



# Public Arts Commission Meeting

September 3, 2025

6:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue NE

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## 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  
Scott Lund representing Fridley Creative Arts Foundation

### **1. Approve Public Arts Commission Minutes for August 6<sup>th</sup> 2025**

A correction to the minutes was noted by Commissioner Maija Sedzielarz that Frank Sedzielarz was also among Commissioners attending summer concerts to gather community input on public art.

*Motion by Commissioner Swanson to approve the August 6, 2025 meeting minutes as corrected. Seconded by Commissioner Ruwart. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **New Business**

#### 2. Project Kickoff Meeting with Artist Ken McCall

Artist Ken McCall joined the Commission virtually at 6:15 pm. Staff reviewed the process where three community engagement questions proposed by the artist were incorporated into a survey created by the City's communications staff and shared on the city website and social media sites. The three questions are:

- What themes or symbols do you feel represent Fridley or Fridley's community spirit?

- Are there particular natural elements or local culture you would like to see reflected in a sculpture?
- If you could see one feeling or idea brought to life in the sculpture, what would it be?

Staff shared several themes that had emerged from early survey responses including cultural diversity, nature and water features, and unity/community connections. The Commissioners shared additional comments and insights into each of the three discussion questions.

The Commissioners and artist decided that an additional check-in would be helpful at the next meeting, scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. The meeting with Ken McCall ended at 7:10 pm.

*The Commission took no formal action on this item.*

### 3. Moore Lake Park Frog Sculpture Ribbon Cutting Event Discussion

Staff presented an overview of the ribbon cutting event planned for Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at Moore Lake Park to celebrate the installation of a public art sculpture created by artist Jessica Turtle. Staff shared plans for music, speakers, activities, and additional festivities.

The Commission asked several questions about publicity for the event and staff shared that the City's communications team would be leading the marketing effort.

*No formal action was taken on this agenda item.*

### 4. Utility Box Wrap Program Next Steps

Staff reviewed information on the possibility of installing artist-designed utility box wraps on new utility boxes installed along University Avenue. Staff indicated that the partnerships required to access and wrap the boxes seem feasible and that wraps could be printed and installed by Fridley staff for an estimated \$810. A program calling for submissions and parameters for compensating selected designers would need to be developed. Staff reviewed that a process to pursue this program would be to seek funding from the Fridley Creative Arts Foundation and then seek approval from City Council.

The Commission asked questions about mowing and maintenance around the utility boxes. Staff indicated that some may be in the right of way of HWY 47 and could be MNDOT responsibility but that the City could monitor and mow around them.

*A motion was made to recommend pursuing the utility box wrap program for six utility boxes installed as part of the recent University Ave. lighting project by Commissioner Maija Sedzielarz. Seconded by Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz. The motion passed unanimously.*

## 5. Proposed 2026 Meeting Dates

Staff presented a slate of proposed meeting dates for 2026 as follows:

Wednesday, January 7, 2026  
Wednesday, February 4, 2026  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
Wednesday April 1, 2026  
Wednesday May 6, 2026  
Wednesday June 3, 2026  
Wednesday, July 1, 2026  
Wednesday, August 5, 2026  
Wednesday, September 2, 2026  
Wednesday, October 7, 2026  
Wednesday, November 4, 2026  
Wednesday, December 2, 2026

*A motion was made by Commissioner Swanson to approve the proposed 2026 Public Arts Commission Schedule. Seconded by Commissioner Osterbauer. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Old Business**

### **Other Items**

Commissioner Maija Sedzielarz requested that the October meeting agenda includes a debrief of the Moore Lake Park sculpture project to look at opportunities for process improvement. Commissioner Maija Sedzielarz further shared a summary of survey responses from a Touch-a-Truck event including several creative animal sculpture ideas from kids.

### **Adjournment**

*Commissioner Osterbauer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Ruwart. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director  
Recording Secretary