

FERGUS FALLS PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2025

The Fergus Falls Public Arts Commission (PAC) met on Thursday, February 20, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM. Members present were Kim Embretson, Lee Smalt, Brooke Barsness, Tom Rieschick, and Kim Konikow. Also, present were Naomi Schliesman, Sculpture Walk Manager and Jill Hanson City staff.

Welcome New Members

Introductions were done for Brooke Barsness, Tom Rieschick and Kim Konikow the newest PAC members.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Lee Smalt and seconded by Kim Konikow to approve the minutes from November 21, 2024 and December 6, 2024. Motion passed.

Agenda

Chair Embretson requested an addition to the agenda to continue discussing art in the Council Chambers. Lee Smalt moved, and Brooke Barsness seconded the approval of the agenda. Motion passed.

Election of Officers

Motion and second were made by Tom Rieschick and Kim Konikow to nominate Kim Embretson to continue serving as the Chair of the Public Arts Commission. Passed unanimously.

Motion and second were made by Tom Rieschick and Kim Konikow to nominate Lee Smalt to serve as Vice Chair of the Public Arts Commission. Passed unanimously.

Fergus Falls Sculpture Art Walk

Naomi Schliesman did a presentation on the results of the Open Call for Art noting it was open from January 8 to February 13 and seventeen artists submitted thirty pieces for consideration. Naomi explained the next call for art would go live in July 2025 for the 2026 applications. Naomi explained the timeline for the 2025 sculpture walk and how it will work. Brochures are being created for the sculpture walk and there will be QR codes by the sculptures. If someone were interested in purchasing a sculpture, they would work with Naomi. It was noted the current funding will last three years with six pieces displayed each year.

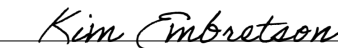
Today the PAC will review the proposals submitted and will select six sculptures based on size, materials, quality, style, design, and color to ensure a dynamic and visually engaging exhibit. Their recommendation will go to the City Council for final approval. The six selected artists will be notified on March 7, 2025 by Naomi.

Naomi showed the PAC images of the art pieces that she felt would be the best fit for the sculpture walk. The PAC also looked at the other art pieces that were submitted. There was some discussion about how the selections should complement each other. Also, selection of a few pieces that are appealing to children and possibly interactive.

Motion and second were made by Kim Konikow and Brooke Barsness to select the sculptures by Michael Finch "Guardian", Timothy Cassidy "Industry 3", Tim Nelson "Riverdale", Jon Kamrath "House Tree", Kyle Fokken "Junk Ship", and Blayze Buseth "Tom's Playful Melody". Passed Unanimously.

There was some discussion about who is responsible for the installation of the art and the maintenance of sculptures.

The next PAC meeting will be March 20, 2025, at noon. The meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM


Chair