



Public Art Steering Committee Minutes
Monday, March 3, 2025
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Wayzata Community Room, 600 Rice St E

1. Roll Call

Committee Members: Councilmember Alex Plechash, Councilmember Molly MacDonald, Judd Nelson, Roger Miller, and Joanie Cunningham

Additional Attendees: Kelsey Thompson, Lake West Development Director.

City Staff: City Manager Jeff Dahl, Community Development Director Alex Sharpe, Communications Coordinator Liv Marrantino, Parks and Environment Planner Nick Kieser

2. Approve Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by MacDonald, seconded by Cunningham. Approved unanimously.

3. Introductions

Each Committee Member introduced themselves and shared their interest in joining the Public Art Steering Committee (PASC). The City's new Community Development Director, Alex Sharpe, also introduced himself and expressed enthusiasm for his new role, providing a brief overview of his background.

4. Lake West Public Art Presentation

Kelsey Thompson, representing Lake West Development, presented on behalf of a development project located at 200 Lake Street East. Lake West is exploring the possibility of incorporating a public art element into the project. Ms. Thompson shared a collection of inspirational materials, and the Committee acknowledged that the project presents several opportunities for integrating public art.

Staff clarified that the Committee's role is not to select specific pieces of public art, but rather to provide general guidance on what types of art could be appropriate for the development. Committee members voiced concern about providing detailed feedback for public art in a private development, given that the Steering Committee has not yet formally established its purpose, roles, and responsibilities. As a result of this discussion, the Committee agreed to offer general input to help guide the applicant's considerations moving forward.

The Committee suggested that the eastern portion of the site at 200 Lake Street East could be a suitable location for a public art installation. Additional discussion and review would be needed if artwork is proposed for the small island between the two driveway entrances. A larger park area located further east could offer additional opportunities for a public art piece. The Committee also encouraged the inclusion of local artists and suggested that the piece should reflect the character and identity of Wayzata. They recommended gathering community input to help inform the selection of the final art piece.

Lake West expressed appreciation for the Committee's feedback and indicated they will seek additional community input before making a final decision.

5. Review Purpose and Duties of Public Art Committees

Staff will review these comments and create draft bylaws for the Steering Committee to review at their next meeting.

The Steering Committee previously concluded that establishing a permanent Public Art Committee would benefit the City. As a next step, bylaws will need to be developed for this new body. Staff reviewed the purposes and responsibilities of various existing Public Art Committees for reference. Based on this review, the Steering Committee identified the following priorities to incorporate into the mission and responsibilities of a future Public Art Committee:

- Enhance walkability and connectivity.
- Encourage residents and visitors to leave their vehicles and engage more deeply with the city environment.
- Promote discovery within Wayzata by drawing people to explore areas they might not typically visit.
- Position Wayzata as a hub for culture and the arts.
- Align public art with other key aspects of the community, such as dining, shopping, parks, and city values.

- Emphasize elegant, timeless, and classic art styles.
- Reflect the area's history, including the heritage of Lake Minnetonka and Native American culture.
- Reinforce Wayzata's identity and enhance its overall quality of life.

Staff will compile these comments and draft bylaws for review and discussion at the next Steering Committee meeting.

6. Next Meeting – Monday, April 14

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Chair Plechash, seconded by McDonald. Approved unanimously.