

City of North Saint Paul
Arts & Culture Commission Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2023

6:30 PM

I. Call to Order

Chair Sonnek called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

II. Roll Call

Tom Sonnek, Chair

Carey Nadeau, Commissioner

Stacy Maher, Commissioner

Lisa Ritchie, Commissioner

Emily Haeg Nguyen, Commissioner (excused absent)

See Yang, Commissioner

Amanda Black, Commissioner

Cecelia Goracki, Student Commissioner (non-voting)

Lisa Wong, Council Member (non-voting)

Staff

Sara Lang, Commission Secretary

III. Adopt Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the 03/08/23 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Maher, seconded by Commissioner Ritchie, with all present voting aye 6-0), motion carried to approve the March 8, 2023 meeting minutes.

V. Meeting Open to the Public

There was no public input.

VI. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

A. Project Updates by Subcommittees

A - 1 Project Snowy

Commissioner Yang reported for the subcommittee on the adjusted timeline due to postponing implementation to next year. Several items need input from City staff including the artist and purchase agreements. Costs also need to be finalized with the manufacturer. \$5,000 per statue won't completely cover costs. The total without transportation or encroachment permits would be at least \$5,000 per statue. Commissioner Yang walked the Commission through the project process. All Snowys will be delivered at the same time and spring weather and road restrictions will need to be taken into consideration.

The Commission decided to look at ways to keep the cost to \$5,000 per statue, possibly doing the clear-coating on-site by the artists, ordering bases from a local source, putting transportation in the 2024 Arts and Culture Commission budget, approaching the Economic Development Authority for assistance with transportation costs or having an "early bird" price. Secretary Lang will speak with Community Development Director Brandy Howe to set up a time for Commission members to present to the EDA.

A - 2 Mural Project

The Commission has applied for a grant for this project. Chair Sonnek pointed out there will be a narrow window of opportunity for murals between when the weather warms up and the return of winter. The Commission has limited funding in its budget but other funding must be found to make the mural project a reality. The subcommittee should discuss how to begin with a smaller project on public land.

A - 3 Utility Boxes

Commissioner Yang said the subcommittee is aiming for completion by the car show in early June. Community voting on images will conclude by April 21 with the selection by late April giving the vendor about four weeks to complete the wraps. Commissioner Maher reported the subcommittee decided to streamline the process by selecting the images, having the Commission choose three options and having the public vote on those. Each Commissioner was asked to rank their top three images per box for two boxes and send them to Commission Secretary Sara Lang by April 7 at noon. For budget reasons the project will be phased with four utility boxes done in the first round and the public voting on the images for two of them. The other two boxes will be completed with the help of Roddy's as the boxes are directly in front of their business. Public voting will be able to begin Monday, April 10. The Commission decided to extend the voting deadline to April 24. The subcommittee recommended holding off on the high school utility box in hopes of giving the students the opportunity to help select the art for that location.

A - 4 Art Cart

Commissioner Ritchie reported the art cart will be used for the car show on June 9 for City Night and there will be an opportunity to paint rocks. A call for volunteers has gone out but no responses yet. Rocks need to be ordered. People can keep their rocks or potentially donate them for a community garden. City night at the car show is June 9 and Commissioners were urged to attend. Ms. Lang will look into ordering volunteer T-shirts. The subcommittee would also like to have the Art Cart for Music in the Park.

A - 5 Paint and Sip

Commissioner Ritchie said the first event was a huge success and she would like to have a second event on May 16 with the same low cost to encourage participation. The event will also be at Casey Lake Park. There was discussion of providing aprons for the painters and doing more promotional marketing. Commissioner Ritchie suggested having one per quarter and possibly budgeting for additional teachers in 2024.

A - 6 Autumn Arts Festival

Commissioner Black reported the Festival will be Sept 16 at Casey Lake Park. Applications for artist vendors will be available soon. She asked for Commission input on including Fair Trade art, culinary arts and health and beauty artisans. Commissioners endorsed having more vendors. There will be a need for volunteers for the event, possibly students and Scouts. There will still be live performances. Stipends for performers or performing groups were discussed for a later decision.

B. Public Art Code Discussion

B – 1 MN Statute Public Art Code

Commissioners were in favor of using the state's public art code.

On motion by Commissioner Ritchie, seconded by Commissioner Nadeau, with all present voting aye 6-0), motion carried to recommend the use of the State of Minnesota Public Art Code, MN Statute 450.20.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. Reports from Staff

Ms. Lang reported that Commissioners' City emails will be the only ones used going forward. They should be used for all Commission business including sub-committee work.

X. Reports from Commissioners

None.

XI. Reports from Council Liaison

Council Member Wong reported that the City Council has been active at the State Legislature and is asking for \$4 million for the community center and to complete the

Silver Lake Trail. There is a dangerous point in the trail now with no sidewalk and a nearby bus stop. One idea that is being considered is a boardwalk. She said she asked the City Manager about a tour for Commissioners and that is being planned.

XII. Adjournment

On motion by Commissioner Ritchie, seconded by Commissioner Black, with all present voting aye (6-0), motion carried to adjourn.

Chair Sonnek adjourned the Arts & Culture meeting at 8:35 PM

The next regularly scheduled Arts & Culture Commission meeting is May 3, 2023.