

# City of Valdez

*212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686*



## DRAFT - Meeting Minutes

**Monday, July 21, 2025**

**5:00 PM**

**Regular Meeting**

**City Council Chambers**

**Beautification Commission**

**REGULAR AGENDA - 5:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair McCay called the regular meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Present** 5 - Magdalena McCay  
Kathy Nielsen  
Meg Weaver  
Timi Miner

**Excused** 1 - Donna Lane

**Also Present** Elise Sorum-Birk

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. **Approval of Minutes for Beautification Commission Meeting of May 5, 2025**
2. **Approval of Minutes for Beautification Commission Meeting of November 11, 2023**
3. **Approval of Minutes for Beautification Commission Meeting of January 26, 2023**

The minutes were approved by consent.

**IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Discussion Item: Moving Commission Priorities Forward/ City Projects Process**

City Manager Nate Duval presented an overview of the city project process. Duval noted that the overall process had evolved to include capital projects within the city's annual budget, highlighting the impact of limited funding on scope and timeline of projects and sharing updates on implementation of a new planning software program, and gave an overview of the ranking process and appropriations process. He suggested that, due the current funding restrictions, commission develop a set of criteria applicable to all city projects related to aesthetic considerations rather than having beautification specific projects.

Questions and discussion by the commission included:

- Timeline for software implementation.
- The status and location of the prior long range plan spreadsheet.
- Options for the commission to provide feedback either on specific projects or wholistic

project criteria.

- Possible impacts of a future public art policy on projects.
- Benefits of programs such as the 1% for art at the state level.
- Development of different approaches for how the commission could advocate.
- How to be intentional about scope of involvement in projects.
- Status of wayfinding efforts.
- Addressing maintenance needs of prior beautification driven projects and proactively assigning responsibility for maintenance.

**2. Discussion Item: Follow-up on Needed Repairs to Concrete Seat Walls and Decorative Planters on Egan Dr.**

Discussion on the topic of repair needed to damage on concrete seat walls included:

- Need for ownership of seat wall upkeep by a department.
- Existing agreement with the state for upkeep of Egan Drive items.
- Challenges with limitation of state resources.
- Design options for the seat walls including removal of lip to reduce future damage or making removable tops.
- The major damage of the seat wall near the Post Office.
- Past repairs by the Public Works Department being limited to damage incurred by the city.

**3. Discussion Item: Updating Application Guidelines and Eligibly Criteria for 2026 Beautification Matching Grant Program**

The commission determined that a work session would be a more productive venue for discussion of the grant program application and overall program. Interest was expressed in finding ways to gather additional input from businesses, including the possible use of Flash Vote.

**VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair McCay adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.