

FERGUS FALLS PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 18, 2024

The Fergus Falls Public Arts Commission (PAC) met on Thursday, April 18, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM. Members present were Kim Embretson, Patricia Wahl, Roger Sodsod, Erinn Webb, and Lee Smalt. Staff present were Klara Beck and Jill Hanson.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Patricia Wahl and seconded by Roger Sodsod to approve the minutes from March 21, 2024. Passed unanimously.

**Phase II Opening – June 13**

Lee Smalt explained that we need to start confirming the event plans with the Zachmanns, vendors, and other groups and people involved with promoting the event. We need to get notices out on the City Facebook website and on the website of Kaddatz, Springboard, Visit Fergus Falls, and LRAC who have all agreed to cross-promote the Facebook invite, in addition to a notice in the Daily Journal and ads on the radio. Lee was going to do a video with the Zachmanns in April to help promote the event. Mayor Ben Schierer has agreed to have the Zachmanns on his monthly radio show on May 10th to promote the artist's reveal. There would be a children's activity at Otter Cove on the day of the event. The PAC members volunteered to help with the event. There was some discussion about the other events taking place that day and need to finalize the details with the PA system, food and beverage vendors. Also, we need to find out if the food and beverage vendors will need parking spaces reserved for the event. Patricia Wahl stated that the PAC needs to talk about parking in general for the event at the next meeting.

Lee Smalt made a motion to approve the quotes for food and beverage vendors which should not exceed \$600 each. It was seconded by Patricia Wahl. Passed unanimously.

**Sculpture Walk Project**

Chair Embretson did an update on the sculpture walk project, noting he has received seven letters of support so far. He explained that in three of the letters the artist in the area felt that \$1,000 was not enough of a stipend for the artists to bring the sculptures to Fergus Falls for display. Also, the artists wanted the City to cover the cost of property insurance on the sculptures loaned to the City for display. Bill Sonmor felt the City might be able to provide insurance coverage for vandalism and damage during the display period.

Erin Webb and Lee Smalt felt \$1,500 would be fair amount for a city the size of Fergus Falls to offer. Chair Embretson mentioned that some businesses would be willing to help support the project if they get their name displayed as a supporter on the art pedestals and some of the local foundations might be willing to support this project. Next the PAC would bring the request to oversee the sculpture walk project to the City Council for approval.

Lee Smalt made a motion that the PAC will take on ownership of the sculpture walk project as the steering committee and would approve any future modification or changes to the business plan for the project. The next steps would be applying for grants with the approval of the City Council and recruiting volunteers to help with the project. It was seconded by Erinn Webb. Passed unanimously.

**Wright Statue Restoration**

Erinn Webb did a brief recap of the history of restoration discussion for the statue. Erinn mentioned having a restoration company come and look at the statue to see what it would take to restore it.

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

Chair Embretson spoke with Len Taylor, and Len stated he did not want to move the current historic art, but there are a few open spaces where public art could be displayed in the Council Chambers. Gail Hedstrom stated the library is interested in displaying a few pieces of the library art in the Council Chambers.

**Proper Storage of City Owned Art**

There was discussion about the need to find proper storage for the city-owned art at the Bigwood Event Center.

The next PAC meeting will be May 16, 2024, at noon. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Kim Embretson  
Chair