



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2025
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 6:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

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

STAFF/LIAISONS

Troy Woods, City Council Liaison - Present
Jordyn Lehman, Staff Liaison – Present

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Sonnek called for a motion to adopt the February 5, 2025 meeting agenda.
M/Nadeau, S/Black
Motion carried 4-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of January 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the January 8, 2025 meeting minutes with one small change suggested by Commissioner Clark-Williams to reflect that the status of the Veteran's utility box was not on hold but had remained unchanged.

M/Nadeau, S/Clark-Williams
Motion carried 4-0.

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. Election of Student Commissioner

Commissioner Clark-Williams made a motion to elect Yued Orozco-Garcia for the position of Arts & Culture Student Commissioner with a second from Commissioner Black. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Public Art Project

The Commission discussed who had shown interest to be on the Public Art Project Sub-Committee and decided that Commissioner Soto, Commissioner Strang, and Vice-Chair Nadeau would be on the sub-committee.

2- Mural Project

Chair Sonnek opened the conversation by noting that there was a lot of interest for a potential mural at the North St. Paul Historical Society. Vice-chair Nadeau discussed her conversation with the former director of the historical museum, Sue Springborn, who suggested that the museum wall that faces the benches would be a good location for a mural. Vice-Chair Nadeau contacted Rachel, the artist responsible for the Henry Castle Snowy, if she would be interested. Rachel did not feel that a mural would be a good fit for her but gave Vice-Chair Nadeau a list of names and a recommendation of who she thought would be a good fit. Vice-Chair Nadeau stated that Chair Sonnek and Commissioner Clark-Williams will be attending the next Historical Society Museum board meeting and that she herself would like to try and attend to discuss logistics and ideas.

Branching from this conversation, Chair Sonnek asked how the Commission would like to handle working with private entities. Sonnek noted that the Commission had only worked on murals on public spaces and that there was discussion on whether or not the Commission would like private businesses or partners to contribute to the cost of the murals. Sonnek stated it would be apt to have a discussion on if the Commission would like the Historical Society to participate in the cost or if the Commission feels differently about a non-profit. The Commission further discussed the need to draft documents and policies for working with private entities such as businesses or non-profits. Vice-Chair Nadeau noted that drafting these plans may be necessary as opportunities for murals on public buildings looks to be coming to an end.

Commissioner Clark-Williams noted that once a document is created and finalized it would be good to have it available on the ACC's webpage. Commissioner Black put forth the idea of creating an opportunities page for businesses and artists on the ACC webpage to reflect when there are available opportunities and further information.

3- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Clark-Williams states that her and Commissioner Strang need to meet to discuss the budget to determine how much money will be available for each of the three boxes they have planned. Once the budget is sorted out they will be able to move forward with their plans for the project.

4- Art Cart

Commissioner Black stated that they planned on sorting the Art Cart in spring and are considering having the Art Cart on the same dates as last year.

5- Art Night

Commissioner Black noted that they have planned 6 Art Nights for 2025 on the third Thursday of the month. She also stated that her and Vice-Chair Nadeau are in contact with artists to host Art Night and are looking into opportunities for different types of activities.

6- Autumn Arts Festival

Commissioner Black stated she had been working with the Ava Griemert to start reaching out to previous vendors from the past two Autumn Arts Festivals.

C. Asian Night

Chair Sonnek suggested that the Commission should table discussion of Asian Night. Commissioner Black agreed and stated she would prefer discussion to start when the entire commission is present.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Both the 2025 Event Calendar and Budget Update were listed on staff reports.

Staff liaison Jordyn Lehman presented a suggestion from Ava Griemert to hand out Project Snowy cards in surprise envelopes during the Car Show at the Art Cart.

Chair Sonnek inquired what the Commission had in mind for the branding and communication portion of the budget. Sonnek suggested that perhaps the budget could be used for a project unveiling.

Commissioner Black inquired about the possibility of money generated from Arts & Culture events being used to pay artists and costs of the event.

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Soto had no updates,

Commissioner Clark-Williams had no updates.

Vice-Chair Nadeau discussed her interview with the ACC candidate and shouted out Rock the North show for the upcoming weekend.

Commissioner Black had no updates.

Commissioner Strang had no updates.

Chair Sonnek thanked the commissioners who attended Misery in White Bear Lake.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Troy Woods described his experience with the Coffee with the Council City event. He noted that there was discussion of having the Autumn Arts Festival downtown and business opportunities that could create.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM.

M/Clark-Williams, S/Nadeau

Motion carried 4-0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 6:30 PM.