



Public Arts Commission Meeting

June 4, 2025

6:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue NE

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

Approve Public Arts Commission Agenda for June 4, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Maija Sedzielarz to approve the June 4, 2025 meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Public Arts Commission Minutes for May 7th and 14th, 2025*

Motion by Commissioner Swanson to approve the May 7, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Osterbauer. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Swanson to approve May 14, 2025, meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Osterbauer. The motion passed unanimously.

**Additional corrections were requested to the April 2nd, 2025 minutes. These minutes will be amended and submitted for approval at the July 9th meeting.*

New Business

1. Moore Lake Park Sculpture Update

Staff stated that a meeting with the Rice Creek Watershed District and artist Jessica Turtle had been scheduled for Monday June 2nd but was rescheduled for Monday, June 9th. Staff will update the Commission on the takeaways from the meeting with the expectation that the project timeline, installation location and transportation logistics will be firmed up.

Staff also presented a first draft of a sign that will be installed at the public art site at Moore Lake and will serve as a template for future art program signage.

The Commission presented feedback on the sign including moving the artwork description to the top, including information on Fridley's public arts program, possibly removing the circular graphic in the top right corner, exploring the idea of using a QR code or link to the art program webpage and making sure the sign font and layout follow best practices for accessibility.

Staff additionally requested feedback on a ceremony to mark the installation of the public art project at Moore Lake. The Commission suggested combining the event with a public concert that is already scheduled on a weekday evening this summer.

The Commission took no formal action on this item.

2. 2025-2026 Workplan Draft Discussion

Staff stated that a draft workplan document was drafted to capture a list of projects, priorities and ideas discussed in past meetings of the Public Arts Commission.

The Commission suggested several additions to the workplan including; follow up on an inquiry to create a mural project at the Commons Park basketball courts, to explore a program offered by a company that creates mural-ready sculptural benches from recycled wind turbines, exploring options to add art into city utility and infrastructure projects, and to look at a mural or sculpture walk/stroll program.

No formal action was taken on this agenda item.

3. Commons Park Sculpture Community Engagement Model

Staff stated that a draft copy of an agreement for the Commons Park sculpture project was included in the Commission packet. The agreement has been reviewed by the City Attorney and represents the interests of the City of Fridley, Artist and Fridley Creative Arts Foundation.

The Commission suggested allowing additional time for the Artist to create a conceptual design and budget and to better define expectations for community engagement.

Staff will make the modifications and send the agreement to the Artist for review. If substantial changes are requested by the Artist, the agreement will be subject to a final legal review before going to Fridley City Council for approval.

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

Old Business

Other Items

Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz wished to discuss an inquiry by artist Lisa Elias regarding the RFQ review process. Ms. Elias questioned if a secondary, corrected submission was included in the packet of information used for evaluation of artist qualifications. Review indicated that this second submission was not included in an electronic version of the materials but was added to the printed packets that were distributed to each of the Commissioners prior to the evaluation meeting. The Commission did not feel that this omission impacted the results of their evaluation and it was determined that staff would follow up with Ms. Elias to inform her of the outcome of her inquiry.

Additionally, the Commission discussed community outreach at the Fridley 49er Days Festival, being held June 12-14. Several Commissioners will be volunteering at an information table for the Fridley Public Arts Foundation. The question of what stories or perspectives might be missing from our public spaces was determined to be the theme of the engagement process.

Adjournment

Commissioner Osterbauer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Ruwart. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Recording Secretary