



**Meeting of the Beautification and Public  
Art Committee  
Held at the Elk River City Hall  
Monday, March 16, 2026**

**Members Present:** Committee Member Deb Hjermstad, Committee Member Melissa McAlpine, Committee Member Nic Hahn, Councilmember J. Brian Calva, Councilmember Cory Grupa

**Members Absent:** Committee Member Ryan Hardin

**Staff Present:** Economic Development Specialist Josh Mollan

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Josh.

**2. CONSIDER AGENDA**

**Moved by Nic and seconded by Deb to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.**

**3. CONSIDER MINUTES**

**3.1 10-20-2025 BPA Minutes**

**Moved by Deb and seconded by Melissa to approve the October 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**4. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**4.1 Beautification Award Policy Review**

Josh offered the committee the opportunity to review and recommend changes to the Beautification Award policy. He advised that he will update the policy document to match the format of the Garden Gem Awards.

Nic asked if nominees could re-nominate themselves in subsequent years. She suggested the award consider projects completed in the last two years.

The committee was in consensus on that change.

Josh shared that the 2025 Beautification Award winner, Elk River Area Chamber of Commerce, inquired about an alternative prize due to their property not being laid out in a way that a bench would make sense.

J. Brian suggested looking into an engraved stone.

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Josh shared that he will price out some alternatives and bring to the committee at a future meeting.

#### 4.2 Garden Gem Awards Review

Josh offered the committee the opportunity to review and recommend changes to the Beautification Award policy. He recommended changing the timeline to have the nomination period end on June 30, garden evaluations in July, and recognition of winning gardens in August to better align with the growing season of landscape plants. He also suggested removing the mention of an additional award.

J. Brian suggested adding a 'rural' category. He was also in favor of allowing previous winners to win in subsequent years.

Nic suggested implementing a 'nominee' sign to be installed on all nominee's properties.

The committee was in consensus with the recommended changes to the policy.

#### 4.3 Public Art Planning

Josh shared that Wild Botanical Atelier had disbanded, but he had been approached by one of the members to continue to look for ways to partner.

Josh shared a potential public art opportunity by Mural Mosaic, which features community painted tiles that complete a larger mural. An 8' x 12' America 250 project is \$7,500. He also shared a potential location on the Highway 10-facing wall at Professional Karate Studios (PKS).

Nic shared that she would be willing to assist further on a project like this.

The committee was mixed on the PKS location but supportive of this type of project and suggested getting more information. The committee also preferred a custom mural, not one that would be in another community.

Josh shared that there would be an opportunity to apply for a Central Minnesota Arts Board grant in 2027 to help fund this project.

#### 4.4 General Updates

Josh shared that DERBA is looking to partner again on a downtown cleanup event on Earth Day, April 22nd.

J. Brian suggested looking into another time of the day for the event to garner more interest. He also suggested looking into food or drink options for the participants.

The committee was open to partnering again.

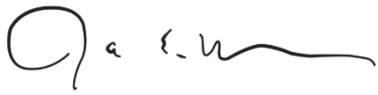
Melissa suggested discussing committee activity and event promotion at a future meeting.

### 5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Josh adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Josh Mollan.

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Josh Mollan, Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jolene Richter". The signature is cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "R".

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Jolene Richter, Deputy City Clerk