



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

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

Members Absent: None

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 4:31 p.m. by Josh.

The committee went around the table and offered introductions.

2. CONSIDER AGENDA

Moved by Ryan and seconded by Melissa to approve the agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

3. CONSIDER MINUTES

3.1 02-18-2025 BPA Minutes

Moved by Ryan and seconded by Nic to approve the February 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Garden Gem Awards Discussion

Josh shared the Elk River Garden Gem Award program guidelines with the committee. He noted that adoption of the program is on tonight's Economic Development Authority agenda. He clarified that the housing categories will be the responsibility of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the commercial category will be the responsibility of the EDA.

Ryan suggested using a smaller/affordable corrugated sign to put in the nominee's yard to generate more awareness of the program during the nomination period.

J. Brain asked about the nature of the award.

Josh advised that the awards will still need to be worked through, but would hopefully include a gift card to a local landscape store and a personalized garden keepsake.

4.2 Public Art Discussion

Josh is still working on the EDA public art grant. Additionally, Josh shared that he had met with Central Minnesota Arts Board and Rumriver Arts Center and have received feedback on the grant which he will still need to incorporate in the program guidelines. Josh advised that he hopes to split the judging rubric into two categories: existing art, and new art. Josh was also interested in looking further into an arts exhibition.

4.3 Beautification Award Update

Josh shared that Wayne Swart State Farm received their garden bench award. Additionally, Wayne Swart provided winner testimonial for the Beautification Award. Also, Ryan provided his committee member testimonial for the same video. Josh shared that the video should be ready by the nomination open date of May 1. He also shared that Mel updated the flyer for 2025.

4.4 General Updates

Josh shared three upcoming events:

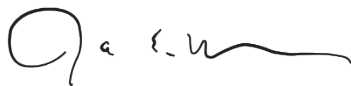
- DERBA Downtown Cleanup 4/22 9-11 a.m. in downtown Elk River
- Downtown Plan Open House 4/22 4-6 p.m. at City Hall
- Boards and Commissions Dinner 4/24 6-9 p.m. at Furniture and Things Community Event Center

Nic shared that Elk River High School is hosting Evening of the Arts this Thursday.

Deb shared that community gardens are getting ready to open. The Sherburne County Master Gardners will have an educational plot.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Josh adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.



Josh Mollan, Recording Secretary



Tina Allard, City Clerk