



Public Arts Commission

June 12, 2024

6:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

Minutes

Call to Order

6:00 PM

Present

Josh Collins
Ryan Fugleberg
Gary Osterbauer
Kara Ruwart
Frank Sedzielarz
Maija Sedzielarz
Gary Swanson

Staff Liaison: Scott Hickok

Absent

Council Liaison: Ann Bolkcom

Approve of Meeting Minutes

N/A

New Business

Introduction of Kara Ruwart, newest Council appointed Commissioner. Commissioner Ruwart provided a detailed background of her interest in and her work in art. The Commissioners welcomed Ruwart and provided a brief introduction of themselves as well.

Contract Review for Artist, The Commission Reviewed the proposed language for the contract between the Artist and agencies of the City of Fridley and the Rice Creek Watershed District. A general discussion ensued with overall agreement on the language. The commission also reviewed the language questioned by, or needing refinement as requested by the Artist. Again, the consensus was that the language and Artist requested modifications appeared reasonable and supported.

Old Business

501C3 Progress Report Scott Hickok explained the work being completed by Mayor Lund in forming the non-profit. The Mayor has selected the Board members. Two of the final three members selected were selected from a group of three individuals who had indicated an interest in being involved in the

Public Arts Initiative. After interviewing the candidates, the decision was made that Kara Ruwart would be appointed to the Commission and the other two interested parties would be on the non-profit Board.

Now that the name and the board members have been selected, the Mayor has sought legal assistance on the IRS portions of the non-profit formation to assure proper legal steps have been considered.

Filing of the non-profit with the Secretary of State will be the next order of business.

Other Items

Debrief on June 1, 2024, City Open House The Commission discussed their experiences at the open house. Overall the experience was positive. Comments regarding the area under the canopy point to additional work necessary for the safety of park users. Commissioner Maija Sedzielarz was aware of a fall during the event that was clearly related to the varying surface levels being difficult to make out as a person walks through the area. Scott Hickok explained that safety features were planned into furniture (that had not yet been installed) and other demarcation that would guide users avoid such accidents in the future.

Commissioners were generally pleased with the event. A comment regarding parking working out for the event, due to turnover, was noted.

TEDx Talk – Public Art Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz provided a TEDx Talk on public Art. The speaker was Jack Becker, of Forecast Public Art. Retired after 42 years Jack Becker directed Public Art with Forecast from 1978 – 2016. Becker's TEDx discussion was both inspired and inspiring for the Commission. The importance of public art to the community was an important theme for the presentation. Examples of public art initiatives given were incredible and similar projects in Fridley doable.

On-Boarding Manual Scott Hickok indicated that the On-Boarding Manual had been prepared by Danielle Herrick in the City Clerks office and was being offered as an educational element of the packet. The Council manual also allows the Commission members to see what is provided for new Council members and allows a glimpse into the future Commissioner Packet that is being prepared currently.

Ryan Fugleberg commented that the Commission should be focusing on the criteria and priorities for selecting art as we move forward and consider our policy recommendations.

Adjournment

8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Hickok

Recording Secretary