



Public Art Steering Committee Minutes
Monday, June 9, 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.

City Staff: Community Development Director Alex Sharpe, Communications Coordinator Liv Marrantino, Planner Haily Hedblom, and Parks and Environment Planner Nick Kieser.

2. Approve Agenda

Motion to approve agenda with addition of approving the minutes by Cunningham, seconded by MacDonald. Approved unanimously.

3. Approve April 14, 2025 Minutes

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

4. Review and Finalize Public Art Committee Bylaws

Staff provided a summary of the changes made to the draft bylaws. The Committee then held a more detailed discussion regarding the overall content of the draft.

The Committee generally agreed that the purpose statements and listed responsibilities in the draft bylaws were appropriate as written. One clarification was made regarding the inclusion of slower movement in the purpose section—it is intended to support goals such as increased discoverability and the implementation of traffic-calming measures.

Committee Member Nelson shared insights from his experiences with both effective and ineffective municipal art programs. He emphasized that successful public art programs are typically well-organized, supported by consistent funding, strategically place artwork in high-visibility areas (such as downtown), show appreciation for artists, and receive strong staff support. He also noted that some cities participate in art networks that allow for the exchange of artwork, which has proven to be a successful model.

Nelson further highlighted that many cities implement temporary art programs rather than permanent installations. These temporary programs often involve displaying artwork for approximately two years, which helps reduce costs and limits the logistical burden on artists. At the conclusion of the display period, cities may choose to purchase artwork they find particularly compelling.

One revision to the bylaws involved staggering the initial term lengths for members of the permanent Public Art Committee to prevent all terms from expiring simultaneously. The terms will be a two or three year terms.

Lastly, the Committee discussed and supported allowing City Councilmembers to serve as Chair of the future Public Art Committee.

5. Discuss Public Art Funding Options

Staff summarized the funding opportunities that other cities have for their public art programs. The Committee then discussed these options to provide some insight on how Wayzata can fund future public art pieces. To jumpstart the public art program, City Council has already allocated funds specifically for art, but the options discussed are to provide future consistent funding.

Overall, the notion of using taxpayer money to pay for public art was discussed since it could be seen as bringing in more people into Wayzata. There could be a distinction between adding art in more tourist locations such as Panoway compared to other locations on what we use public funds vs. non-public funds for the art installation. There could also be other opportunities for sponsorships for specific public art installations. The art piece could then be placed near the business or shop that sponsored it.

To help with a successful public art program, the city should be responsible for site preparation and help with installation.

The future Public Art Committee would be tasked with determining a funding source in the future.

6. Next Meeting – Monday, July 14

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Chair MacDonald, seconded by Nelson at 6:01 PM. Approved unanimously.