

City of North Saint Paul
Arts & Culture Commission Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2023

6:30 PM

I. Call to Order

Chair Sonnek called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

II. Roll Call

Tom Sonnek, Chair

Carey Nadeau, Vice Chair

Stacy Maher, Commissioner

Lisa Ritchie, Commissioner (Excused Absent)

Emily Haeg Nguyen, Commissioner (Excused Absent)

See Yang, Commissioner (Excused Absent)

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 Black, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as presented.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the 09/06/23 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Maher, seconded by Commissioner Black, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the minutes as presented.

V. Meeting Open to the Public

There was no public input.

VI. Public Hearings

There were no public hearings.

VII. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

A. Parade Recap

Commission Secretary Sara Lang said she would like to focus on what went well and what did not go well on this event and the Arts Festival, coming back with ideas for next year at a future meeting. Commissioners said the parade was great, but they thought there were timing issues with parts of the parade moving too fast and gaps. They also noted they were out of candy by the end of the parade and wondered if there was a way to encourage attendees to spread out on the parade route rather than bunch up near the intersection at Margaret. They also appreciated doing the parade with the Planning and Park and Recreation Commissions. In general, Commissioners thought the parade was well-organized. It was noted Thursdays are a busy evening for high school activities.

B. Autumn Arts Festival Recap

Commissioners said the Arts Festival was a huge success. Artists commented it was nice to have the volunteers to help them load in and out. Others preferred to do their own taking down and loading. The borrowed sound system worked well but perhaps is something the City should consider investing in for other events. The borrowed system cost around \$1,300 for the owner. They had also borrowed chairs for watching the performers and needed more. Having chairs set up indicated there would be performances. The Commission suggested the City purchase or rent chairs for next year. Commissioners also liked the new set-up and the tree cover for the vendors. There were some comments regarding accessibility for the vendors who were set up on the grass. Others could be reached from the path which was wheel-chair accessible. The feedback from the food trucks was that they liked being on the street and felt they had more business. The artists answered a survey and most said their sales were better than expected. Commissioner Black said this year there was a mix of artists and crafters and suggested next year they consider making it a show for emerging artists. Another idea would be to have established artists adopt an emerging artist and be a mentor for the newer artist. Commissioner Black mentioned that she may be willing to host a workshop for newer vendors to talk through best practices.

C. Updates from Subcommittees

C - 1 Project Snowy

The application for artists is out and available on the website. No additional businesses have committed to purchasing a Snowy. The cost for the statue has gone up \$250 including everything. It is not possible to go back and charge more so some funds will need to be budgeted. The ACC currently has some extra money in the budget and may consider using those funds.

C - 2 Mural Project

The mural project for this year was completed. There was discussion about how the ACC could facilitate more mural projects throughout the City. One idea was to offer a mural program as a downtown beautification project. Another suggestion was the wall at Rotary Park. An action item for Commission Secretary Lang is to research funding murals on private property as a Commission.

D - 3 Utility Box Project

Images have been sent to Commission Secretary Lang and the subcommittee has met at the utility box site off of 7th Ave and 2nd St and talked about options. Commission Secretary Lang said the final proofs have come back and if the Commission votes in favor, they can be ready to go ahead next week.

On motion by Commissioner Nadeau, seconded by Commissioner Black, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the utility box art as presented.

C - 4 Art Cart

The Art Cart has wrapped up for the year.

C - 5 Paint Along

Another Paint Along is coming up on October 19th, 2023. It will be a pumpkin painting hosted again by Commissioner Ritchie. Registration is open and a call for volunteers has gone out to the rest of the Commission.

D. Culture in ACC Projects

There was no update on this topic.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. Reports from Staff

Commission Secretary Lang said Arts and Culture Commission terms will be approved by the City Council in December rather than in the New Year. If any of the Commissioners whose terms are expiring would like to renew, they need to notify Commission Secretary Lang sooner than later. The Commission discussed attracting additional student members as this was highly beneficial to have one this year. A statement from Commissioner Haeg-Nguyen was read stating her intent to step down from the Commission but thanking commissioners for the opportunity to work with them. Both the Student Commissioner position and the vacancy for Commissioner will be posted to the public right away.

X. Reports from Commissioners

None.

XI. Reports from Council Liaison

Council Liaison Lisa Wong mentioned the suicide prevention event planned for the coming weekend Sunday 11 AM at Hang Time Board Shop. She said the Council will be updating the City's tobacco ordinance to reflect current federal and state law and is looking at ordinances from other cities. The City is also looking at getting some electric car charging stations with the new improvement plan. The Council is still in the budget process and looking at the Capital Improvement Plan.

XII. Adjournment

On motion by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Maher, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to adjourn.

Chair Sonnek adjourned the Arts & Culture meeting at 7:34 PM

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