

# AGENDA

## PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

### ANNUAL MEETING

1:00 p.m. City Hall Conference Room

#### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

#### APPROVE MINUTES

- October 8, 2024
- November 12, 2024
- January 12, 2025

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Discuss Collaboration with Heritage Preservation Commission – Bemidji Hotel Mural Project – Region 2 Grant Received in 2023
2. Update on Meeting with Derek Bernard, GIS Coordinator (March 11 Meeting)
3. Discuss Policies and Procedures and Bylaws
4. Member Recruitment (two vacancies-city residents)

#### NEXT MEETING – TBD

#### ADJOURN

COMMISSION MEMBER BMARTHALER WILL BE ATTENDING VIA WEBEX IN THE VILLA BALBOA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, 950 CAGNEY LANE, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663 UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 13D.02

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY MONITOR THE MEETING BY ACCESSING THE REMOTE MEETING LINK ON THE CITY WEBSITE

**CITY OF BEMIDJI  
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2024, 1:00PM**

**Present:** Cindy Burger, Kristi Miller, Lisa Bruns, Paula Swenson Emelie Rivera, Lisa Jonas, Katie Carter

**Others:** Rachelle Barckholtz

Miller called the meeting to order at 1PM.

**Agenda: Approved on a motion by Burger with a second by Swenson. Motion carried.**

**Sept 10, 2024 minutes: A motion was offered with a second to approve. Motion carried.  
City Manager:**

**City Clerk:** Bemidji City Clerk, Michelle Miller, stepped in to let us know what the responsibilities are of the Arts Commission. She stated that the commission is in charge of curating public art that would be ultimately approved by the City Council. We asked specifically what the Council wanted us to do, and she suggested we look at the policies and procedures and also suggested that City Manager attend one of our meetings. We decided to invite him to the November meeting.

**Public Arts Policies and Procedures:** There was a suggestion to change the purpose statement to reflect a more proactive approach in encouraging public art and possibly redefine the definition. Additionally, are we able to engage with any of the city departments without direction from the Council? Lisa B will develop a series of questions and inquiries that we will present to the City Manager.

Time and energy will be dedicated to reviewing the ordinance, by-laws and policies and procedures. There is overlap and duplication that should be reviewed and corrected and possibly updated if/where necessary.

**Next Meeting:** November 12, 2024

**Adjourn:** With no further business to attend to, **Swenson motioned to adjourn with a second by Jonas. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted, Kristi Miller, Chair

**CITY OF BEMIDJI  
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2024**

**Present:** Cindy Burger, Kristi Miller, Lisa Bruns, Paula Swenson Emelie Rivera, Lisa Jonas  
**Absent:** Katie Carter & Marcia BMarthaler  
**Others:** Rachelle Barckholtz, Rich Spitzka

Miller called the meeting to order at 1PM.

**Agenda: Approved with the addition of the book, ‘The Annotated Mona Lisa’ discussion, on a motion by Bruns, second by Swenson. Motion carried.**

**City Manager:** City Manager, Rich Spitzka, attended to meet the Commission and to answer any questions or concerns we may have. He said our role is to be autonomous but also run things by the council for approval. We have recommendation power and he wants us to weigh in on all art pieces. However, the Council will have the end decision on art. He feels that any art that is being considered for public viewing should be vetted by the arts commission and he believes we should have dollars budgeted by the Council. Emelie will find out if the dollars allocated by the Water Dept, when they built, are still there.

**Definitions of Art and the Commission’s role:** Swenson brought “The Annotated Mona Lisa” book which gives insight into what is appropriate and acceptable art. It also affirms that art should be representative of what we want our city to be. As to going forward, we will begin to develop art guidelines to ensure that “bad” art does not appear in Bemidji. And we will begin to review our policies and procedures. We’ll start with sections, 1, 2 and 3 at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** We’ll skip December but plan to meet January 14, 2025.

**Adjourn:** With no further business to attend to, **Swenson motioned to adjourn with a second by Jonas. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted, Kristi Miller, Chair

**CITY OF BEMIDJI  
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2025**

**Present:** Cindy Burger, Kristi Miller, Lisa Bruns, Emelie Rivera, Lisa Jonas and Marcia BMarthaler via Webex  
**Absent:** Katie Carter and Paula Swenson  
**Others:** Michelle Miller

Miller called the meeting to order.

**Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Bruns with a second by Jonas with the following additions, \*member update. \*annual meeting date and \*who will take minutes. Motion carried.**

**Member Update:** Michelle reported that Katie Carter and Paula Swenson have opted out of PAC due to personal issues. That reduces us to 5 members which is still a quorum but we should recruit. Per 2-423, sec (a) of the Commission Ordinance, 3 of our members can be non-city members. Swenson lived outside the city limits as does BMarthaler.

**Annual meeting:** It was decided we'll hold our annual meeting on February 11th at which time we will elect/appoint a chair and vice chair. With no secretary or treasurer positions, per the by-laws, we will need to decide who can take minutes and type them up. The deputy clerk used to take them but that position has been eliminated. The Oct and Nov 2024 and Jan 25 minutes will be typed up by Miller.

**Policies and Procedures review:** The ordinance, by-laws and policies and procedures have overlapping rule, data and policies. Instead of spending the commission's time looking and comparing we will form an ad hoc committee at the February meeting to conduct the review and suggest changes, if needed, to the full commission.

**Art Inventory:** The first week of Feb, Lisa B and Emelie will meet with Derek Bernard who has the original inventory done in late 22 and early 23 to see what can be retrieved from it and how we can make it a useable and accessible document.

**Adjourn:** With no further business to attend to, **Jonas motioned to adjourn with a second by Burger. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted, Kristi Miller, Chair

Jan 28, 2025 from Kristi M to PAC

I'll be flying back from FL on Feb 11 so will not be in attendance.

It's the annual meeting and I'm willing to be Chair for another year if you want. If not, I'm also good with that and whether re-elected chair or not I'm also OK with taking and typing up the minute unless someone really, really wants that task.

In June 2022, Region 2 Arts granted us a 'stipend' for goals development that we originally thought we'd use to get the art inventory completed. Then a few staff were terminated and progress on the inventory stopped. Since then, we've struggled with how to utilize the money and it's going on three years.

Originally one idea was to use it to pay an artist to repaint the Bemidji Hotel letters that face the Beltrami County History Center on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. When I checked with Region 2 Arts I was told that a project such as that is more in the heritage preservation vein.

Last week I was approached by the Bemidji Heritage Commission about the lettering which they would like to have done. BTW, the owner of the building, Bob Bush, supports the idea. And I reconnected with Scott Jorgenson who originally said he'd like to use his artistry to re-paint the letters and is still game to do it now.

I feel that it would be of value to transfer the thousand to the Bemidji Heritage Commission to get this accomplished. City Manager, Rich Spiczka, said in an email to Emelie and myself that we could justify a transfer as it's a 'collaborative initiative' per one of the uses in the grant. He further said, "and using your grant to help another commission is being collaborative."

If you are so inclined to make this happen a motion is needed.

Thanks everyone, I'll check in with one of you when I get back.