



Public Arts Commission Meeting

December 3, 2025

6:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Ave. NE, Fridley, MN 55432

Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Collins called the Public Arts Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present

Josh Collins, Chair
Ryan Fugleberg, Vice Chair
Gary Osterbauer
Gary Swanson
Maija Sedzielarz
Frank Sedzielarz
Kara Ruwart

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician
Councilmember Ann Bolkcom
Scott Lund – Representing Fridley Creative Arts Foundation

1. Approve Public Arts Commission Minutes for November 5, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Osterbauer to approve the November 5, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

2. Commons Park Sculpture Project Updates and Discussion

Staff and Chair Collins provided an update of the presentation of the sculpture concept developed by artist Ken McCall for the Commons Park public art project to City Council on November 24th, 2025 at their Conference meeting. The concept was well received and direction for a community engagement process was to work to keep the project timeline on schedule but to engage with representation from the Indigenous community to review and provide feedback on the concept.

Staff and Chair Collins further reported that a brief discussion was held with the artist on December 3rd to discuss the engagement process encouraged by Council.

Based on the input from Council, Commissioners were encouraged to share contacts they may have in their professional networks to help in the process of identifying individuals or organizations to provide input and staff would be responsible for reaching out to those contacts with the goal of finding an individual or organization to advise on the art project from the indigenous perspective.

No action was taken by the Commission on this item.

3. Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program Policy and Guidelines

Staff reported that Council reviewed and provided feedback on the Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program at their November 24th meeting. Council indicated that they were comfortable with program implementation but would like to place an emphasis on selecting art from Fridley-based artists. The Commission discussed that a score sheet would be used to evaluate submissions and that residency in Fridley, working in Fridley, or attending school in Fridley could all be assigned point values in the submission scoring process to encourage local art submissions being selected.

A motion was made by Commissioner Swanson to approve and recommend the Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program Policy and Guidelines document, authorizing staff to implement the program. Seconded by Commissioner Ruwart. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Vision for Mississippi St. Underpass Mural

Staff shared a presentation on various mural types, options and pricing guidelines that could be applicable to the Mississippi Street underpass mural project. Scott Lund, representing the Fridley Creative Arts Foundation, indicated that exploratory discussions were conducted with Fridley Public Schools to gauge interest and capacity to create community-based mural panels through the School District art program and that the panels could be created in the classrooms and then possibly affixed to the underpass retaining wall. Discussions with the School District were generally favorable, however the Public Arts Commission acknowledged that this approach would take years to implement and warranted further consideration by the Commission prior to additional discussions with Anoka County or Fridley Public Schools regarding project partnership and that the Commission would further discuss a vision for the project at their January 2026 meeting.

No action was taken by the Commission on this item.

Old Business

None

Other Items

Commissioner Maija Sedzielarz reported that she had received a communication from artist Issac Kidder regarding the Commission's interest in supporting a grant application through the Minnesota State Arts Board Creative Individuals program. With the support of the Commission and Council, the artwork would be temporarily installed in Fridley if the grant is awarded.

Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz requested that an updated 2026 workplan document be available to review at the January 2026 meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Ruwart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A second was made by Commissioner Swanson. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Recording Secretary