



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2024
6:30 PM**

North St. Paul City Hall – Council Chambers
2400 Margaret Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tom Sonnek called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

Tom Sonnek, Chair - Present
Carey Nadeau, - Absence Excused
See Yang, Commissioner - Present
Amanda Black, Commissioner - Present
Sharon Clark-Williams, Commissioner – Absence Excused
Laura Strang, Commissioner – Absence Excused
Raquel Soto, Commissioner - Present

STAFF/LIAISONS

Lisa Wong, Council Liaison – Absence Excused

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Sonnek called for a motion to adopt the December 4th, 2024 meeting agenda.
M/Soto, S/Black
Motion carried 4-0.

IV. PRESENTATION

Chair Sonnek thanked commissioner Yang for her work with the Arts & Culture Commission. Commissioner Yang noted her appreciation for her time on the Commission.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of November 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the November 6, 2024 meeting minutes.
M/Yang, S/Soto
Motion carried 4-0.

VI. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. 2025 Events and Projects

Chair Sonnek began the conversation by reviewing projects continuing from 2024 into 2025 including public arts project, murals, utility boxes, art cart, art party, and the Autumn Arts Festival. New projects for 2025 include Asian Night and the Public Art Project. Commissioner Black requested that on the agenda for the next council meeting would be to reassign commissioners to projects.

1- Public Arts Project

Chair Sonnek reviewed the current list of ideas for the Public Arts Project which includes parklet, interactive musical sculpture, murals, turtles, and sidewalk poetry. Commissioner Soto suggested doing both permanent and impermanent sidewalk poetry art. Chair Sonnek noted that coordinating with Rotary construction projects could offer an opportunity for sidewalk poetry. Commissioner Black noted that the state is putting sidewalk around 11th Avenue as a potential opportunity to coordinate with the County on a sidewalk poetry project.

2- Asian Night

The Commission agreed that a fully dedicated Asian Night would likely be planned for 2026. The Commission agreed that in 2025 Asian Night would have a trial run at a smaller scale or as a part of another City event. Commissioner Yang suggested to engage in market research to gauge public interest in an Asian Night.

B. Sub-committee Updates

1- Veteran's Utility box

Chair Sonnek relayed an email from Commissioner Clark-Williams who has found several artists who are both a visual artist currently living in Minnesota and a veteran. Clark-Williams would like to see some diversity in the possible choices of artist. She will wait a week to wait to be connected with additional artists after which she will reach out to the chair of Veterans Park and ask for his opinion on the style of the artists and preference. Finally she will move forward with a process to select and artists and will reach out to them to see if they are interested.

2- Utility Box Update

Chair Sonnek relayed an email from former Staff Liaison Sara Lang with an update that the utility box at the high school is rusty which is causing the wrap to peel. Temperatures are too cold to rewrap the box now but the installer has agreed to return and rewrap the box in spring. Whether or not the box will be repaired before then will be up to the discretion of the City Manager. Commissioner Yang noted that Commissioner Strang sent the design for the heart utility box to Ava Griemert for recoloring. Commissioner Yang stated she would follow up with Commissioner Strang.

C. 2024 Budget

Chair Sonnek noted that there was a large excess in the budget. Chair Sonnek suggested that for the upcoming year the Commission could be more aggressive in the projects that it pursues.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Soto had no updates,



Commissioner Yang thanked members of the Commission and stated her appreciation for her time on the Commission.

Commissioner Black noted that she is working at the European Christmas Market at the Union Depot.

Chair Sonnek gave a shout out to North High School for their play Anastasia and noted the talent at the show. Chair Sonnek gave Commissioner Yang a final thank you for her time on the Commission.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 PM.

M/Yang, S/Black

Motion carried 4-0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM.