



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2024
6:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Nadeau called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

Tom Sonnek, Chair – Absence Excused
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

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Vice-Chair Nadeau called for a motion to adopt the July 10, 2024, meeting agenda.
M/Clark-Williams, S/Black
Motion carried 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of May 1, 2024, Meeting Minutes and Approval of June 5, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Nadeau called for a motion to approve the May 1, 2024, and June 5, 2024, meeting minutes.
M/Yang, S/Strang
Motion carried 5-0.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dave Nelson, 2574 Fourth Avenue East, shared his extensive volunteer history as a Minnesota Master Naturalist and his involvement in various environmental and community projects in North St. Paul. He expressed his concerns about habitat restoration, managing invasive species, and

improving wildlife conservation efforts in the city. Mr. Nelson emphasized the importance of protecting turtles and raising awareness to protect their habitats. He furthered indicated his support for the idea of constructing a tunnel for or a fence to help aid turtles in safe crossing of roads.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Updates from Sub-Committees

Project Snowy

The sub-committee briefly recapped the Snowy Reveal event held in June, highlighting the positive feedback received from social media and local interactions.

Commissioner Yang shared that she recently had an interview with WCCO TV News, featuring the Snowys in the City of North St. Paul, with anticipated air dates on Thursday, July 11, and Saturday, July 13.

Commissioner Strang noted that some of the Snowys' noses were missing, and the Commission clarified that businesses who purchased the Snowys would be responsible for repairing them, unless they were city-owned.

Mural Project

The sub-committee discussed efforts to create partnerships with businesses for murals, which have faced challenges, and expressed interest in collaborating with the City for a potential mural at the Public Works building near the Gateway Trail.

Utility Boxes

The sub-committee provided an update on Julie Xiong, the student artist winner of the utility box wrap contest, noting her recognition at the June 18th City Council meeting. Ms. Xiong's artwork will be featured on the utility box near North High School.

Commissioner Strang mentioned the success of the heart-shaped hand photoshoot initiative at the History Cruiser Car Show, where over a hundred people contributed unique hand shapes for potentially wrapping the utility box at Casey Lake.

Art Cart

Commissioner Black summarized past Art Cart projects recently completed at the Snowy Reveal, Music in the Park, and the History Cruiser Car Show events. She further shared that at the upcoming Music in the Park event scheduled for July 18 there will be Trash Art. Additionally, for the event scheduled on August 15, there will be Mosaic stepping stones.

Ms. Black also emphasized the need for volunteers to assist at upcoming events and for increased social media coverage of the Art Cart at these events.

Paint Night

Vice-Chair Nadeau announced the cancellation of the Paint and Sip event scheduled for July 11 due to low sign-up participation.

Autumn Arts Festival

Commissioner Black shared about an upcoming meeting scheduled for the end of July to discuss the details of the Autumn Arts Festival.

B. 2025 Draft of Project Ideas and Budget Proposals List

The Commission explored a variety of projects and events for 2025 aimed at enhancing cultural vibrancy, fostering community engagement, and integrating art with environmental conservation efforts. They expressed interest in hosting an Asian Night Market event, offering community classes in art business and pottery, and exploring innovative ideas such as rain-activated art and sidewalk poetry. The Commission also considered implementing projects like interactive sculptures, micro murals, and organizing a holiday light trolley tour. Additionally, ideas such as the Veterans Rock monument, Little Free Art Gallery, and a Turtle Crossing initiative were discussed.

Regarding the Commission's query about budget submissions for City Council approval, Council Liaison Wong emphasized the importance of submitting proposals as soon as possible. Ms. Wong noted that budget discussions begin in August and that December marks the final deadline for approvals for the following year.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There were no old business reports made.

IX. REPORTS FROM STAFF

A. Events Sign up

Staff Liaison Xiong informed the Commission that more Commissioners and volunteers are needed to sign up for events. She also requested direction from the Commission regarding plans for the Fall Round Up Parade scheduled for September 19.

The Commission instructed Ms. Xiong to research cost estimates for Snowy trading cards for potential distribution during the parade.

Ms. Xiong also updated the Commission on the upcoming Paint Night event, which is currently fully booked. In response, the Commission asked her to schedule another event with the artist or to increase the current class size.

B. 2024 Budget

Staff Liaison Xiong provided an updated 2024 budget summary, highlighting expenses incurred in June and noting the pending invoice from Graphic Traffic for the t-shirts ordered by the Arts and Culture Commission.

X. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Yang asked the Commission if they would like to re-allocate the remaining Project Snowy fund, now that the project is concluded for the year.

In response, Vice-Chair Nadeau suggested revisiting this topic at the next Commission meeting scheduled for August 7, as there may be expenses related to the Autumn Arts Festival that need to be covered.

XI. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Wong provided an update on the community center, mentioning concerns about the city's financial capacity to sustain the center independently and highlighting plans to seek partnerships for funding. Additionally, Ms. Wong noted the upcoming plans for a Request for Proposals (RFP) aimed at conducting a feasibility study.

Ms. Wong also informed the Commission about the City's upcoming discussions on budget planning, union contracts, and capital improvements for city buildings; furthermore, she mentioned there would be new ordinances under consideration regarding fences, storm water, pet waste, and snow removal. In addition, Ms. Wong expressed her concerns about the native plants permit application required for residents.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Nadeau asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM.

M/Yang, S/Black

Motion carried 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

Members, please notify any planned absences to:

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