

City of North Saint Paul
Arts & Culture Commission Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2023

6:30 PM

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Tom Sonnek, Chair

Carey Nadeau, Vice Chair

Stacy Maher, Commissioner (excused at 7:25 p.m.)

Lisa Ritchie, Commissioner

Emily Haeg Nguyen, Commissioner (absent)

See Yang, Commissioner

Amanda Black, Commissioner (excused absent)

Cecelia Goracki, Student Commissioner (excused absent)

Lisa Wong, Council Member

Staff

Brandy Howe, Community Development Director

III. Adopt Agenda

On motion by Commissioner Maher, seconded by Commissioner Yang, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt the agenda taking VIIB 2024 Budget Planning before VIIA.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the 04/05/23 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Vice Chair Nadeau, seconded by Commissioner Maher, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the April 5, 2023 minutes as presented.

V. Meeting Open to the Public

There was no public input.

VI. Public Hearings

None

VII. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

B. 2024 Budget Discussion

Ms. Howe said City is in the process of developing a new CIP (Capital Improvement Plan). In addition to how the City will expend public funds for infrastructure projects, it will include proposals for various events and activities including commission projects. The commission should think about future projects in an annual plan including what the commission intends to accomplish in 2024 and what it expects it to cost. The CIP is a 2024 through 2033 plan but the commission can think about it as an annual plan. Sara Lang will provide more details. Events would not be a CIP item but public art could be.

The Commission decided to have a more robust discussion at the June meeting. Ms. Howe will get some answers from the Finance Director on expectations for a budget.

A. Project Updates by Subcommittee

A - 1 Project Snowy

Commissioner Yang said the subcommittee has been learning a lot including that for businesses that want to put a Snowy in the downtown area would be allowed to do so between Nov. 1 and March 31. After that they would have to move the Snowy statue. They were able to arrange to have the statues painted at the Public Works facility. Public Works is also willing to pour the concrete base for City-owned statues and the subcommittee is talking to the department about being able to transport and deliver finished statutes. The subcommittee is still looking at transportation from the vendor to Public Works and wants to hold the total cost at \$5,000 for anyone who has committed to the purchase at a certain point with the possibility of the cost going up later. The \$5,000 would cover the statue, the artist stipend, and the base and possibly transportation depending on cost. They are working on the agreements and making plans to meet with the City Council to talk about the budget, although most of the costs will be borne by the statue purchasers. The timeline is still spring 2024.

A - 2 Mural Project

Vice Chair Nadeau said comments received during the voting on utility box designs led them to select the first mural location as the Beach Bathroom House at Silver Lake. Commissioner Ritchie has been in contact with a muralist that would work within the budget. The building was just renovated and was slated for painting.

The Commission discussed artist selection and opening a request for proposals. Ms. Howe reported the Parks Commission is excited about the mural but wants to have discussions about the mural design and sight lines.

A - 3 Utility Box Project

The contest was conducted with about 200 responses and two designs were selected for wrapping the first two utility boxes. Another design for the boxes outside of Roddy's is planned using historical photos. Due to budget constraints the first two designs used stock images but it is hoped future boxes will have original art. Planned installation is either June 1 or 2.

A - 4 Art Cart

Commissioner Ritchie reported they now have two volunteers for each art cart event. Planned dates are June 9, the City Night at the Car Show; June 15, July 20 and August 17 at Music in the Parks at Casey Lake; and the Fall Art Festival in September.

The Commission agreed to continue to post the call for volunteers.

A - 4 Paint and Sip

Commissioner Ritchie asked to postpone the May event to June for more time to prepare. She will reach out to Sara Lang to schedule a date in June. The price will stay the same at \$10 and it will continue to be an adult event.

A - 5 Autumn Arts Festival

Chair Sonnek reported Commissioner Black has been working a lot on this event. The commission discussed the participation fee schedule and asked Ms. Howe to find out additional information from the City staff. The current vendor fees will need to be reviewed, and discussed with legal. The fees may need to be presented to City Council for approval. Last year was the first event and the hope is to double participation. Having an actual stage for performers, possibly with a tent, has also been discussed, but may not work in the budget.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. Reports from Staff

Ms. Howe did not have a report.

X. Reports from Commissioners

Vice Chair Nadeau reported The Arts Commission is set up with a log-in to apply for grants from the St. Paul Minneapolis Foundations and other Foundations in time for the June application deadlines.

XI. Reports from Council Liaison

Council Member Wong said she had nothing related to the Arts and Culture Commission. The City Council has approved a new Ethiopian restaurant in the City

which will be opening soon. Several partners are interested in the programming piece for the Community Center. The City is waiting to hear the outcome of a request for a \$2 million federal grant for the Community Center. The Center will also be the City's new polling place.

XII. Adjournment

On motion by Commissioner Ritche, seconded by Vice Chair Nadeau, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to adjourn.

Chair Sonnek adjourned the Arts & Culture meeting at 7:53 PM

The next regularly scheduled Arts & Culture Commission meeting is June 7, 2023