

FERGUS FALLS PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 21, 2024

The Fergus Falls Public Arts Commission (PAC) met on Thursday, March 21, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM. Members present were Kim Embretson, Patricia Wahl, Roger Sodsod, and Lee Smalt. Absent was Erinn Webb. Staff present were Klara Beck and Jill Hanson.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Roger Sodsod and seconded by Lee Smalt to approve the minutes from February 15, 2024. Passed unanimously.

**Phase II Opening**

Lee Smalt stated we are estimating a \$5,000 budget for the Artist Reveal event on June 13<sup>th</sup>, which includes refreshments and equipment rental. It does not include signage. Klara Beck noted that contractors would handle signage; we just need to provide them with write ups from the artists. Lee explained the Artist Reveal event coincides with Springboard's annual Rural Arts and Culture Summit. They have agreed to encourage the Summit attendees to join us for the unveiling. Our event time should be from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm to align with break time for Summit attendees.

Lee explained Jean Bowman had agreed to create a Facebook event for the reveal on the City Facebook page and give the PAC admin privileges to the event, and share it as needed. Kaddatz, Springboard, Visit Fergus Falls, and LRAC have all agreed to cross-promote the Facebook invite. Mayor Ben Schierer has agreed to have the Zachmanns on his monthly radio show on May 10<sup>th</sup> to promote the artist's reveal. Lee was going to do a video with the Zachmanns in April to help promote the event. There would be a children's activity at Otter Cove. Patricia Wahl mentioned she is working to getting quotes for food. There was discussion about a PA system for the event. In case of bad weather, the reveal event could be held in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Klara mentioned that on May 30<sup>th</sup> the City is planning an opening ceremony for the Riverfront Phase II project. Members of the PAC stated they could be at the event and pass out cards with information about art reveal event on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Sculpture Walk Project**

Chair Embretson stated that he has send out information to groups in Fergus Falls for input on the sculpture walk project. One response was that we should look at increasing the dollar amount paid to the artist. Chair Embretson explained that we are getting information from other communities on what they have done with similar projects. We are hoping to get 15 letters of support from local businesses. After we collect our information, we can work on a presentation to the City Council that includes a request to apply for grant funding.

**Wright Statute Restoration**

Erinn Webb's update on the Wright Statue restoration was deferred to the April agenda.

Lee Smalt stated he did a grant application to produce 3D models of art on a website. There was discussion about exploring QR code integration for public education on historic buildings and art works so the public could learn more about them while walking in Fergus Falls.

**Hanging Local Artist Paintings in the Council Chambers**

Chair Embretson proposed rotating Library art in the Council Chambers periodically to increase visibility. Klara mentioned that the PAC should talk to Guy Taylor about the idea. Motion and second were made by Patricia Wahl and Lee Smalt Wahl to continue the discussion of rotating art. Passed unanimously.

**Proper Storage of City Owned Art**

Chair Embretson explained that we need to find a proper storage place for city-owned art, especially if we are rotating it. Kim was going to talk to the College and Kaddatz about what they do for storage. There was an idea to display historic art from City Hall at the museum while other art is in Council Chambers. Klara noted that Guy Taylor is the best person to talk to about storage for the City art.

The next PAC meeting will be April 18, 2024, at noon. The meeting adjourned at 12:52 PM

*Kim Embretson*  
Chair