



Public Arts Commission

August 7, 2024

6:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

Minutes

Call to Order

6:00 PM

Present

Josh Collins
Ryan Fugleberg
Mayor, Scott Lund
Gary Osterbauer
Kara Ruwart
Frank Sedzielarz
Maija Sedzielarz
Gary Swanson

Council Liaison: Ann Bolkcom

Staff Liaison: Scott Hickok

Mayor/Chair of Fridley Creative Arts Foundation Scott Lund

Absent

N/A

Approve of Meeting Minutes

Gary Swanson's attendance was incorrect, he was present on the 10th of July, but not on the 12th of June.

Frank Sedzielarz offered several corrections indicating that future minutes should distinguish between Maija and Frank, rather than Commissioner Sedzielarz. Corrections noted.

No other corrections or comments were received regarding the July 10, 2024, Minutes.

New Business

Election of Chair and Vice Chair. Scott Hickok described that though there are no openings on the Planning Commission at this time, when an at-large position is opened, the Chair may be asked to serve on that Commission as well. Typically, the Chair of each commission also serves in the Planning Commission. The point of identifying this is that the commitment could mean two Wednesdays per month (one for Public Arts Commission, one for Planning Commission).

After a brief discussion, Josh Collins agreed to Chair, Ryan Fugleberg agreed to be Vice Chair. Both were confirmed by unanimous vote.

Concept Presentation for Artist, Jessica Turtle The Commission reviewed three concepts presented by the artist. Good Gifts, Peek-A-Boo Wood Duck, and the Northern Leopard Frog.

Good Gifts is an endogenous being with resting eyes and a slightly upturned smile. The being is buried above its waist in the earth, giving the appearance that it is swimming in the earth. It is purposely endogenous and non-descript in terms of nationality. The colors range from pale blue - white at the top of the head and the color becomes darker shades of blue – greens at its base. The wide base would be buried sub-grade to stabilize the sculpture and to keep plants from growing up next to the sculpture.

The quote that surrounds the body of the being is a Wendell Berry Quote ...The atmosphere, the earth, the water and water cycle – these things are good gifts.... Concept one was envisioned to be placed southwest of the new building on the south side of the channel of water running into the lake, west of the bridge.

The sculpture stands 6' in height, from grade. Ideally, the artist would have liked to make the sculpture 14' high, if this was the chosen piece and budget allowed.

Concept Two, Peek-A-Boo Wood Duck is a 66' Tall interactive sculpture that would allow children, or adults to enter this fully accessible piece. The eyes are 10" in diameter, so the person inside can look out and see the world *through the duck's eyes*. A walkway and circular base of ceramic tile would surround the sculpture and make it entirely accessible. A planted garden could be added to this installation to finish off the edge.

Ann Bolkcom asked who would be planting the garden? Jessica responded that that would be an added cost on top of the sculpture costs and could be done as a phase 2 or possibly with volunteers.

Asked where the sculpture would be located, Turtle responded, near the playground.

Gary Osterbauer asked what the inside of the sculpture would be made of. Turtle responded, concrete, possibly tiled, depending, most likely concrete.

Concept Three, Northern Leopard Frog is a 6' high Leopard frog, the State's amphibian. The frog would be "floating" on a lily pad in a location in the storm pond west of the pickleball courts. The frog would be steel welded rebar, metal lath, and concrete covered in hand crafted ceramic tile. The tile would have smooth edges, so not to cut anyone's hand if they touched, or climbed on the sculpture. All three concepts would be of the same construction and all three are durable to resist damages from climbers and or taggers (graffiti artists). The grout between tiles will be Prisma Grout and will be dark colored to resist the appearance of being dirty or discolored.

A general discussion ensued regarding the 3 options. After some discussion, the Commission voted on its favorite piece. Concept 3, the frog won.

The Commission then asked what the favorite option of the Parks Masterplan Team was in their meeting earlier that afternoon. The frog was the winner in that group as well.

Ann Bolkcom asked if there were any concerns of the Masterplan Team. Scott Hickok responded that the Wood Duck walkway was a concern from a shoveling and maintenance perspective. It was also stated that someone may try to use it for shelter, or they may start a fire in it.

As for the gift, it was proposed to be in a location where it does not have a path to it and the viewer would likely want to walk around the sculpture to read the full quote.

A question was asked if frost would impact the sculpture and the answer was no, it would not.

Review of Research by Commissioner Sedzielarz

Maija Sedzielarz invited the group to review the materials she had gathered from several arts organizations. The focus was to look at structure, criteria for selection of art, and to have interviews with various people associated with these groups who could help us advance in our process of bringing public art to the community.

A general discussion ensued regarding materials, Teams site created, and access to the new Teams location for the Public Arts Commission research materials. The Commission requested a tutorial for getting into the site and navigating to see materials within.

Old Business

None

Other Items

Mayor Lund indicated that he invited Sue Jens from the State Arts Board to discuss our foundation, Grants, State Funding. At the September meeting he also indicated he invited the newly appointed Board of Directors of the Fridley Creative Arts Foundation to meet the Commission.

Meeting Dates and Times for the remainder of 2024/25. The Commission approved the meeting dates as proposed.

Adjournment

7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Hickok
Recording Secretary