



**Meeting of the Beautification and Public
Art Committee
Held at the Elk River City Hall
Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

Members Present: Committee Member Melissa McAlpine, Committee Member Ryan Hardin, Committee Member Nic Hahn, Council Member Jennifer Wagner

Members Absent: Committee Member Deb Hjermstad

Staff Present: Economic Development Specialist Josh Mollan, and Senior Planner Chris Leeseberg

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM by Josh.

2. CONSIDER AGENDA

Moved by Ryan and seconded by Melissa to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

3. CONSIDER MINUTES

3.1 11-18-2024 Beautification and Public Art Committee Minutes

Moved by Jennifer and seconded by Ryan to approve the 11-18-2024 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 2025 Committee Activities

Beautification Award

Josh asked the committee about continuing the Beautification Award for 2025, noting there were six applications this past year, a four-year-high.

Ryan noted that the award could benefit from increased notoriety in the community. He also suggested considering a tiered award based on improvement costs.

Josh suggested a possible award prize of a dasher board or similar local sponsorship opportunity. He also suggested increasing marketing on the award.

The committee is favorable in continuing the Beautification Award for 2025 after reviewing the policy in the next couple meetings.

Public Art

Josh advised that he has been communicating with Craig Murphy, owner of the Cinema Building and the Occasional Fling building, in regard to the public art murals on both buildings. He also suggested looking into hiring a public art consultant to guide public art programming for the city. Additionally,

focusing on preserving and maintaining the existing pieces in the city such as the white deer at Handke. He suggested the committee think about a local public art grant program to assist other organizations add or repair public art.

Ryan suggested including community engagement into a future project or programming.

The committee was favorable to the idea of a small public art grant issued by the committee/EDA.

Jennifer emphasized that we have access to local experts that could assist in guiding the future of public art in Elk River.

Other

Josh reintroduced the Summer Bloom[Summer Blossom] program that Brooklyn Park runs focusing on resident and business landscapes as a potential program to adopt.

Nic suggested that if we were to do a program like that to ensure the requirements are sensitive to the high cost of landscaping.

Mel asked if this would be an extension of the Beautification Award or a separate award.

Josh advised that the committee can table this until next month to get Deb's input as the representative of the Sherburne County Master Gardeners.

4.2 General Updates

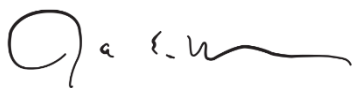
Josh asked if the committee members wanted to sign a card to be sent to Carey Dean.

Josh asked if the current cadence and timing of the meeting has been working for the group.

The committee is comfortable with the current meeting cadence and timing.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Josh adjourned the meeting at 4:41 PM.



Josh Mollan, Recording Secretary



Tina Allard, City Clerk