



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2024
6:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

Tom Sonnek, Chair – *present*
Carey Nadeau, Vice-Chair – *present*
See Yang, Commissioner – *present*
Amanda Black, Commissioner – *present*
Sharon Clark-Williams, Commissioner – *present*
Laura Strang, Commissioner – *present*
Raquel Soto, Student Commissioner – *present*

STAFF/LIAISONS

Lisa Wong, City Council Liaison – *present*
Mai Xiong, Staff Liaison – *present*
Brandy Howe, Community Development Director

III. ADOPT AGENDA

***Chair Sonnek called for a motion to adopt the May 1, 2024 meeting agenda.
M/See, S/Clark-Williams
Motion carried 6-0.***

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the April 3, 2024 meeting minutes
M/ Nadeau, S/ Strang
Motion carried 6-0.***

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Updates from Sub-Committees

1- Project Snowy

Commissioner Yang provided an update on Project Snowy, emphasizing the subcommittee's focus on media promotion and drawing attention to the artists' work in the month of May. Artists have submitted agreements and are now tasked with finalizing their designs for approval, both from their businesses and the Snowy subcommittee.

Commissioner Yang also asked members of the Arts and Culture Commission to sign up for available timeslots to monitor the Snowy paintings, as there are still vacancies to be filled.

Commissioner Black noted that while it's not necessary to cover entire shifts, any contribution of time would be appreciated. Responding to City Councilor Wong's query about monitoring the Snowy paintings, Black clarified that this duty is reserved for commission members due to the need for key access to the Community Center.

Commissioner Yang mentioned the Snowy reveal event is scheduled for June 6.

Commissioner Strang confirmed she would be designing the invitation cards for the occasion.

Commissioner Black sought clarification on the budget allocation for purchasing refreshments and invitations.

Director Howe suggested that the expenses be covered from the subcommittee's overall budget.

Chair Sonnek called for a motion to approve the reallocation of \$500 from the art cart budget to the Snowy budget for refreshments. Additionally, \$200 from the branding and communications budget to be reallocated to the Snowy budget for invitation cards.

***M/ Black, S/ Nadeau
Motion carried 6-0.***

2- Mural Project

Commissioner Nadeau provided an update on behalf of the Mural Project subcommittee, mentioning the need to update their Mural project proposal to align with the structure of the Snowy project proposal.

Director Howe recommended that the Mural Project subcommittee engage in brainstorming, pose questions, and then document the answers as a method to guide the process.

Chair Sonnek discussed the idea of reaching out to businesses in North St. Paul to measure their interest level and then gradually developing the program as necessary. This approach aims to determine the budget allocation for the Mural Project subcommittee based on the number of interested businesses and their preferences. Additionally, Chair Sonnek suggested utilizing the City's newsletter and webpage to facilitate the call for interested businesses.

Ms. Howe mentioned potential questions that may arise from this approach. Additionally, she noted that the City's Communications Coordinator position is currently vacant, creating uncertainty about communication support for the subcommittee. Due to this, Ms. Howe recommended that the subcommittee reach out directly to businesses instead.



City Council Liaison Wong inquired about packaging the Mural Project similarly to the concept of business storefront renovations. This would offer businesses the choice between storefront enhancements or artistic murals, aiming to boost economic development opportunities.

3- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Yang reported that the Art Contest for Utility Boxes closed on April 22, with just one student artist submitting a design. In response to Chair Sonnek's inquiry about the project's completion schedule, Commissioner Yang assured that it would be completed on time.

Commissioner Strang shared that she and Commissioner Clark-Williams looked through old photos from the North St. Paul Museum. They searched for pictures that would capture the essence of the city.

Chair Sonnek inquired if those photos would be used to wrap the two utility boxes downtown, to which Commissioner Clark-Williams affirmed.

4- Art Cart

Commissioner Black outlined upcoming events that would feature various activities provided by the Art Cart. These activities include creating paper plate cars with the options of a coloring page or a sheet of paper for cutting at the Car Show, rock painting for the first Music in the Park event, and trash art for the second Music in the Park event. Commissioner Black expressed her intention to request donations specifically for the trash art activity. This would involve leaving all art supplies out of the Art Cart for kids to use. Additionally, she suggested donations for items such as boxes, popsicle sticks, and glue.

Regarding volunteers, Commissioner Black responded to Chair Sonnek's question and mentioned that Staff Liaison Lang had a list of churches seeking volunteer opportunities. She would reach out to them after receiving the list.

Commissioner Black expressed a desire to allocate \$100 for additional art supplies for the Art Cart. However, Chair Sonnek clarified that funds have already been allocated for this purpose, so no action from the Arts and Culture Commission would be necessary.

5- Paint Night

Commissioner Nadeau instructed Staff Liaison Xiong to ask the Paint Along artist if she could accommodate more participants or teach an additional class, because all of the Paint Night events are fully booked, with a waitlist in place.

6- Autumn Arts Festival

Commissioner Black stated that she would follow up on the community craft supplies and the Art Cart activities for the Autumn Arts Festival. However, she is uncertain whether the event layout from the previous year can be used again this year due to potential changes in the number of artists.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There were no old businesses reported.



IX. REPORTS FROM STAFF

A. T-Shirt Order

Staff Liaison Xiong provided an update on the t-shirt order from Graphic Traffic. Chair Sonnek directed Ms. Xiong to only purchase shirts for the Commission members who still need one, unless there is a required number of shirts that need to be ordered.

B. Budget Update for May 2024

Staff Liaison Xiong mentioned the remaining balance for the Communications and Branding Budget.

Commissioner Black mentioned about a possible project idea for next year, a free little art gallery located inside the Community Center.

X. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Chair Sonnek thanked all of the Commission members for their hard work and reported that he would not be at the next meeting on June 5, 2024, due to his son's graduation ceremony being held on the same day.

Commissioner Yang wished everyone a happy American Asian Pacific Islander month.

Commissioner Strang wished Staff Liaison Lang a happy birthday.

XI. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Wong addressed recent discussions regarding the Community Center in City Council Workshops, emphasizing the value of public input. She illustrated the importance of community engagement with an example from a recent conference, citing a Wisconsin town's social media initiative featuring painted dragon sculptures.

Furthermore, Council Liaison Wong provided updates on various city initiatives that would be happening in the City of North St Paul during the month of May. She concluded by expressing gratitude to Community Development Director Howe for her support and service to the city.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM.

M/Yang, S/Black

Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM.