

City of North Saint Paul
Arts & Culture Commission Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2023

6:30 PM

I. Call to Order

Acting Chair Carey Nadeau called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

II. Roll Call

Tom Sonnek, Chair (excused absent)

Lisa Ritchie, Commissioner

Carey Nadeau, Commissioner

Stacy Maher, Commissioner

Emily Haeg Nguyen, Commissioner (excused absent)

See Yang, Commissioner

Amanda Black, Commissioner

Cecelia Goracki, Student Commissioner (non-voting) (excused absent)

Lisa Wong, Council Member (non-voting)

Staff

Sara Lang, Commission Secretary

III. Adopt Agenda

On motion by Commissioner Maher, seconded by Commissioner Ritchie, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt the agenda.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the 02/01/23 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Ritchie, seconded by Commissioner Maher, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2023 meeting.

V. Meeting Open to the Public

There was no public input.

VI. Public Hearings

None

VII. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

A. Project Updates by Sub-Committees

A - 1 Project Snowy Update

Subcommittee members reported the group has been working on the Snowy statue purchase agreement including the language for the sidewalk encroachment permit and are waiting for final review by the City. The subcommittee developed a timeline for the project but reported that due to the complexity and time-consuming nature of the project they recommended waiting until summer 2024 to launch it. The rest of the commissioners present were in agreement. It was noted the City will not waive the \$50 fee for the sidewalk encroachment permit should any of the businesses purchasing a Snowy need one. The subcommittee will work on gathering final costs from the manufacturer including delivery.

On motion by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Yang, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried that the Arts and Culture Commission will cover the initial year \$50 encroachment fee should one be required with a possible expenditure of up to \$500.

The subcommittee also recommended that a specific person be put in charge of each aspect of the project and that they have developed a list of important questions that need to be answered in order to have a smooth way forward on the project. City Council Rep Lisa Wong, said a team consisting of the City Manager, Community Development Director and Finance Director planned to work through the questions. It was noted the purchase agreement should allow for possible cost increases if the project is not implemented until 2024.

Secretary Lang reported on aspects of the City of Roseville's implementation of a similar project including decorating all sculptures at once and providing an artist stipend and that that group is available as a resource perhaps through a Zoom call.

A - 2 Mural Project

Commissioner Nadeau reported a grant application has been submitted to the Minneapolis Regional Arts Council seeking \$15,000 for the mural project. The subcommittee is also looking for other funding sources.

A - 3 Utility Box Wrapping

Commissioner Yang reported for the subcommittee that weather prevented them from going out with Electrical Director John Wick to look at and measure the utility boxes, however he helped with a map the ones that would be more visible. An initial quote for three boxes based on approximate sizes ranged from \$1,000 to \$3,000 including cost per square foot and installation. The budget won't cover all 11 boxes so the subcommittee prioritized five at this time. The cost could be up to \$6,000 and the commission had budgeted \$4,000. It was noted funds budgeted for Project Snowy for

2023 could possibly be diverted to the utility box project. The subcommittee plans to look at the boxes and get final dimensions and quotes. One set of boxes is near a business, Roddy's, which is very interested in participating in the design. The subcommittee would like to involve the community in the other designs, possibly soliciting images, selecting three in each of three categories and letting citizens vote through the City website. Commissioners asked Secretary Lang to see if the City might be willing to absorb some of the cost in order to support local minority or women-owned businesses.

A - 4 Art Cart

Commissioner Ritchie had no updates. She plans to move forward beginning in April and start the program in June. City Night at the car show will be June 9 and the Art Cart has been invited to be there. Commissioner Nadeau suggested seeing if the Art Cart could involve student performers and the subcommittee will discuss it.

A - 5 Paint Along

Commissioner Ritchie said the event is scheduled and on the City web site open for registration. She plans to run the event without a minimum number of participants. Commissioners discussed reducing the cost this time since it is the first one, to attract interest, possibly as low as \$10. Commissioner Nadeau mentioned collection donations at the event and Secretary Lang reported the City Attorney's opinion is that donations cannot be solicited.

A - 6 Art Festival

The subcommittee reported the project has run into some roadblocks. The original date of Sept. 23 is also St. Peter's Festival. The date is now September 16th. They looked at having it on the main street downtown from Margaret to Century but were denied access to close the street by the City Manager. They still need to choose location and are working with the Park and Recreation Commission.

Secretary Lang said any idea is to use Hause Park in order to showcase renovations there. As a neighborhood park it lacks parking but can use the parking lot on Charles behind the businesses a block and a half or two blocks away and have the food trucks there. Commissioners pointed out at that location there would be a need for some accessible parking as well.

B. Cultural Groups in North St. Paul

Secretary Lang reported on list she has started. She and Commissioner Nadeau is working with the school district on getting more contacts. It will be an ongoing list. Commissioners discussed including groups from the general area that serves North St. Paul while highlighting those in the City.

VII. Old Business

None

IX. Reports from Staff

Secretary Lang reported that commissioners will be getting city emails.

X. Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Yang reported on joining the St. Paul and Minneapolis Art Foundation in order to be apply to apply for grants from that group. The next application would be in April.

XI. Reports from Council Liaison

Council Member Wong reported the City is working with developers and contractors concerning the community center and seeking funding on federal and state levels. There are still a lot of unknowns as far as costs and ultimate uses. The building needs a lot of work. There is also discussion on green space in the community including the possibility of a downtown park.

XII. Adjournment

On motion by Commissioner Maher, seconded by Commissioner Black, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Acting Chair Nadeau adjourned the Arts & Culture meeting at 7:55 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Arts & Culture Commission meeting is April 5, 2023