

**City of North Saint Paul**  
**Arts & Culture Commission Meeting Minutes**

November 1, 2023

6:30 PM

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Sonnek called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

**II. Roll Call**

Tom Sonnek, Chair

Carey Nadeau, Vice Chair

Stacy Maher, Commissioner

Lisa Ritchie, Commissioner

See Yang, Commissioner (Absent - Excused)

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 (5-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as presented.***

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of the 10/04/23 Meeting Minutes**

***On motion by Commissioner Nadeau, seconded by Commissioner Black, with all present voting aye (5-0), 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. Updates from Subcommittees**

### **A - 1 Project Snowy**

Chair Sonnek said he had heard from a former mayor who offered to help with the Project Snowy outreach. The deadline to purchase the Snowy statutes was Nov. 1 but the Commission agreed to extend it to Jan. 31. They hope to have artist submissions to show prospective buyers when reaching back out to the businesses. It was asked if the artist application can be ran in the next newsletter and Commission Secretary Lang said she would follow up on that.

### **A - 2 Mural Project**

No update at this time.

### **A - 3 Utility Box Project**

A couple of new utility box covers have been installed on 7<sup>th</sup> Ave and 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Further progress will be on hold until spring.

### **A - 4 Art Cart**

The Art Cart is locked up and put away for the winter.

### **A - 5 Paint Along**

The recent "Paint Night" had its best attendance yet and the feedback was good. People said they were looking forward to the next one. The Commission agreed to look at dates in early December for one more Paint Night this year. Any supplies that could freeze have been moved to the public works garage. Commission Secretary Lang said she would follow up with Commissioners Nadeau and Ritchie for dates and setting up registration for December.

### **A - 6 Arts Festival**

Commission Secretary Sara Lang said the staff is still working on a recommendation template to get input for next year. The feedback from the vendors, food trucks and performers was good. Commissioners plan to ask to be on the agenda for the Parks and Rec Commission later this month.

## **B. Culture in ACC Projects**

This subcommittee has not met but is leaning toward hiring a consultant. They have looked at the Minneapolis Arts and Culture Commission as they recently had a consultant at a meeting. Council Member Wong suggested focusing on community engagement rather than hiring a consultant due to cost.

## **C. 2023 Budget Recap**

Commission Secretary Lang explained the Commission started with a budget broken down into subcategories. The 2024 budget recommendation should be finalized in

December by City Council. The Commission discussed the purchase of 11 X 14 canvasses for the Paint Night from the current budget. The Commission also suggested rocks, plaster stepping stones, stamps and tablecloths as purchases from the remaining budget. The Commission will come back to the December meeting with other recommendations. The Commission asked to follow up with Tivolitoo about the clear coating process and to ask Public Works if they have supplies the Commission may need to complete the clear coat process.

***On motion by Commissioner Nadeau, seconded by Commissioner Black, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the purchase of supplies including canvasses, rocks and plaster of paris using funds from the art cart supplies and utility box wrapping line items totaling \$560.64.***

#### **VIII. Old Business**

None

#### **IX. Reports from Staff**

Commission Secretary Lang reminded Commissioners they are up for reinstatement this year and should let her know by Nov. 27 if they wish to be reappointed for another year. She said she would send a reminder a week before that date. Sonnek said he wished to be reappointed. Commission Secretary Lang also mentioned that the backside of the Silver Lake bathroom building has been painted a darker blue and she will reconnect with Taylor Berman in the spring to add to the project.

#### **X. Reports from Commissioners**

Chair Sonnek reported the North St. Paul High School Drama Department was presenting "Catch Me if you Can" the next weekend.

#### **XI. Reports from Council Liaison**

City Council member Lisa Wong said the City Council has reviewed the budget including the capital improvements budget which will be formally voted on later this year. She also mentioned that the EDA promotional video has come out and that it can be a resource for other Commissions if interested. There was also mention of the turtle crossing problem on Holloway near Southwood and she is working on ideas to create community conversation around the problem.

#### **XII. Adjournment**

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

Chair Sonnek adjourned the Arts & Culture meeting at 7:16 PM

**The next regularly scheduled Arts & Culture Commission meeting is Dec. 6, 2023.**