

FERGUS FALLS PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 16, 2024

The Fergus Falls Public Arts Commission (PAC) met on Thursday, May 16, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM. Members present were Roger Sodsod, Patricia Wahl, Erinn Webb, and Lee Smalt. Absent was Kim Embretson. Staff present were Klara Beck and Jill Hanson.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from April 18, 2024, were approved with a few minor modifications. Motion to accept the minutes as amended by Lee Smalt and seconded by Patricia Wahl. Passed unanimously.

**Phase II Opening – June 13**

Lee Smalt recapped plans for the art reception. The event would be next to the splash pad. Food and beverage vendors will set up at 4:30 pm.

Emily Scallon from Foxtail Fern quoted \$600 for 200 drinks, to be paid by 6/10/24. She will serve on-site, requiring a table, chair, ice, and a trash can. Penney Cakes needs a table for cupcakes but won't be there in person to serve.

Naomi Schliesman, with Otter Cove, will organize children's art activities, including a water activity.

The reception will run from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, with speakers and a Q&A with the Zachmanns lasting 30-40 minutes. Updates will be posted on the City Facebook page, with broader announcements starting June 1 to avoid confusion with the splash pad event on May 30. A press release will be considered closer to the date.

Lee suggested and motioned to pay Naomi Schliesman \$300 for children's activities and reimburse Otter Cove \$50 for art supplies. The motion was seconded by Patricia Wahl and passed.

Discussion included the plaques for sculptures and remaining funds, with Klara mentioning the need to design and pay for the plaques and plans for new downtown banners and kiosk updates.

**Sculpture Walk Project**

Patricia stated that Chair Embretson wanted to know when and how he could present the sculpture walk project proposal to the City Council. Lee Smalt requested a detailed summary of what would be presented to the Council and the PAC's responsibilities. The group felt the draft document was not clear enough and decided to discuss it further at a future meeting.

**Wright Statue Restoration**

Erinn Webb noted we are still looking for someone to do the work.

**Letter of Support submitted for Benson Building Mural**

Klara Beck stated that a letter of support was submitted by the Mayor for a mural request by Springboard for the Arts. The mural is planned for the Benson building, which is where their Fergus Falls offices are housed. Springboard staff plan to come before the PAC in July to talk about the project.

The next PAC meeting will be June 20, 2024, at noon. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM

Kim Embretson  
Chair