

City of North Saint Paul
Arts & Culture Commission Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023

6:30 PM

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Sonnek called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

II. Roll Call

Tom Sonnek, Chair

Carey Nadeau, Commissioner

Stacy Maher, Commissioner

Emily Haeg Nguyen, Commissioner – excused absence

See Yang, Commissioner

Lisa Ritchie, Commissioner

Amanda Black, Commissioner

Lisa Wong, Council Member

Staff

Sara Lang, Commission Secretary

Chair Sonnek welcomed the two new commission members, Amanda Black and Lisa Ritchie, and invited them to introduce themselves.

III. Adopt Agenda

On motion by Commissioner Nadeau, seconded by Commissioner Maher, with all present voting aye (6-0), Commissioner Nguyen absent, motion carried to adopt the agenda as presented.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the 12/07/22 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Maher, seconded by Commissioner Ritchie, with all present voting aye (6-0), Commissioner Nguyen absent, motion carried to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2022 meeting.

V. Meeting Open to the Public

There was no public input.

VI. Public Hearing

None

VII. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

A. Election of Officers

A - 1 Election of Chair

On motion by Commissioner Ritchie, seconded by Commissioner Maher, with all present voting aye (6-0,) Commissioner Nguyen absent, motion carried to elect Tom Sonnek as Chair for 2023.

A - 2 Election of Vice Chair

On motion by Chair Sonnek, seconded by Commissioner Yang, with all present voting aye (6-0), Commissioner Nguyen absent, motion carried to elect Carrie Nadeau as Vice Chair for 2023.

B. Subcommittee Creation

B - 1 Unique Projects like Project Snowy, the utility boxes and Mural

B - 2 Ongoing Projects like Paint and Sip, Art Cart and Art Festival with Parks

Chair Sonnek said he would like to consider Items B, C and D together. He said meeting once a month made it difficult to complete business and with five members it was difficult to have a full commission or have subcommittees which led to expanding the commission by two members. He introduced an A-3 document to use as a tool to update and keep track of steps to deliver initiatives thinking in terms of a one-year cycle.

The Commission decided to adopt the process recommended by the Chair, reviewed 2022 accomplishments to add to the document and asked Commission Secretary Sara Lang to look into setting up a shared location for commission documents such as a Google Drive. The Commission also brainstormed goals for 2023 to include in the document. These projects included Project Snowy, murals, utility box wrapping, art cart programming, paint & sip event and working with the Park and Rec Commission on the Fall Frolic. They asked Ms. Lang to create and keep an ongoing list of cultural groups and organizations in the community to potentially work with them on projects and invite them to an ACC meeting. Commissioner Black asked where "culture" comes in to play as many of the goals are Art focused. Chair Sonnek responded by stating that each project can and will involve different aspects of culture.

Sonnek asked Commissioners Maher, Yang and Black to take the lead on Project Snowy.

Chair Sonnek said he would like to take the lead on the Mural Project along with Vice Chair Nadeau and Commissioner Ritchie.

Utility boxes are a little more in the future (spring) and Commissioner Nguyen was suggested for that sub-group and Commissioner Yang volunteered to take the lead. City Council Liaison Lisa Wong and Commissioner Maher expressed interest.

Commissioners Ritchie and Black signed up to work on the Art Cart.

Commissioner Ritchie will take the lead on Paint and Sip along with Vice Chair Nadeau.

Arts Festival will be spearheaded by Chair Sonnek and Commissioner Black.

C. Project Snowy Next Steps

C - 1 Project Snowy Flyers

C - 2 Project Snowy Purchases

The Commission reviewed flyer versions and decided to continue with the one-page copy, including highlighting details on the benefits to local businesses to purchase a Snowy. Commissioners said there should be a purchase agreement for businesses that buy a Snowy including responsibilities, releases and indemnification. Commission Secretary will begin drafting a purchase agreement.

D. Discussion on Activating Projects for 2023

D - 1 Paint and Sip – March

Commissioner Ritchie asked if hosting an event at Casey Lake in February would be doable. The Commission agreed to postpone until March to allow for more time.

D - 2 Art Cart

D – 3 Art Festival with Parks Sept. 23

Assignments for these project subcommittees listed above.

E. Public Art Code – Something to Explore

Ms. Lang said the City's Community Development Director shared information on other cities that have a public art code as part of their city ordinances. She presented examples from Philadelphia and Michigan. Codes deal with items like requirements and maintenance.

The Commission decided to have Ms. Lang bring back more information from the Community Development Director and anything in State statute at the next meeting and to keep any code as simple as possible.

F. Student Commission Application

Ms. Lang said there was one student applicant named CeCe Goracki. Commissioner Nadeau said she knows her and asked her to apply and she would be fantastic.

On motion by Commissioner Ritchie, seconded by Commissioner Maher, with all present voting aye (6-0), Commissioner Nguyen absent, motion carried to recommend approval of appointing CeCe Goracki as the first student representative to the Arts and Culture Commission.

Ms. Lang clarified the recommendation needs to go to the City Council for approval. The Student Rep would be a non-voting position.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. Reports from Staff

None

X. Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Yang reported she had submitted a plan and timeline for the Paint and Sip project and asked everyone to review it. Commissioner Ritchie said she would take a closer look when planning the event.

Each commissioner introduced themselves briefly for the benefit of the new commissioners.

XI. Reports from Council Liaison

Council Member Wong reported that a new Mayor and new Council members were sworn in at the January City Council meeting. The new mayor is John Monge. Cassidy Schweer and Jason Nordby are the new council members. John will be the representative to the HRA and EDA. Cassidy will sit on Parks and Rec and Jason will be the council liaison to the Planning Commission. Wong will continue as liaison to the Arts and Culture Commission. The City Attorney plans to visit each commission to go over procedural things like Open Meeting Law. There are vacancies on Parks and Rec Commission, Planning Commission and Economic Development Authority. Wong has been involved with meetings on the Community Center. Jan. 27 will be the Polar Plunge at White Bear Lake. She thanked the commission for being an incredibly efficient and effective group.

XII. Adjournment

On motion by Commissioner Maher seconded by Commissioner Yang, with all present voting aye (6-0), Commissioner Nguyen absent, motion carried to adjourn.

Chair Sonnek adjourned the Arts & Culture meeting at 8:32 PM

The next regularly scheduled Arts & Culture Commission meeting is February 1, 2023