

City of North Saint Paul
Arts & Culture Commission Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2024

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

Lisa Ritchie, Commissioner

See Yang, Commissioner

Amanda Black, Commissioner

Sharon Clark-Williams, Commissioner

Laura Strang, Commissioner

Lisa Wong, Council Member (non-voting)

Staff

Sara Lang, Commission Secretary

Chair Sonnek introduced the two new commissioners Sharon Clark-Williams and Laura Strang. Commissioners introduced themselves and gave their backgrounds and interests in the arts.

III. Adopt Agenda

On motion by Commissioner Nadeau, seconded by Commissioner Ritchie, with all present voting aye (7-0), motion carried to adopt the agenda.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the 01/03/24 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Yang, with all present voting aye (7-0), motion carried to adopt the minutes of the Jan. 3, 2024 Arts and Culture Commission Meeting.

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. Project Updates

A - 1 Project Snowy

Terry Furlong, who has been working on the sale of Snowy statues as a community volunteer, updated the Commission on his progress. He has commitments for another four Snowy statues and a donation. Purchase agreements must be approved by the City Council. Commissioners said they had early on rejected the idea of multiple purchasers for one statue due to complications of working out ownership, but are open to that arrangement if it works. It is expensive and requires too much City liability to move the statues multiple times and the Commission would like to limit that. Commissioners reported Public Works is looking to limit its involvement in moving the statues due to liability, but the cost of having the manufacturer move them is actually more reasonable than first thought. Artist applications are still needed.

A - 2 Mural Project

Commissioners explained that one mural project was completed last summer at the Silver Lake Park bathroom building. The resulting mural pulled together some of the natural aspects of the park. There is money in the budget to do another mural this summer.

A - 3 Utility Boxes

This project involves wraps on utility boxes. Last year four boxes were done. The project will continue this year and the hope is to have more community involvement and cultural focus and to involve the high school in the one near the high school. The sub-committee has met once in the new year and hopes to have some of the wraps in place by June.

A-4 Art Cart

This project has been on hold for the winter months. The first event will be in June. A call for volunteers will go out in March. The first year the art cart was in the parks during the day but was not well-attended, so evenings have worked better. Connecting the Art Cart to Music in the Park, the car show and the arts festival has been successful. Supplies for several projects including stamping, mosaics and rock painting have been purchased as well as canvases.

A-5 Paint Night

There has been one paint night so far this year and it was very much enjoyed. Commissioners said they have found a couple of other artists who are interested. Commission Secretary Lang indicated their proposals in the agenda packet. Commissioners discussed a \$200 flat fee for guest artists to be fair, which in some cases would be more than the amount requested. It was decided that similar to performers at the Arts Festival, artists should be able to offer their price and the Commission either meet the price or counter with what it can afford. Two paint nights with each of the artists were proposed.

On motion by Chair Sonnek, seconded by Commissioner Black, with all present voting aye (7-0), motion carried to approve two separate nights for each of these two artists, dates to be determined, up to the amount for their fees with supplies.

A-6 Community Craft and Proposals at Autumn Arts Festival

Commission Secretary Lang said the City, which is largely taking over planning for the Arts Festival, is looking for feedback on education and community outreach through information tables and possible children's facepainting and balloon art entertainment. There were also costs for tents and stages listed. The Commission decided the subcommittee should still meet before the next meeting to discuss what the group values most within the budget. Commissioners also said they would like to see a greater variety in food trucks. City staff also proposed renting a mobility scooter and power chair for the day for accessibility but legal has not been consulted. The cost would be \$175 for the day for both. Entertainers have been booked. Several new items are planned based on suggestions from the public after last year. Three options were discussed for community crafts during the Festival. The crafts would be combined into a community display.

A-7 Paint Night Survey Results

The survey was positive and also included ideas for other types of art events.

B. Bylaw Update to Student Commissioner Section

Chair Sonnek explained the Commission interviewed three excellent candidates for the Commission and could only choose two. One is a college student and it was suggested that individual could be the student representative. The bylaws specify a secondary student and the proposal is to change it to secondary or post-secondary and have a rolling annual membership of one year from appointment. Bylaw changes and appointments need to be ratified by the City Council.

On motion by Chair Sonnek, seconded by Commissioner Nadeau, with all present voting aye (7-0), motion carried to change the bylaws to state that the student commissioners must be enrolled in either secondary or post-secondary school and serve a one-year rolling term that may be completed after graduation.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business.

IX. Reports from Staff

A. 2024 Budget Recap

Commission Secretary Lang reported there were no updates to the budget.

X. Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Nadeau thanked those who had hosted open houses in January for community members and thanked Chair Sonnek for his City Council presentation. She had attended a State Arts Board webinar on accessibility.

Commissioner Yang reported there is a culture subcommittee of the commission that will be having a workshop after the meeting hosted by her colleague Jocelyn Rousey.

Commissioner Strang indicated interest in being assigned to a sub-committee.

XI. Reports from Council Liaison

Council Member Wong reported that the City Council had decided on a development for 17th and Delaware for 10 single-family homes. They will be single story with a finished basement. The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will be partnering with the City's Police department. There will be more discussion regarding the community/cultural center. State funding has been approved and they are waiting on federal funding. A good public discussion was held on that possible project.

XII. Adjournment

On motion by Commissioner Yang, seconded by Commissioner Black, with all present voting aye (7-0), motion carried to adjourn.

Chair Sonnek adjourned the Arts & Culture Commission meeting at 7:47 PM

The meeting was followed by a facilitated workshop on culture.

The next regularly scheduled Arts & Culture Commission meeting is March 6, 2024