa Sahmie as Vice Chair. She noted that Ms. Sahmie had previously served in this role informally and that this action would formalize her position.

Motion: Moved by Chairperson Chavez, seconded by Council Member M. Chavez, to appoint Lisa Sahmie as Vice Chair of the Winslow Arts Council.
Motion passed unanimously.

B. Halloween Parade in the Park

Chairperson Chavez reported that all supplies for the upcoming Halloween Parade in the Park had been ordered and delivered. The event is scheduled for Friday, October 31, 2025.

Council members discussed setup logistics and confirmed that the city crew will assist with tent setup at the park. Members agreed to meet early that morning to begin preparations, with Vice Chair Sahmie leading coordination efforts.

Vice Chair Sahmie provided a detailed overview of the booth's alien-themed design, including an eight-foot alien display with lighting and special effects. The Council agreed to use existing decorations, fog machines, and lighting from prior years. Members also discussed costume coordination, with a consensus to dress as "mad scientists" for the event.

The Council expressed appreciation for community participation and confirmed that setup and teardown assistance would be requested from the City of Winslow following the event.

C. Art Car/Plane Project

Chairperson Chavez reported that there were no new updates on the Art Plane Project. The Council is awaiting contractor estimates from AZ Construction before proceeding.

Recording Secretary Cynthia Villalpando informed the Council that she also serves as Recording Secretary for the Airport Commission and offered to provide that body with a brief update at its upcoming meeting. The Council agreed and authorized Ms. Villalpando to report that the project remains pending contractor estimates.

D. Christmas Light Contest

Chairperson Chavez confirmed that the Christmas Light Contest remains scheduled for December, with no new updates at this time. Further discussion and coordination will occur at the next meeting.

E. Christmas Parade 2025 – A Christmas Fiesta

Chairperson Chavez opened discussion regarding participation in the Christmas Parade, scheduled for November 22, 2025, with the theme "Christmas Fiesta."

Vice Chair Sahmie proposed creating a large "tamale pot" display as the focal point of the float, featuring steam effects using fog machines. The Council discussed incorporating festive decorations, papel picado banners, and colorful lighting to complement the theme. Members also agreed that participants would wear sombreros and traditional holiday attire to match the festive concept.

After discussion, the Council voted to adopt the "Tamale Christmas" theme for the float.

Motion: Moved by Chairperson Chavez, seconded by Council Member L. Sahmie, to approve the "Tamale Christmas" float theme for the 2025 Christmas Parade.

Motion passed unanimously.

The Council agreed to meet on Sunday, November 9, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. to construct the float, pending confirmation of location, either Vice Chair Sahmie's or Council Member Randall Sahmie's residence. A quorum notice will be posted for this date.

The Council also confirmed that funds previously approved for parade expenses will be used for decorations, banners, and supplies.

F. Display of Stored Arts Council Artwork

Chairperson Chavez noted that this item was introduced by Council Member Randall Sahmie, who was unable to attend. The item was tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion and/or Action Regarding Future Agenda Items

Art Car/Art Plane Project update

Christmas Light Contest (progress update)

Christmas Parade Float (progress update)

Display of stored Arts Council artwork at local facilities

Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Councilperson Chavez, seconded by Vice Chair L. Sahmie, to adjourn at 5:46 p.m. Motion passed unanimously with Chairperson Chavez and Councilmembers M. Chavez, L. Sahmie, and Dixon voting yes.

Chairperson Chavez

ATTEST:

Cynthia Villalpando, Recording Secretary