

BEMIDJI PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

**Council Chambers
City Hall – 317 4th Street NW
1:00 PM**



CALL MEETING TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVE MINUTES

- 1) February 10, 2026

BUSINESS

- 2) 2025 Annual Report
- 3) Report on Trash Can Painting Project
- 4) Report on Wastewater Treatment Plant Mural

NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

CITY OF BEMIDJI
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING
Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2026

Present: Cindy Burger, Lisa Jonas, Kristi Miller, Lisa Bruns & Emelie Rivera

Absent: Marcia BMarthaler and Sandy Henson

Others: Michelle Miller, City Clerk and Scott Schroeder Parks & Trail Dept.

K Miller called the meeting to order at 1PM.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Burger with a second by Jonas after adding Scott Schroeder from Parks and Trails. Motion carried.

Minutes: The Sept 9, 2025 minutes were approved on a motion by Burger with a second by Bruns. Motion carried.

A moment of silence and retrospection was taken to honor and remember past member and fantastic artist, Paula Swenson, for what she added to PAC and the community through her art and her humanity.

Election of officers: Miller opened the floor for nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Burger nominated Bruns for Chair, Jonas as V. Chair and Miller for Secretary. With no objections, Burger then motioned to approve the nominations with a second by Bruns. Motioned carried.

Membership: There's one vacancy on the commission either from within or outside the city limits.

Project updates

Downtown kiosks: Bruns stated that Region 2 granted \$5,582 towards the Bemidji Downtown Alliance to request pieces of art that will be vinylized and placed on the 5 additional downtown kiosks. Because the grant was just received, it will likely be at least 9 months to a year before all parts of the process are completed. PAC can be a partner in art curation if needed or desired.

Mural on Wastewater Treatment Plant: Emelie talked with City Engineer, Sam Anderson, who said there were dollars within the Enterprise Fund associated with sewer, water and stormwater runoff to clean up the wastewater treatment plant mural originally painted by Wesley May.

Art inventory: It still exists but needs to be updated.

Miller will work on the 2025 annual report to the council and have it at the March meeting for approval.

Parks: Director Scott Schroeder reported that they would like to see art on some of the garbage can lids in the parks and have input from the commission on it. There are 11 parks and 19 green spaces. One worry is that the art will get vandalized which is probably inevitable but we should go forward whenever possible.

Next meeting is March 10, 2026.

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

Respectfully submitted: Kristi Miller, Chair

2025 Bemidji Public Arts Commission Annual Report



Bemijigamaag.

The Public Arts Commission re-appointed Kristi Miller as Chair and Cindy Burger as Vice Chair in 2025 at their annual meeting held in February. K Miller will also serve as Secretary to take and submit minutes.

- Two of our members, Katie Carter and Paula Swenson have opted out of PAC but we picked up Sandy Henson and now are just one member short. That person can reside either in or out of the city limits. Long time member and terrific artist, Paula Swenson, sadly passed away earlier this year, 2026.
- A couple wording changes were made to the Policies and Procedures. 'Procedures' was dropped so the section is simply, 'Policies'. In section 3, values was dropped so it's now just 'Goals'. Page 4; with the Greater Bemidji Planning Board no longer in existence, it was replaced by 'City of Bemidji Planning Board'. These changes were approved at the May 13, 2025 meeting. It did not look like any changes were needed in the By-laws.
- The art inventory is now with Derek Bernard from GIS and he reported that he has made it user friendly to our members. We can take pictures of the sculptures and other art in town and submit to him for inclusion in the file.
- The Wesley May mural on the wastewater treatment building has faded and we're trying to determine who can brighten it up, what needs to happen, how much and could Wesley May do it if we can contact him? This is still being worked out.
- John Eggers contacted K. Miller about placing a peace pole somewhere in Bemidji. It is 4'X4' by 8' tall. Michelle Miller mentioned that maybe one of the parks would be a good placement. Further calls to Mr. Eggers have gone unanswered.

- There is still interest in re-painting the lettering on the south side of the old Bemidji Hotel at 1st and MN Ave. The Heritage Commission is interested in collaborating on this and we still have that Region 2, **THOUSAND DOLLARS**, in the general fund hopefully, that could be used however the cost appears to be much higher than that. If someone could coordinate this, it may be possible to enlist volunteers, other area arts organizations as well as our commission members to make it happen. With possible development in the railway corridor maybe there could be coordination with a couple entities on this project.

- In 2022 PAC was granted a \$1,000 stipend from Region 2 Arts Council to develop goals, objectives and collaborative initiatives. It can also be used for capital improvements that will support art access, education, and arts and cultural heritage activity. To date we have not utilized it, however *section 2-430, Arts Fund of the **PAC ordinance**, passed on March 19-2012, states: A special fund shall be established by the city for the purpose of collecting and retaining funds from public and private sources for public arts projects. The general tax levy of the City of Bemidji shall not be the revenue source for this special fund.* We're very aware of limited dollars available when developing the budget but wanted to clarify that the ordinance states that a special fund "shall" be established.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Miller, Chair