

City of North Saint Paul
Arts & Culture Commission Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2024

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

Lisa Ritchie, Commissioner

See Yang, Commissioner

Amanda Black, Commissioner

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the 12/06/23 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Nadeau, seconded by Commissioner Ritchie, 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. Election of Officers

Commissioner Yang nominated Commissioner Sonnek for chair. There were no additional nominations.

On motion by Commissioner Yang, seconded by Commissioner Nadeau, 0) with Commissioners Ritchie, Nadeau, Yang and Black voting aye and Commissioner Sonnek abstaining 4-0-1) motion carried to elect Commissioner Sonnek as chair for 2024.

Commissioner Ritchie nominated Commissioner Nadeau for Vice Chair. There were no additional nominations.

On a motion from Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Yang, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to elect Commissioner Nadeau as vice chair for 2024.

B. Results of Arts and Culture Survey

There were four responses to the survey. Those responses essentially requested more of the same from the Arts and Culture Commission. Commissioners discussed opening the survey again next summer and also conducting surveys at live events.

C. Updates from Subcommittees

C - 1 Subcommittee assignments

It was noted that two commissioners have left and have not yet been replaced so some subcommittees may need to be realigned. Commissioners decided to address this as each committee reported.

C – Project Snowy

The subcommittee did not meet during December. Their next focus will be selecting artists. The two remaining members indicated they have done the bulk of the work and are fine without adding members right now. Two artists have submitted applications so far. It was suggested to post in Facebook groups for Minnesota artists and have commission members reach out to artists they know. Commissioners will also reach out to a couple of local businesses that expressed interest in the program.

C – Mural Project

One mural was completed in 2023 at Silver Lake. The subcommittee plans to meet again to see what can be accomplished in 2024 exploring options both on public and private land. This subcommittee still has three members.

C - 3 Utility Box Project

The subcommittee expressed the need for one more member. Chair Sonnek said he was familiar and would serve with the option of appointing one of the new commissioners after they are selected. The next box to be covered will be near the high school so the high school art teachers have been contacted for their input.

Commissioners Yang and Sonnek mentioned other boxes that may be great for 2024 including one at Silver Lake.

C - 4 Art Cart

The subcommittee has no update but is looking for more volunteers beginning in the spring. The plan is to follow the Music in the Park schedule which has been set and will be emailed to the subcommittee by Secretary Lang. Volunteer recruitment will take place after the March commission meeting.

C - 5 Paint Nights

The first 2024 paint night has been set for Jan. 31 at Casey Lake Park. One survey respondent suggested allowing children at the event. It was noted some people do bring their own wine and that many commission events are kid-friendly and some have appreciated that this is an adult event. Commissioners said if more paint nights can be added some could be adults only and some could include children. The committee is searching for artists to run the paint nights. It was suggested that artists should receive a flat fee for their services. Having a minimum number of attendants with a cancellation policy if there are not enough registrations was discussed. Commissioners Ritchie and Nadeau will reach out to local artists for more information on what they typically require and charge.

C - 6 Arts Festival

A city staff member hired as an event coordinator will take this over so the subcommittee can be dissolved. The commission can give recommendations for the event and volunteering for the event is still highly-encouraged. A date for 2024 has not been set. Some of the dates being considered are Sept. 14 and 28. The commission favored Sept 14. Secretary Lang will continue to be the staff liaison between the Arts and Culture Commission and the City. Commissioners Black and Sonnek will send Secretary Lang their suggestions by the end of January to give to the event coordinator. Some artists have expressed interest in a two-day event and it was considered if the Commission should host a paint along event during the festival.

D. 2024 Events and Budget

The Commission's budget request was approved by the City Council at \$26,000 not including Paint Night and the Arts Festival. The commission had requested \$28,500.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. Reports from Staff

Sara Lang said she was excited about plans for the year and invited everyone to attend or watch Commissioner Sonnek's report to the City Council on Jan. 16.

X. Reports from Commissioners

There were no reports from commissioners.

XI. Reports from Council Liaison

Lisa Wong reported the City Council approved the CIP and levy at an 8.5 percent increase and approved the City's fee schedule. The Council discussed the commissions and council liaison assignments. She will continue to be the liaison to the Arts and Culture Commission. Several commissions need additional members. The Council toured the community center and looked at its condition. The Council is looking at whether the building is fixable and useable. The City has received funding from the State and is still waiting to hear about Federal funding.

XII. Adjournment

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

Chair Sonnek adjourned the Arts & Culture meeting at 7:32 PM

The next regularly scheduled Arts & Culture Commission meeting is Feb. 7, 2024.