



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

1. Roll Call

Councilmember Alex Plechash, Councilmember Molly MacDonald, Judd Nelson, Roger Miller, City Manager Jeff Dahl, Communications Coordinator Liv Marrandino, Parks and Environment Planner Nick Kieser

2. Approve Agenda

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

3. Introductions

Each Committee Member introduced themselves and explained their interest in joining the Public Art Steering Committee (PASC).

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Staff summarized the role of the Chair and Vice Chair as outlined in the PASC framework that was attached to the agenda packet. Miller noted his experience and background in the art sector. Plechash noted his experience leading public meetings, his role in creating the PASC, and his interest in advancing public art in Wayzata.

Motion to nominate Plechash as Chair by MacDonald, seconded by Nelson. Approved unanimously.

Motion to nominate Miller as Vice Chair by MacDonald, seconded by Plechash. Approved unanimously.

5. Review Public Art Steering Committee Framework

Staff started the discussion of the PASC Framework by emphasizing that the Committee's purpose is to research and determine if a long-standing public art committee should be established. Staff highlighted the importance of understanding the 'why' behind the Committee's formation, rather than focusing solely on the 'what', 'how', and 'who'. Staff also stressed the need to consider the community's priorities and potential locations for public art. The Committee's goal is to provide a recommendation about a long-standing committee to the City Council in 2025.

The group discussed different approaches to public art in the city. Nelson noted that some cities have a rotating art program where sculptures or other art pieces are leased for 1-2 years, with artists submitting proposals for selection. Others express interest in having both rotating pieces and permanent, iconic sculptures that can become identifiable with the city. The Committee noted that the first year of public art installations should be simple and achievable and build upon that success.

Funding public art varies from city to city, but the Committee agreed that a consistent funding source would be beneficial to help plan for different programs or initiatives. The Committee discussed the possibility of a private-public partnership to fund art pieces. Sponsorships could be explored to have public art near a business or restaurant. Staff also noted that some cities utilize a percentage of construction funds to be dedicated to public art or utilize grant funds for specific installations.

Dahl brought the Committee back to the question of 'why'. Is the goal of a long-standing Committee to promote the history of Wayzata, beautify Wayzata, or make Wayzata more interesting? Answering these questions are crucial to create a new framework for a future committee.

The Committee discussed that public art gives Wayzata a new dimension. Any public art that is installed should be an item that the community can take pride in. Public art can bring more culture to Wayzata and create a sense of place and community. Inspiring the younger generation would be another reason to advance public art.

6. Review Current Public Art Policy

Staff summarized the existing Public Art Policy that is used to create ad-hoc committees for each new public art proposal. Staff noted that the new initiative of

creating a public art committee is focused on becoming more proactive and specific in its approach to advancing public art in Wayzata, rather than reactive and broad.

The Committee discussed that a new committee should be formed to make more consistent recommendations and work on more consistent projects. The idea of creating ad-hoc committees for each public art proposal seems too inefficient and unnecessary.

7. Discuss Current Public Art and Future Opportunities

The Committee noted that they will continue to reach out to additional residents or artists that would be beneficial to have on the PASC.

8. Determine Meeting Schedule

The Committee discussed a reoccurring meeting schedule and decided that the PASC should be held every second Monday at 5:00 pm. Since a Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for March 10, the next PASC meeting will be on Monday, March 3.

9. Adjournment