



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

WORK SESSION MINUTES

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on October 2, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri. Present were: Mayor Gibbons, Council Members Jaksetic, Luetzow, McLean, Rheinnecker, Schaefer, and Zimmer. Also in attendance were Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer David Weidler, City Clerk Laurie Asche, City Engineer Richard Holesinger, Assistant City Engineer Jennifer Brown, City Forester Brandon Sly, Communications Manager Jessica Winter, and City Attorney Jackie Graves.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member Schaefer and seconded by Council Member Zimmer to close the meeting pursuant to RSMo Chapter 610.021 (3 - Personnel).

Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	"Yes"
Council Member Zimmer	"Yes"
Council Member Jaksetic	"Yes"
Council Member Luetzow	"Yes"
Council Member McLean	"Yes"
Council Member Rheinnecker	"Yes"
Council Member Schaefer	"Yes"

The meeting was closed.

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member McLean to open the meeting.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	"Yes"
Council Member Zimmer	"Yes"
Council Member Jaksetic	"Yes"
Council Member Luetzow	"Yes"
Council Member McLean	"Yes"
Council Member Rheinnecker	"Yes"
Council Member Schaefer	"Yes"

The meeting was opened.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 WORK SESSION MINUTES

Motion was made by Council Member Luetzow and seconded by Council Member Zimmer to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2025 work session meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.



BISSO PARK/MURAL PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Chair Zoe Perkins of the Kirkwood Arts Commission introduced the presentation, explaining that the Arts Commission, comprised of nine volunteer members, operates three subcommittees: Making Music (which organizes the summer concert series), Gallery Program (managing visual art exhibits at KPAC), and Outdoor Public Art (responsible for large-scale community art projects). Two new project concepts were presented for Council feedback and approval to proceed to design and feasibility stages. Josh Kaplan presented the concept for revitalizing Bisso Walkway, describing it as an underutilized downtown alleyway that could be transformed into a welcoming, walkable, and art-infused pedestrian space. The proposal envisions the area as a place for community interaction, featuring seating, natural landscaping, lighting, and public art installations designed to enhance safety and vibrancy.

Creating an 'Instagram-worthy' location that draws residents and visitors alike was emphasized. Goals include enhancing public safety, beautification, small business activation, and place making through art and design. The concept includes interactive seating, shade structures, low-water landscaping, and sculptural features.

Andy Palombo, also of the Arts Commission, outlined draft design guidelines, emphasizing accessibility, safety, and compliance with city codes. He noted the need for durable, vandal-resistant materials and inclusive design that provides a clear sense of place.

Council members expressed enthusiasm for the vision and recommended early outreach to business owners, the Special Business District (SBD), and other stakeholders to build consensus. It was cautioned that the area may contain utility easements requiring review before excavation.

Discussion followed regarding ownership and maintenance responsibilities. It was clarified that the walkway is City-owned property but not part of the park system; maintenance has been performed by SBD. Council discussed renaming the area from 'Bisso Park' to 'Bisso Walkway' for accuracy.

Reference was made to similar place making efforts discussed at the Missouri Municipal League Conference and expressed support for pursuing grants through St. Louis County Park funds if eligible. The Council reached consensus to allow the Arts Commission to continue developing the design, prepare cost estimates, and return with formal recommendations.

Mural Guidelines Discussion:

Following the Bisso Walkway presentation, the Arts Commission discussed its draft Mural Guidelines. Zoe Perkins explained that the Commission had been tasked with developing official mural standards since the city previously lacked guidance for such requests. The goal is to establish clear policies regarding artistic rights, content, maintenance, and ownership, consistent with the federal Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990.



It was noted that allowing murals would require amending the City Code, as murals are not currently permitted. Council must determine whether it wishes to pursue murals on private property, public property, or both, and establish related regulatory processes.

Discussion noted the distinction between murals and graffiti art, and maintenance considerations for aging artwork downtown. Several existing murals from the 1970s were identified as deteriorating and may need replacement.

Council members agreed to continue studying the topic and revisit it at a future work session.

STORM WATER TREE ISSUE DISCUSSION

City Forester Brandon Sly and Assistant City Engineer Jennifer Brown addressed Council regarding stormwater mitigation and tree preservation within the city's development code. The discussion focused on how tree canopy coverage and construction practices impact stormwater management and erosion control.

Brandon noted that increasing the 35% tree canopy requirement could enhance stormwater absorption but would be difficult to enforce due to lot sizes and legal constraints. He emphasized that limited staffing restricts on-site inspections during construction, resulting in preventable tree loss.

Council discussed the possibility of increasing fines for tree damage and requiring developers to maintain trees as part of approved stormwater mitigation plans. Jennifer proposed that trees used for stormwater credit be recorded in maintenance agreements and inspected at one-year and three-year intervals. Developers would be required to replace lost trees or expand stormwater facilities to compensate for tree loss.

Council also examined current practices that allow property owners to clear-cut lots before applying for building permits, effectively bypassing tree preservation rules. Members expressed concern about this practice and asked staff to explore ways to discourage clear-cutting and encourage retention of mature trees.

Mayor Gibbons and other members discussed whether increasing the credit percentage for preserved trees within stormwater mitigation plans might encourage better compliance. The idea will be researched further. Discussion also touched on differences between deciduous and evergreen trees in stormwater absorption throughout the year. Staff will continue evaluating potential changes to the city's tree ordinance and coordinate with the Urban Forestry Commission on proposed updates.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member McLean to close the meeting pursuant to RSMo Chapter 610.021 (1- Legal, 2 – Real Estate, and 12 – Contract Negotiations).



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Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	“Yes”
Council Member Zimmer	“Yes”
Council Member Jaksetic	“Yes”
Council Member Luetzow	“Yes”
Council Member McLean	“Yes”
Council Member Rheinnecker	“Yes”
Council Member Schaefer	“Yes”

The meeting was closed.

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member McLean and seconded by Council Member Schaefer to open the meeting.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	“Yes”
Council Member Zimmer	“Yes”
Council Member Jaksetic	“Yes”
Council Member Luetzow	“Yes”
Council Member McLean	“Yes”
Council Member Rheinnecker	“Yes”
Council Member Schaefer	“Yes”

The meeting was opened. The work session has been continued following the formal meeting.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member Schaefer to close the meeting pursuant to RSMo Chapter 610.021 (1- Legal, 2 – Real Estate, and 12 – Contract Negotiations).

Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	“Yes”
Council Member Zimmer	“Yes”
Council Member Jaksetic	“Yes”
Council Member Luetzow	“Yes”
Council Member McLean	“Yes”
Council Member Rheinnecker	“Yes”
Council Member Schaefer	“Yes”

The meeting was closed.



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MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member McLean to open the meeting.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	"Yes"
Council Member Zimmer	"Yes"
Council Member Jaksetic	"Yes"
Council Member Luetzow	"Yes"
Council Member McLean	"Yes"
Council Member Rheinnecker	"Yes"
Council Member Schaefer	"Yes"

The meeting was opened. Since no further matters were to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned.

Laurie Asche
City Clerk