



# Public Arts Commission Meeting

March 4, 2026

6:00 PM

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

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## Minutes

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Present**

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

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director  
Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician  
Councilmember Ann Bolkcom

### **1. Approve Public Arts Commission Minutes for February 4, 2026**

*Motion by Commissioner Ruwart to approve the February 4, 2026 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **New Business**

#### 2. Art Trail Policy First Draft

Staff presented a draft of a Rotating Art Trail Pilot Program policy document. The commission asked for additional information and clarity on the use of artificial intelligence by artists and asked for some definition of how the program impact would be measured. Additional notes for the second draft include:

- Include a \$1,000 stipend for a two-year installation agreement
- Recommendation to not take a commission for artwork sold while on exhibit. Sold artwork would be removed only at the end of the agreed period for public exhibition.
- A long-term goal for structuring the program would be to stagger years for agreements so that each year artwork is being changed.

- Commission recommends that the call for art would be open to all with no residency requirements.

*Staff was asked to make revisions and bring the document to a future meeting for further refinement. No formal action was taken on this item.*

### 3. Commons Park Sculpture Project Update

Staff presented updated detailed design work from artist Ken McCall for the Manoomin sculpture. The commission asked for clarification on the material selection for the wild rice element of the sculpture. Staff indicated they would follow up with NACDI on the request for community educational events.

*No formal action was taken on this item.*

### 4. Springbrook Nature Center Art Bench Project

Staff presented an update to the Commission on a grant application that was submitted by nature center staff to the Xcel Energy Foundation for funding to purchase a unique bench made from recycled wind turbine blades. The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation has agreed to provide additional funding for this project, which may include one or several of these benches. The bench designs allow for application of murals or vinyl wraps and would make a nice addition to Fridley's overall public art program.

*No formal action was taken on this item.*

### 5. Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program Implementation

Staff presented updates on the call for art that was made public for the utility box art wrap program. The call for art information is housed on the public art page of the City website and a submission form was created for artists to use to upload artwork and application materials.

Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz asked that the Commission add discussion and additional information on the Minnesota Department of Transportation VARA waiver that they require artists to sign for projects in their right of way.

The Commission discussed plans to share the call for art with their professional networks and community groups. Chair Collins indicated that he would share with local libraries and coffee shops, Vice-Chair Maija Sedzielarz indicated she would share with several local schools and Commissioner Ruwart expressed willingness to share with Creative Flow Art Center and several Fridley Public School sites.

*No formal action was taken on this item.*

**Old Business**

None

**Other Items**

**Adjournment**

*Commissioner Gary Swanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The second was made by Commissioner Fugleberg. The motion was passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director  
Recording Secretary