

FERGUS FALLS PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 19, 2022

The Fergus Falls Public Arts Commission (PAC) met on Thursday, May 19, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM. Members present were Patricia Wahl, Naomi Schliesman, and Erinn Webb. Staff present were Klara Beck and Jill Hanson.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of December 16, 2021 were read, and it was moved by Erinn Webb and seconded by Naomi Schliesman to approve the minutes. Passed unanimously.

**“The River Is” Project Update**

Klara Beck provided an update on the status of a few grants that were applied for. She noted that Lake Region Hospital did not get a LRAC grant for the THRIVE pedestrian path discussed at the December meeting. However, Kim Embretson was awarded the LRAC Grant for “The River Is” project. Klara explained how Kim Embretson was organizing an art project where artist were commissioned to do pieces based on the river. There was some discussion about the selection of artists for the project, and how this will be a traveling art show with the first stop being City Hall with the exhibit opening in June. Klara explained that Kim Embretson is the project manager. The project will partner with the Viking Library System and the City is managing the funds. Klara explained that when the showings are done the art will be turned over to the PAC to be part of the City’s permanent art collections. There was some discussion about having an updated list of public art.

**Possible New Member**

Klara mentioned that Steve Gutterson had expressed that he would again serve on PAC. There was some discussion about possible other PAC members. Klara mentioned having people fill out application for the PAC review so they could select two new members.

**Public Art Preservation Update**

Klara Beck noted that despite setting aside funds for restoration and preservation work based on a quote from Brodin Studios for work on the Joe Whitford statue, the concrete Relief Sculpture at the Fergus Falls Library, and the George Wright statue, the work had not begun, and Brodin Studios had stopped responding. There was some discussion about looking for someone else to do the work if Brodin Studios was not able to do the work. Naomi mentioned that there are very few people in the area that do this type of restoration.

**Staff Update**

Klara explained that the NEA grant awarded to the City for the downtown riverfront project was extended another 2 years. There was some discussion about the riverfront development project and the NEA grant as part of Phase II. Klara mentioned that City Council is still deciding what will be done in the Riverfront Phase II project that will determine the timeline for the riverfront art and what will be considered. The staff is waiting on new design options from the engineers for the project. The PAC mentioned that they want to be involved in the design process.

There was some discussion about art events going on this summer on Lincoln Avenue. Acting Chair Wahl mentioned PAC hosting a scavenger hunt for the City’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

The next PAC meeting will be June 16, 2022 at noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM

*Patricia Wahl*  
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Acting Chair

FERGUS FALLS PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 21, 2022

The Fergus Falls Public Arts Commission (PAC) met on Thursday, July 21, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM. Members present were Patricia Wahl, Naomi Schliesman, Erinn Webb, and Christine Lawson. Staff present were Klara Beck and Jill Hanson. Also present were Beth Richardson, Interim Executive Director for the Kaddatz Galleries, and Brooke Barsness, a member of the Year of Beck Planning Committee.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of May 19, 2022 were read, and it was moved by Naomi Schliesman and seconded Erinn Web to approve the minutes. Passed unanimously.

**Mural Discussion**

Beth Richardson, the Interim Executive Director at the Kaddatz Galleries, explained how the Kaddatz has been planning a year of events to honor Charles Beck, which includes plans to do a mural. They would like to do the mural on the side of the liquor store. Brooke Barsness, a member of the Year of Beck Planning Committee, mentioned they do not know how the mural would be funded yet, but there are some possible donors they could contact. They were hoping for some financial support from the City and permission to paint the mural on the West side of the downtown liquor store. Beth Richardson explained they are hoping the mural could be done in 2023 and have a community event in the Fall. Brooke stated that she was working with MState on other events honoring Beck.

Acting Chair Wahl had mentioned there were some other artists that have shown interest in doing a mural on this site. Acting Chair Wahl explained that the PAC does not have a budget, and how fundraising might need to be done if the Council approved the mural. Klara Beck mentioned ongoing maintenance of the mural.

Naomi Schliesman mentioned a grant that the City could apply for. There was some discussion about how murals are not forever and the cost to do them. Beth Richardson stated that they are working on the creation of the Beck mural with an artist by the name of Scott Gunvaldon and the estimate to do the mural is around \$30,000. Naomi stated that she was going to reach out and get more information about the grant. Erinn Webb stated that she would like to know the estimated life of the mural. There was some discussion about the snow removal near the building and how it could damage the mural if it was ground level. It was noted that the artist is willing to modify the mural if needed. The PAC asked if the artist looked into grants to do the work and the reply was no. Beth Richardson mentioned that they have considered some other private sites including the Mill building, but they have not contacted the owners of the building.

Acting Chair Wahl mentioned that maybe we should see if the City would even consider doing a mural on the liquor store building. Brook mentioned the Kaddatz could do the grant writing and fundraising if needed. Location approval is the first step in the process.

A motion and second were made by Erinn Webb and Naomi Schliesman to request City Council's approval to do a mural on the liquor store building after reviewing a mural sample from the artist.

There was some discussion about the artist doing another mural sample and what should be included in the mural for the Council to look at. Beth mentioned by having a picture of Beck in the mural would honor him as an artist. The PAC also discussed two options for the mural: painting the mural on the actual building or painting the mural on a canvas that is attached to the building so there is less maintenance to the building itself. Klara Beck was going to talk to public works and administration.

**Update on Art Restoration**

Klara Beck stated that she was talking to a group in Minneapolis to do the restoration work that Bordin Studios was going to do.

Before the meeting closed, Naomi brought up the Future Fossils installation. Work had been placed on City property without PAC approval. Klara stated that since the art was not permanent or going into the permanent collection, its placement had been staff approved. There was discussion about the role of the PAC in approving art placed on City property and the PAC decided the creation of a Public Art Policy was prudent.

The next PAC meeting will be August 18, 2022 at noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 PM

*Patricia Wahl*  
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Acting Chair