

The October 19, 2021 Arts and Culture Commission meeting was held at City Hall, 2400 Margaret Street, North Saint Paul

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Chair Tom Sonnek-here
Co-chair Trudy Ohnsorg-here
Commissioner Julie Barret-ill
Commissioner Carey Nadeau-here
Commissioner Stacey Maher-here

No council representatives or city staff were present as there was a competing city council workshop session.

III. Adopt agenda

On motion by co-chair Maher, seconded by commissioner Nadeau ~~will~~with all present voting aye, motion carried to adopt agenda.

IV. Approval of minutes-none

V. Meeting open to public

There was no one from the public in attendance.

VI. There were no public hearings.

VII. Commission business, action items, and recommendations

A. Review strengths and opportunities of presentation and discussion held with Council.

Consensus that the presentation to council workshop went well, the foundational A3 document set the stage for how to talk about who we are and what we plan to do. Feedback from the council was overall positive and supportive. Specific notes included: redefining the downtown, add value to the city, make it more of a destination and not a drive-by, murals (S. Carolina example), make the city more unique, updated banners. Councilmember Peterson mentioned the past Arts Commission with Jan Walczak, and was excited to see this coming back to the city. Councilmember Thorsen talked about how, to him, NSP has always meant the snowman, Neumann's, car show, and sports. How do you capitalize on that in a subjective media he will leave to the commission, and what is the process to add art to the city? Response was that process was still being worked out and there would be more to come. Councilperson Wong suggested updating the electrical boxes around town in some sort of art. Mayor Furlong mentioned the new restaurant that would be coming to town and how to partner with businesses in bringing art to the city. Interim City Manager suggested classes at City Hall for interested individuals or led by the creative staff who work in the city. Commissioner Ohnsorg commented that we should remember giving credit to the past work done in the city in reference to Councilmember Peterson's comment. Important to partner with and learn from

the people who did this long ago. Commissioner Ohnsorg also brought up a point to consider how we facilitate intergovernmental collaboration in future interactions/presentations.

B. Discuss and decide upon changes to presentation for upcoming meetings

Overall discussion concluded the presentation met needs of the commission for now, potential for future updates as the commission continues refining processes. Confirmed the next presentations would be Thursday, 10/21 at 6:30 pm in council chambers for Economic Development/Planning co-meeting, and 10/27 at 6:30 pm for the Parks and Rec Commission meeting.

VIII. Old business-none

IX. Reports from staff-none

X. Reports from Commissioners-

Commissioner ~~Ohnsorg~~ Ohnsorg shared her visit to the Red Wing Art Fair last weekend, and her experience with [SPRAYFINGER](#), which is a local nonprofit dedicated to teaching kids how to do graffiti education and the art of creative lettering. This could be a potential avenue for both engaging the kids of NSP in the art-making process. She also noticed the Red Wing Arts Council had a booth at the fair with a white board asking for ideas, suggestions, etc. Discussion idea: booth for NSP Arts and Culture Commission at the Car Show?

Commissioner Maher reported on the Roseville Flowers: the [Visitor's Center](#) handled that project, which involves their own foundation that sustains and organized the process. Check out the website—it's a resource in itself to the art and work of the city. Discussion included potential to partner with high school students in helping the commission build a website or online destination to learn more about who we are and what we do.

Commissioner Nadeau reminded about the [vote 11.2](#), and shared the amazing NSP-related items in the upcoming 622 Education Foundation's [silent auction](#)—including a backstage tour of the [NSP SNOWMAN!!](#)

Chair Sonnek mentioned keeping eyes open around downtown and as you see a place that might work as a “canvas” for a future project, take a picture and note where it is. He will also be in [CLUE at Lakeshore Players](#) this season.

XI. Reports from council liaison-none

XII. Adjournment.

Moved at 6pm by Maher, seconded by ~~Ohnsorg~~ Ohnsorg, all in favor voting aye.