



Public Arts Commission Meeting

October 1, 2025

6:00 PM

Commons Park, 6249 7th Street NE, Fridley, MN 55432

Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Collins called the Parks and Recreation 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
Councilmember Luke Cardona
Scott Lund representing Fridley Creative Arts Foundation
Maklyn Koep, representing Rum River Art Center and Creative Flow Art Center

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

Motion by Commissioner Fugleberg to approve the September 3, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner M. Sedzielarz. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

2. Commons Park Construction Site Tour

Mike Maher and Jesslyn Quiram led the Commission and guests on a walking tour of the Commons Park construction site. The group visited the recreation building, playground, splash pad, winter recreation area and pavilion sites. Special attention was paid to the future installation site of a sculpture being commissioned by artist Ken McCall.

The Commission took no formal action on this agenda item.

Open Forum

Maklyn Koep, representing Rum River and Creative Flow Art Centers, was in attendance to present an update on the grand opening celebration for Creative Flow Art Center, scheduled for Friday, October 10th

New Business

3. Moore Lake Park Sculpture Reflection

The Commission discussed learning opportunities from the project completed at Moore Lake Park in partnership with artist Jessica Turtle and Rice Creek Watershed District, including:

- Increased advertising and promotion for ribbon cutting celebrations including using message board trailers
- Perhaps there was too much reliance on Facebook for advertising the ribbon cutting
- Expand marketing and get the word out through block captains
- Using quick social media "blasts" 24-48 hours prior to event
- Share information through network of partner organizations
- A more transparent process is desired for selection of artist and partner organizations
- The contract with the artist should include more milestones and check-ins on the progress of the artwork
- Pre-determine the location of the artwork prior to issuing the request for qualifications and selecting an artist

No formal action was taken on this agenda item.

4. Utility Box Wrap Program Implementation Process

Staff reviewed information on the possibility of installing artist-designed utility box wraps on new utility boxes installed along University Avenue. Staff reported that the Fridley Creative Arts Foundation voted to fund the project and the next step would be to seek approval from City Council.

Staff agreed to draft a policy and project framework for the Commission to review and provide input on at the November meeting. Several general project guidelines were discussed including:

- A \$500 stipend for selected artists
- Development of a template for artists to use for design dimensions
- Provide an opportunity for youth submissions
- The Commission would select up to six awards from the received submissions

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

5. Workplan Review

Staff presented an updated workplan to track projects and priorities identified by the Commission.

Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz asked that the workplan track items completed or removed from the plan. He asked for clarification on a request that had come to the Commission earlier in the year regarding a mural on the Commons Park basketball court. Staff indicated that there has not been any follow up from the group and that a future project on the workplan is to develop a policy regarding memorials and tributes for the public art program. Staff indicated that they would verify that no emails had come through to the recently retired Community Development Director regarding the court mural proposal.

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

Old Business

Other Items

The Commission briefly discussed upcoming agenda items and noted that a meeting with artist Ken McCall would be held at the November meeting and discussion on a vision for the Mississippi St. underpass would be planned for the December meeting agenda.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Recording Secretary