



City of North St. Paul Arts &
Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2021

6:30 PM

The Arts & Culture Commission Meeting was conducted on October 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting location was the Sandberg Room at City Hall, located at 2400 Margaret St., North St. Paul.

I. Call to Order

Tom Sonnek, Chair - Here
Trudy Ohnsorg, Vice Chair - Here
Julie Barre - Absent
Carey Nadeau - Here
Stacy Maher - Here
Lisa Wong - Here

II. Adopt Agenda

Tom Sonnek requested to move Item: VI (Meeting Open to the Public) up after Item III (Approval of the Minutes.)

On motion by Commissioner ~~Ohnsberg~~Ohnsorg, seconded by Commissioner Maher with all present voting aye, motion carried to adopt the agenda with the proposed change order: Adopt Agenda/Approve Minutes/Meeting open to the Public

III. Approval of Minutes

A. September 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the September 15th meeting minutes by Commissioner Ohnsorg and seconded by Commissioner Nadeau, with all present voting aye (5-0). Motion carried.

IV. Meeting Open to the Public

There was not anyone from the public in attendance.

V. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

A. Planned exposure with other governmental agencies
(setting dates for attending commission/council meetings)

Tom informed the commission that he is able to go to the council meeting and give a brief speech to introduce the Arts & Culture commission. Tom then referred to the A3 Directional worksheet for review and discussion focusing on x1 Directional Statement – Broad Collaborative Representation 3 – Inter-governmental Connectivity. Lisa Wong indicated there are people on the council that have connections and may know of resources for funding. She suggested also contacting our Senators. The commission decided the Directional Input Purpose for Inter-governmental Connectivity is: exposure, collaboration, connection, buy-in, communication. The commission discussed collaboration options. Lisa Wong stated the Parks & Rec commission budget for next year is being discussed and there is money allocated for signage. This could be an area of collaboration. She also indicated that Brian Frandle also knows of all electrical boxes in the city which could be considered for future art. Trudy inquired about connecting with the planning commission? Tom thinks Art falls outside of their realm. Lisa Wong stated the planning commission would need to be consulted when it comes to placement and size but the actual content (freedom of speech) is not within their jurisdiction. Trudy stated it becomes “signage when a business sponsors it and it’s related to the business in a very specific way”. Tom concurred. He suggested considering these as exposure, communication and connection. Asking, “How can the commission in the next couple of months have initial connections with the groups listed under Inter-governmental Connectivity on the worksheet. How can we collaborate, where do they see the connectivity with us?” Tom suggested going to a council meeting as well as the other commission meetings to introduce the Arts & Culture commission. Informing them of what the Art Commission is trying to do and what our direction is. Tom suggested getting into a Council Workshop agenda (which will allow for more back and forth conversation) and the following week doing a presentation. Trudy suggested creating short list of questions that would inspire feedback and conversation.

Moving forward with action items, Tom asked Lisa Wong to see if the Arts & Culture commission could get on a Council Workshop agenda. (Lisa Ritchie was asked to follow up on whether or not there will be a Council meeting on Nov 2nd as that is an election date.) The commission agreed to attending the following meetings: (Carey will create a Power Point presentation)

10/19 – Council Workshop – Tom will present

(A Special Arts & Culture Commission meeting will be scheduled at 6:30 on 10/19 to discuss how the workshop went)

10/21 – Joint EDA & Planning Commission – Trudy will present

10/27 – Parks & Rec Commission – Stacy will present

11/3 – Regular Arts & Culture Commission meeting

11/16 – Council Meeting – Tom will present

It was brought to the commissions attention that the homework assigned in the previous meeting did not get forwarded to the 10/6 agenda so would be moved to the 11/3 agenda.

- Trudy – Report on murals
- Carey – Report on Mankato murals – No response from Mankato but does have information on grants.
- Stacey – Report on Roseville city art
- Set goals for 2022 and determine “Home run” project

B. Foundational Plan to determine priorities

The commission had decided on “To inspire connection and community through the development of public ~~are-art~~ and cultural expression” for their Overall Work Direction Purpose. Tom asked the commission for their opinion on the 4 proposed Directional Statements. Trudy was not a fan of the proposed x2 Directional Statement “Steady” Funding Sources and suggested “Sustainable” rather than “Steady”. Stacey suggested replacing “Collaborative” artists & Ideas with “Inclusive”. Trudy was not a fan of “Inclusive” and proposed “Inspiring”. The commission wasn’t sold on “Inspiring” either and continued to discuss. They agreed x3 Directional Statement should be “Exceptional Engaging Artists & Ideas”. The commission agreed the newly proposed 4 Directional Statements were good and moved on to the elements within the Directional Inputs to ensure everyone agreed on the lists and there wasn’t anything missing. Trudy suggested adding “Image Wrap’s” to the list of Project Types. Stacy proposed “Interactive” to replace “Hands-on” and the commission agreed they like that better. “Residents-at-Large” was proposed by Stacy and added to x3 Directional Statement, Artists. Lisa Wong suggested “Review the purchasing policy” as an item under Funding Allocation which was unanimously agreed upon. Project Management was added to x4 Directional Statement. The discussion shifted to a conversation about Commission support and staff. Asking the question “Who does support the other commissions execute their plans?” Tom and Lisa gave a brief summary of the past year and the current transition. Tom stated project management is a critical piece and the commission will need support from staff. Tom stated the subject would need to be presented to the Council during the workshop. Onboarding the Arts & Culture commission naturally creates a need for the support as the volunteer commissioners will not be able to execute all plans and there will be a cost associated with it. Tom stated the commission has a lot of work ahead of themselves to flush everything out and figure out the details of the A3 Direction worksheet.

VI. Reports from Staff

None

VII. Reports from Commissioners

Trudy recommended reading the article she had emailed to everyone. Lisa Wong reported she is the council liaison for the planning commission and they are reviewing/updating sign ordinances. Carey reminded the commission of the vote coming up and explained what is on the ballot and how your vote will impact the school district. Trudy stated she would like to use Smart Sheets as a collaborative platform. Tom asked Lisa Ritchie to add Smart Sheet training to the November agenda and to also find out if the commission is allowed to use it.

VIII. Adjournment

Tom entertained a motion to adjourn. Trudy moved it and Stacey seconded the motion with all present voting aye (5-0) Meeting adjourned at 8:39