

City of North Saint Paul
Arts & Culture Commission Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2022

6:30 PM

I. Call to Order

Chair Sonnek called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

II. Roll Call

Tom Sonnek, Chair

Carey Nadeau, Commissioner

Stacy Maher, Commissioner

Emily Haeg Nguyen, Commissioner – absent

See Yang, Commissioner

Lisa Wong, Council Member

Staff

Sara Lang, Commission Secretary

III. Adopt Agenda

On motion by Commissioner Maher, seconded by Commissioner Nadeau, with all present voting aye (4-0), Commissioner Nguyen Absent, motion carried to recommend approval of the agenda.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the 10/05/22 Meeting Minutes – amended

B. Approval of the 11/02/22 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Nadeau, seconded by Commissioner Maher, with all present voting aye (4-0), Commissioner Nguyen absent, motion carried to recommend approval of the minutes for both the October 5 and November 2, 2022 meetings.

V. Meeting Open to the Public

Lisa Ritchie addressed the commission with an update on sponsoring a paint party. The Commission would have to put together an RFP for the American Legion on its proposal, but the Legion is open to the idea. At first the commission looked at Casey Lake but ran into an issue with a liquor license. It would not be a problem if it's at the Legion. This would benefit the Legion and would be a fundraiser for the arts commission. Sara Lang, commission secretary, reported

canvasses, paints and brushes have been ordered. Tabletop easels would still be needed. Ms. Lang will purchase those in the 2022 budget. Participants are typically charged a fee. Chair Sonnek suggested making the event low-cost, possibly charging more for non-residents. There was a proposal to have this event quarterly. The commission decided to wait until the January meeting to set details. Commissioner Yang offered to put together a proposal for the January 4, 2022 meeting.

VII. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

A. Project Snowy Update/2023 Projection

The Commission recapped discussion on this project from previous meetings including some changes in terminology ("sponsorship") and the flyer based on city attorney recommendations and the involvement of the business association. Commissioners decided to be ready to approve the flyer at the January meeting and submit it to the city attorney for review before finding buyers for Snowy statues and putting out a call for artists. The commission discussed the possibility of having some of the statues painted during the planned car shows in June and will reach out to Tracy Luther for space to paint. There was a discussion on how many Snowy's can fit in the space and if the artists will have access to the space during their own time, which Chair Sonnek will confirm. A possible timeline would be to accept artist proposals until the end of April and select artists in early May. Purchasers should be able to select their Snowy design/artist. Purchasers will also be able to donate their statue to the city if they choose. Once the Snowy is delivered to its location, it is now the buyer's responsibility if it needs to be moved. Turnaround time for producing Snowy statues is about two weeks. The commission will also assemble a subcommittee for this project at the January meeting and may need to plan a special meeting for the commission.

B. 2022 Budget Update

B - 1 Utility Box Wrapping

Ms. Lang reported that so far the commission has expended \$2,600 out of a \$7,000 budget so there is money available. She contacted the electric department and learned there are six to ten boxes available to wrap. Chair Sonnek said he collected examples of the types of images available for these boxes. The wraps most likely can't be installed until spring due to weather. It was initially hoped to have some of the wraps come out of the 2022 budget. Commissioner Maher suggested entering into a contract for some of the wraps and paying for them out of the 2022 budget and then finalizing designs later. It was noted the design and size could impact the price. Chair Sonnek said he could contact companies who do this kind of work but he was not hopeful of getting this done in the 2022 budget. He

suggested there may also need to be a sub-group on the utility box wraps which can be established at the January 2023 meeting.

B - 2 Peachjar Expenditure

The flyer (to recruit student commission members) was posted by the school district at no charge therefore there is no need to spend money on this.

C. 2023 Objectives Planning

Chair Sonnek identified the following projects for 2023. It was suggested to have a discussion on how to activate each project at the January meeting. It was emphasized that there is a need for subcommittees to work on these projects.

1. Project Snowy
2. Utility Box Wraps
3. Possible Mural Project
4. Paint and Sip
5. Art Cart
6. Fall Frolic-type event only not in the fall

VIII. Old Business

A. Student Representative

The Commission used Peachjar to promote the opportunity to be a student representative to the Arts and Culture Commission. The flyer has also been posted on the City of North St. Paul's social media and newsletter. There have been no applicants. The Commission decided to have Commissioner Maher reach out to the high school art teachers directly.

IX. Reports from Staff

Ms. Lang reported on the new hire in the Community Development department, Chris Cherne. Ms. Lang also noted that the city cannot use the website to solicit donations and all such pages have been removed including the Amazon page for the Arts and Culture Commission and the Park Fund donation request on utility bills. Brandy Howe was introduced to commissioners as the city's new Community Development Director.

X. Reports from Commissioners

None.

XI. Reports from Council Liaison

Council Member Wong reported that the City Council had its Truth in Taxation meeting the previous evening and approved a levy increase allocated to raising staff to pre-pandemic levels, infrastructure and police/fire.

XII. Adjournment

On motion by Commissioner Nadeau, seconded by Commissioner Yang, with all present voting aye (4-0), Commissioner Nguyen absent, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Chair Sonnek adjourned the Arts & Culture meeting at 7:58 PM

The next regularly scheduled Arts & Culture Commission meeting is January 4, 2022