



**ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026, 6PM**  
**CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**5 EAST BUTLER ROAD, MAULDIN, SC 29662**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Taft Matney (Chair), Mark Steenback, and Carol King

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**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment (Agenda Items)**
3. **Reading and Approval of Minutes**
  - a. May 4, 2026 [Pages 2-3]
4. **Reports or Communications from City Officers**
  - a. Seth Duncan, City Administrator
  - b. Greg Saxton, Assistant City Administrator
5. **Unfinished Business**

*There is no unfinished business.*
6. **New Business**
  - a. Mauldin Art Trail [Pages 4-6]
7. **Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)**
8. **Committee Concerns**
9. **Adjournment**

All meetings are streamed live at <https://cityofmauldin.org/your-government/meeting-minutes-agendas/>.  
A quorum of Council may be present.

**MINUTES  
ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026, 6PM  
3<sup>rd</sup> committee meeting**

Committee members present: Taft Matney (Chair), Mark Steenback, and Carol King  
Others present: City Administrator Seth Duncan and Assistant City Administrator Gregory Saxton

**1. Call to Order-** Chairman Matney

**2. Public Comment (Agenda Items)-** None

**3. Reading and Approval of Minutes**

a. April 6, 2026

**Motion:** Councilwoman King made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Steenback seconding.

**Vote:** The vote was unanimous (3-0).

**4. Reports or Communications from City Officers**

a. Seth Duncan, City Administrator

Mr. Duncan said there are a few new businesses in the City that have opened recently:  
French Florist, a floral shop at 1140 E Butler Road  
Geared Tinting, a window tinting service at 120 Old Mill Road  
Milano Nail Spa, a new spa at 1313 Fork Shoals Road  
Petals and Company, a florist at 104 Miller Road  
Tokyo Spa, a new spa at 16 West Pointe Blvd

Bridgeway Station is expanding its parking.

b. Greg Saxton, Assistant City Administrator

The cabin at the cultural center has been restored. The cost of the repairs were a lot less than anticipated.

**Memphis** opens this weekend at the cultural center.

The Cultural Center manager will retire next week.

Mauldin Blues and Jazz attendance was 1658 this year.

**5. Unfinished Business-** There is no unfinished business.

**6. New Business**

a. Fireworks Ordinance Amendment

Staff have prepared an update to the fireworks ordinance to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of fireworks display approvals within the City.

**Motion:** Councilwoman King made a motion to send this ordinance to Council with Councilman Steenback seconding.

**Vote:** The vote was unanimous (3-0).

**7. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)-** None

**8. Committee Concerns-** None

**9. Adjournment-** Chairman Matney adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Miller  
Municipal Clerk



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

**MEETING DATE:** August 3, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM:** 6a

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**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Gregory Saxton, Assistant City Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** 2026-2027 Public Art Trail

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#### **REQUEST**

Staff is recommending Melinda Hoffman as the chosen artist for the 2027 Public Art Trail artist for her piece “A Gathering”.

#### **HISTORY/BACKGROUND**

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The City of Mauldin continually desires to build on its art trail on the Cultural Center grounds. The Mauldin Public Art Trail, established in 2014, is an initiative that was designed to beautify the community with public art displays created by South Carolina artists. The goal is to install nine public art sculptures over nine years. The new artwork will replace the oldest work after the first ten years, resulting in a new slate of public artwork every decade.

Over the past several years, City staff have issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit artist submissions for the Mauldin Public Art Trail. The RFP has been distributed through a variety of regional and national arts organizations, professional networks, and online platforms to encourage broad participation from qualified artists.

While the program has successfully attracted talented artists, staff has observed that many of the same artists have submitted proposals year after year. As the Public Art Trail continues to evolve, staff believes there is value in expanding opportunities to feature a more diverse group of artists, with a particular emphasis on showcasing talent from South Carolina and the Upstate region. This approach supports local artists while further strengthening the Public Art Trail as a reflection of the creativity and culture found within our own communities.

Ms. Melinda Hoffman, a Mauldin resident and accomplished artist, has submitted proposals for the Public Art Trail on several occasions. Recognizing both her artistic talent and her connection to the community, staff invited Ms. Hoffman to develop a concept inspired by the City's new brand identity. Specifically, she was asked to create a sculpture that reflects the spirit of the new City of Mauldin logo while also serving as an interactive piece that encourages public engagement.

The resulting concept was designed to be more than a traditional sculpture. It is intended to create an inviting destination along the Public Art Trail where residents and visitors can gather, interact with the artwork, and capture memorable photographs. This vision aligns with the City's ongoing

efforts to create meaningful public spaces that foster community pride, celebrate Mauldin's identity, and provide engaging experiences for residents and visitors alike.

## OVERVIEW

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**A Gathering**, created by artist *Melinda Hoffman*, is a striking abstract sculpture that celebrates the strength, unity, and collective spirit of a community. Crafted from weathered steel and stainless steel, the piece features a gathering of abstract human figures standing together beneath—and symbolically supporting—a suspended, star-like stainless-steel form. The simplified silhouettes, with their softened and organic edges, represent not individual identities but rather the shared character and resilience of an entire community.

Designed for a public sculpture walk, *A Gathering* serves as a powerful visual reminder that thriving cities are built upon the people who call them home. The rusted steel figures embody the diversity, history, and enduring strength of the community, while the elevated stainless-steel element symbolizes the institutions, aspirations, and shared vision that emerge from its citizens.

Rather than portraying government or civic institutions as something that stands above the people, the sculpture conveys a more meaningful message: the community itself is the foundation upon which those institutions are built. The suspended form exists because it is collectively supported by those beneath it, illustrating that the strength of a city is rooted in the collaboration, engagement, and commitment of its residents.

*A Gathering* is both visually captivating and deeply symbolic. It invites visitors to reflect on the importance of unity, shared responsibility, and civic pride, while reinforcing the idea that every individual plays a role in shaping the future of their community. As part of the Mauldin Public Art Trail, the sculpture would not only enhance the City's cultural landscape but also serve as an enduring representation of the partnership between citizens and the community they collectively build, sustain, and inspire.

## FISCAL IMPACT

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The City has budgeted \$18,000.00 for this year's Public Art Trail. The artist is notified that the project is not to exceed \$ 15,000.00 which covers artist fees, travel, materials, installation, and documentation. The final budget will be determined by the artist and the selection committee.

## RECOMMENDATION

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Staff recommends the artist Melinda Hoffman as her piece “A Gathering to be chosen for the 2026-2027 Public Art Trail.

