



Public Arts Commission Meeting

January 7, 2026

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

1. Approve Public Arts Commission Minutes for December 3, 2025

A correction was noted where "Parks and Recreation Commission" appeared in the minutes which should have read "Public Arts Commission".

Motion by Commissioner Swanson to approve the December 3, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Ruwart. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

2. Election of Vice Chair

A motion was made by Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz to nominate Commissioner Maija Sedzielarz as Vice Chair. Second by Commissioner Osterbauer. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Commons Park Sculpture Project Updates and Discussion

Staff provided a brief update on the sculpture by artist Ken McCall for the Commons Park public art project:

- The concept was approved by Council
- Staff connected with Native American Community Development Institute staff to request a proposal for community engagement support through speakers, programs and advisement.
- Initial payment, per terms of contract with the artist, has been made and fabrication is underway

No action was taken by the Commission on this item.

4. Vision for Mississippi St. Underpass Mural

Staff reviewed a presentation on various mural types, options and pricing guidelines that could be applicable to the Mississippi Street underpass mural project. The Commission discussed the project scope and timeline and determined that additional time and consideration should be put into the project and perhaps waiting until after the road reconstruction project to better understand the site would be a good approach to the project, leaving it as an identified project but lower priority for the foreseeable future. It was also noted that the concept of a mural that could be completed in panels in partnership with Fridley Public Schools or other community partnerships is a worthwhile concept and should be noted on the Commission workplan for future consideration.

No formal action was taken by the Commission on this item.

5. Letter of Support for Issac Kidder Grant Application

The Commission reviewed a summary of past communication with artist Issac Kidder, who had reached out to the City of Fridley to gauge interest in hosting a sculpture if he was able to secure a grant to fabricate the artwork. A letter of support was previously provided yet grants were not awarded to Mr. Kidder for this purpose in past grant cycles.

Commissioner Maija Sedzielarz agreed to reach out to Mr. Kidder to confirm his intent to apply for Minnesota State Arts Board grants opening in 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gary Swanson to allow staff to provide a letter of support to Mr. Kidder if he wishes to submit a grant to create a sculpture to be hosted by the City of Fridley in 2026. Second by Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Updated 2026 Workplan Review

Staff presented an updated workplan document that captures projects and priorities for the Public Arts Commission. The Commission reviewed the document and requested that staff add creation of a policy document for the display of temporary public art installations to support a sculpture walk concept be added to the workplan.

Several items were updated and discussed including; the Sacred Waters Shared Future Initiative and a possible public art project installation at Sylvan Hills Park, a discussion with the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation regarding public art at the site, and upcoming programs and special events.

Old Business

None

Other Items

Commissioner Osterbauer shared a brief overview of an arts organization called Sprayfinger that engages youth in positive artistic development through graffiti style art. It was noted that Creative Flow Art Center opens a new show called Taking Flight which runs through February 14 with an opening reception the evening of January 15.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Recording Secretary