



Council Conference Meeting

August 14, 2023

5:30 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

Agenda

- [1.](#) Employee Resources Update
- [2.](#) Cannabis Use in Public Places in Fridley
- [3.](#) Consideration of Public Art

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 14, 2023

Meeting Type: City Council Conference Meeting

Submitted By: Roberta Collins, Assistant to the City Manager

Title

Employee Resources Update

Background

Becca Hellegers will be providing an Employee Resources update on new hires and promoted staff within the City.

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 14, 2023

Meeting Type: City Council Conference Meeting

Submitted By: Walter T. Wysopal, City Manager

Title

Cannabis Use in Public Places in Fridley

Background

During the 2023 session, the Minnesota Legislature legalized the use and sale of cannabis. Even though the sale of these products will not become legal until January 1, 2025, possession and consumption became largely legal effective August 1, 2023. The state legislation did not specify where the use of cannabis would be allowed or prohibited with a few exceptions. Cities across the state are adopting ordinances to address the absence of prohibitions in public spaces such as parks, trails, sidewalks, and streets.

Current similar regulations by Fridley:

- Prohibits the use of tobacco in parks.
- Alcohol is permitted by City Council permit in certain parks.

Common City Language:

PROHIBITING CANNABIS USE WITHIN PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PUBLIC PLACES

PUBLIC PLACE - Property that is generally open to or accessible by the public, except on those premises licensed by the State of Minnesota to permit on-site consumption.

PUBLIC PROPERTY - Property owned, leased, or controlled by a governmental unit including the City but does not include: (1) a private residence, including the person's curtilage or yard; (2) private property not generally accessible to the public unless the person is explicitly prohibited from consuming cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products on the property by the owner of the property; or (3) the premises of an establishment or event licensed to permit on-site consumption.

Public places include but are not limited to city buildings and all the land thereon, parking lots, parks, pathways, trails, city rights-of-way consisting of both the traveled portion and the abutting boulevard, sidewalks and trails, and any city personal property, such as motor vehicles, city equipment, and the like.

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PROHIBITION - No person shall use cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products within public property or in a public place.

PENALTY - A violation of this section is a petty misdemeanor.

EXCEPTIONS:

- Upon proof of a person with a medical registry as defined by Minnesota Statute § 342.01, subd. 66.
- The sale at city-owned liquor stores.

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 14, 2023

Meeting Type: City Council Conference Meeting

Submitted By: Walter T. Wysopal, City Manager

Title

Consideration of Public Art

Background

As a part of the planning for the Civic Campus, the City considered public art for the Campus development. A draft of a preliminary report was prepared by Forecast Public Art and was meant to inform on the overall development of the campus. Unfortunately, construction costs needed to be reduced, and consideration for public art was ended.

Recently, staff has been approached by a resident with interests of reviving the idea of public art in the City and not limited to the Civic campus. Sufficient funding for one art installation was pledged, provided an overall plan could first be developed for the City.

One request was to have themes developed with public input so as to assure future art installations would truly represent Fridley. Therefore, staff sought the input of several consultants to help facilitate a community outreach process. Over the years, staff has had success with the Corridor Development group in facilitating public input (Park Improvement Plan, HWYs 65/47, Civic Campus, Gateway Development).

Proposal

We are suggesting the following three workshops:

Workshop I: Gathering Ideas for a Fridley Public Art Plan

Thursday, September 7, 2023

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Ave NE, Fridley, MN 55432

When it comes to public art what do we already have, and what could further enhance the community? Learn about examples of public art and discuss potential themes, opportunities, and potential problems.

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Workshop II: Panel Discussion: Learning from Other City Public Art Initiatives

Thursday, September 21, 2023

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Ave NE, Fridley, MN 55432

A panel of cities that have initiated their own public art plans will be on hand to share their process, results, and lessons learned. What will it take to advance a public art plan that the community supports?

Workshop III: Create Final Recommendations

Thursday, October 5, 2023

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Ave NE, Fridley, MN 55432

Help define the recommendations for Fridley's public art plan, which will be submitted to the Fridley City Council and Planning Commission.

Attachment:

- Preliminary Report for Public Art prepared by Forecast Public Art (February 2, 2017)

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Forecast Public Art

Fridley Civic Campus Public Art Overlay Map

Draft Feb. 2, 2017

Introduction

In September 2016, the City of Fridley hired Forecast Public Art, a Twin Cities-based nonprofit, to perform a site analysis of its planned Civic Campus project and identify key opportunities for integrating or adding public art to the project. In addition to visiting the site and meeting with the architects, Jack Becker, Forecast's lead consultant, reviewed plans for the buildings and the surrounding campus. He created a Public Art Overlay Map, identifying several opportunities for public art, and drafted the following document to serve as a guide to implement public art programming at the site.

Vision Statement

The Fridley Civic Campus is meant to be accessible to—and used by—all Fridley residents, including people of all ages, backgrounds, and ethnic origins. ***Arts and cultural programming at Fridley's Civic Campus, with a focus on public art, will reinforce the city's identity as a welcoming place that cares about the community, the environment, and culture.*** Strategically planned and developed public art projects and programming at the Civic Campus should celebrate its proximity to nature and serve as a transition between the busy urban environment of University Avenue and the tranquil Rice Creek area (and trails), one of the city's valued amenities. At least one project should honor the history of the site as the home of the Columbia Arena, a renowned and beloved cultural facility.

Program Overview

The creation of this bold new civic campus for the City of Fridley offers the potential to establish a central core for the entire city, a suburban city that has long lacked a geographical focal point, a civic commons. Designed by BKV Group, it features a city hall, public safety facility, fire station, public works facility, parking areas, a pond, a multiuse plaza and amphitheater, and walkways inviting strolling throughout the site. Future adjacent private development will bring dozens of residential units to the site, as well as some commercial space.

BKV Group's sensitive design honors nature through the use of natural materials, plantings, the inclusion of a storm water pond, and the scaling of building mass. The sprawling 33 acre site lends itself to exploration and relaxation. In addition to commissioning integrated, custom-designed artworks throughout the built environment, Forecast recommends that the City of Fridley support indoor and outdoor opportunities for temporary art installations and art activities at key locations. Across University, the Community Park offers recreational fields and facilities that complement the Civic Campus. This area may be taken into account for expanded programming in the future.

Long term, the civic campus and accompanying private development should be seen as phase one of the development of a larger urban core for the city of Fridley. Connecting with the

Community Park via an attractive pedestrian bridge should be considered, along with targeted in-fill development along University to augment the limited commercial and retail offerings provided at the Civic Campus.

List of Opportunities (corresponding with numbers on Overlay Map)

1. New Cell Tower Design

- If a new tower is being installed on the site, or the old tower is being moved to a site that is highly visible within the campus, it is desirable to have it be as attractive as possible. What are the opportunities for painting the tower, adding fabric banners to it, or having some type of sculptural elements added to make it unique, or say something about the Fridley community? (Task: Identify contact with Cell tower owner and set meeting to discuss. Perhaps they would pay for artistic treatment as a community PR strategy. The cost for this would vary, depending on the options available.) Priority: HIGH



2. Exhibition Space in City Hall

- The walls and floor space can be easily retrofitted to accommodate artworks displayed on a rotating basis. Having plywood backing on the walls, and track lighting would enable a wide variety of exhibit types. Providing a few pedestals or plexi-covered cases would allow for 3D works to be displayed, such as ceramics, small sculptures, etc. (Task: Request design modifications from BKV to maximize display areas, including adding a movable wall unit. The cost for lights and display cases would range from \$5,000-\$8,000.) Priority: HIGH



3. Exterior mural for City Hall (Glass Art or Mural for Council Chambers)

- This site, facing University Avenue, offers the greatest potential to reach a high volume of audiences driving by City Hall, as well as create a welcoming face on the new building. This 20x50 foot surface (with adequate lighting for night viewing), could be designed, fabricated and installed in conjunction with the building construction, and be in place in time for the building opening. The advantages of glass art include high impact, both inside and outside, and virtually no maintenance. Involving community input during the design phase could be part of the criteria. (Task: the art glass mural, if designed in advance, can replace all or some of the windows planned, and that budget could be applied toward the art glass budget. The cost could range from \$40,000 to \$100,000, depending on the surface area utilizing specialty glass). Priority: HIGH (alternative is to apply translucent colored vinyl art to the standard windows once they are installed.)



4. Street art/ street painting for plaza

- The exterior plaza surface behind City Hall—which doubles as overflow parking—and the stage area adjacent to the pond offer an unusual “canvas” for creative treatment. The ground surface could be painted with paints used to stripe streetscapes, which is low cost and long lasting. It could also be used for street painting festivals, using washable tempura paints or chalks. The design criteria could include removability for future flexibility of the site. (Task: Develop Call for artists inviting ideas, if approved. The budget could range from \$5,000 - \$15,000. It could be organized as a community street painting festival with lead artists overseeing). Priority: LOW



5. Floating Fountain (main pool)

- The main pool of the ponds is highly visible and will become a focal point of the campus. A water feature that floats in the middle of the pond and spray water, moves in the wind, and includes lighting or kinetic movement would be a big attraction. The sculpture could also include a bubbler to help oxygenate the pond. (Task: Develop RFQ for sculpture commission. The cost would range from \$35,000-50,000). Priority: MEDIUM



6. Seating Elements (10-20 benches)

- A key art opportunity to add art and meet functional needs of the site is commissioning artists to design and build benches or seating elements that instantly add charm, whimsy and character to the civic campus. Criteria could include inspiring “selfies” so visitors take photos and share them via social media. (Task: Develop Call for Artists, with details about materials, criteria, and locations. The cost per bench is about \$8,000, including installation. A lower cost alternative is to purchase benches that can be painted by artists.) Priority: HIGH (seating decision is needed soon by BKV).



7. Art Wall (replacing cedar fencing)

- The screen wall surrounding the Public Works facility offers an opportunity to provide an artistic enhancement on a structure that will be built as part of the construction. One option is to replace the cedar fencing with a wire mesh fence that can be augmented by artists, using fabric, metals, lighting, and even recycled materials from the public works facility itself. The art could utilize the entire screen wall, or the portion that is most visible to audiences occupying the plaza and amphitheater. (Task: Revise current plan for cedar fence to be replaced with wire mesh screen. Develop Call for Artist, with specifications and criteria. The cost—not including the wall itself—would range from \$10,000-40,000 depending on the scale of the project, materials used, and if lighting is integrated.) Priority: HIGH (if change of materials is desired, BKV needs change order ASAP).



8. Pavilion art /drinking fountain

- A park pavilion is envisioned as an anchor to the campus, adjacent to University Avenue. The design of the pavilion could be standard, as if out of a catalog, or it could be the result of an artist/architect collaboration, and stand out as a symbol of Fridley—a welcoming place that builds community. The structure offers a gathering place, a respite, and an opportunity to tell Fridley’s story. A drinking fountain should be considered as an amenity here, reinforcing the pavilion’s role as a restorative spot. While funding may not be in place to build the pavilion now, the site can be prepared with power, plumbing and footings, and a design competition could help leverage private sector sponsorship, if desired. (Task: Request BKV prep the site and lay foundation for the future pavilion, assuming a hexagonal or circular pad. Draft an RFQ for a Design Competition, and involve MN AIA in the process. The cost of the design is about \$10,000). Priority: MEDIUM



9. Floating Fountain (small pool)

- The smaller of the two ponds could accommodate a sculptural fountain, a vertical element visible from University Avenue, and provide an additional attraction to visitors. It could complement the floating artwork in the large pond, or provide a contrasting statement. Consider a specialty pump and nozzle to create a vertical jet of water that spurts on a timer that is unpredictable, using fiber optic lighting, increasing its impact during evening hours. (Task: Develop RFQ for sculpture or water jet commission. The cost would range from \$20,000-30,000). Priority: MEDIUM



10. Mosaic/mural on retaining wall of pond

- The design of the ponds includes a two-foot vertical concrete edge that meanders along the water for a considerable distance. Rather than leave the concrete blank and cold, a mosaic treatment could be applied that enlivens the edge of the pond, and inspires walking around the entire site to view it. Beyond colorful and low maintenance, the artwork may consider the use of quotes, a nature theme, or some other inspiration drawn from the history of the site. (Task: Develop RFQ for mosaic commission. The cost would range from \$25,000-30,000). Priority: MEDIUM



11. Grid of poles for lights, sound and planters

- To maximize the potential of the plaza and the amphitheater site, a modest grid of slender poles could be installed that serve multiple functions that enable a broad range of programming on the site. They could provide lighting, sound, hanging planters, and an infrastructure, using cables overhead, for fabric art or banners. The grid, once it's in use, transforms the site into a festive environment, and attracts partner organizations seeking to program on the site. (Task: Request design modifications from BKV to incorporate poles into the site plan and construction documents, including power and sound cabling. These could replace several existing light poles, or be added to lighting system already planned. Once in place, an artist can be hired to create fabric canopy, to be changed out annually. The cost for the pole system would vary depending on how many poles are added to the existing system, plus the cost of wiring, sound system, and related treatments.) Priority: MEDIUM



Implementation Work Plan

- Artist/art selection
 - Early on, Forecast advises the City to engage a consultant in facilitating the process of artist identification and selection, involving a community-based stakeholder group as a Selection Committee. This group of volunteer citizens should include expertise in design, art, community history, the architects, city planner, a City Council representative, and a Fridley resident/community representative.
- Project management
 - While the City does not currently have staff devoted to programming the site, Forecast recommends that the city allocate a modest sum of \$12,000 per year for programming support, and secure non-profit partners in the community to provide programming designed to reach and serve Fridley's broad and

increasingly diverse population. For example, the Banfil Locke Art Center could help organize temporary art exhibits inside city hall. The YMCA could offer yoga classes in the community room, etc.

Phasing art projects over time:

Start-up Phase:

- Determine priority projects and budgets available
- Revise or refine BKV construction documents to accommodate art at key locations
- Engage consultant to manage call for artists and selection process (and assist city with contracting process)
- Host forum for potential programming partners, and based on interest and commitment, develop master calendar and list of support services needed by partners
- Establish protocols for City staff liaison to partner organizations and artists creating works on site.

Commission Phase

- Work with consultant to select artists on specific projects
- Monitor design process, with input from BKV and city engineer, facilities management staff, and city attorney (as needed)
- Monitor fabrication and installation phases for each project
- Develop and implement communications plan for entire art initiative, and for specific projects (work with city staff involved in communications). This may include a dedication event.
- Document process and provide periodic reports to City Council
- Establish maintenance plan for each artwork, with input from artist and conservator

Programming Phase

- Oversee scheduling of art activities and programming based on partnership agreements and master calendar.
- Produce communications template to maximize visibility for each program taking place, including city calendar, and promotional support from partner organizations

Evaluation Phase

- Establish benchmarks and project criteria against which an evaluative process can be structured.
- Engage an outside evaluator to engage periodically with the process, observe and record the steps taken, and ask questions of key stakeholders.
- An evaluative report should be presented to the City Council after the first year, with recommendations regarding what worked, what didn't, what improvements could be made, etc.