



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 2, 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 - Present
Raquel Soto, Student Commissioner - Present
Aliza Verma, Commissioner - Present
Yued Orozco-Garcia Student Commissioner - Present

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 April 2, 2025 meeting agenda.
M/Nadeau, S/Black
Motion carried 7-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of March 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the March 5, 2025 meeting minutes
M/Soto, S/Clark-Williams
Motion carried 7-0.

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. Community Craft Project Ideas Discussion

Commissioner Black presented ideas to the Commission for the Community Craft Project. She expressed that her goal was to make a project that people can take home, is oriented more towards teens/adults, does not require a lot of instruction, nor a large investment of time. Ideas presented by Commissioner Black included leather cord bracelets with beads, felt coasters, yarn bowls, and a glass mosaic tile activity. Clark-Williams expressed that parents may find it difficult if the activity is overly long and complicated and felt as though the leather bracelet idea would avoid that. The Commission came to an overall consensus that the activity should be short and agreed they would like to move forwards with the leather cord bracelets and the felt coasters for the Community Craft Project.

B. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Mural Project

Commissioner Clark Williams noted that the Mural Sub-committee had reached out to the Historical Society and the next steps will be creating an outline for a call for artists. Chair Sonnek wanted to clarify that the sub-committee decided to pay the full cost of the North St. Paul Historical Society Mural not just because it is a non-profit but also because of its unique purpose in promoting the City and its history. Moving forwards policy would be to cover up to 50% of the cost of a mural regardless if it is a non-profit or for profit entity. The Commission did not disagree with this decision. Sonnek also proposed that inclusive of the artist speaking with the historical society, prep work, and cost of the supplies that the commission would pay the artist 6k. The commission agreed and felt as though that was a reasonable amount.

2- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Strang stated that the heart hand images have been edited with the colorful background and will be done this week. Commissioner Strang also noted that Commissioner Clark-Williams and she would like to move forwards having a template style call for artist on the website that would note the box's to be wrapped and their dimensions. Commissioner Clark-Williams shared that she will be at the Veteran's park Committee meeting next week to work out final details for the box and that the next big step was to send out the call for artists. The goal is to have the box done by August 15th for the 10th anniversary of the Veteran's Park.

3- Art Cart

First Art Cart showing will be at the big truck night.

4- Art Night

Vice-Chair Nadeau noted that all art nights are on the calendar and volunteers are scheduled.

5- Public Arts Project

Vice-Chair Nadeau began the conversation by presenting student commissioner Orozco-Garcia's idea called "bring snowy home" which would feature a snow globe that residents could have outside of their home that they could decorate in their own way. Nadeau noted that there are several different materials to consider such as wood, concrete, 3D printing, etc. Commissioner Soto shared that currently they were looking into a North St. Paul business called CaliSota Girl creations who produces wood signs and images and SVJ Creative Designs who they are waiting to hear back from. Commissioner Soto asked the Commission if they had thoughts on having the snow globes be free or purchasable. The Commissioners tentatively would like to make the snow globes free but also would consider charging a small fee if production costs turn out high.

6- Taste of North St. Paul (Placeholder)

For the Placeholder Event Commissioner Verma presented the idea called "Taste of North St. Paul" where local restaurants would be invited to create a tasting menu for the public to come and enjoy. Commissioner Verma noted that a potential venue could be the new event space at Puzzles. Tentatively



the event will take place in October or early November. Commissioner Verma also noted an idea to have a people's choice award and resident's vote for their favorite dish with variations on the idea such as Mayor's choice, firefighter's choice, etc. Commissioner Black suggested that the African Market downtown could be invited and bring a selection of their grocery items. Commissioner Black also suggested that restaurants participating provide "small bites" rather than a whole cheeseburger or whole doughnut.

Commissioner Verma was unsure of the funding structure and requested the Commission's suggestions but overall she would like to compensate the restaurants so the event was free for residents who would like to participate. Commissioner Clark-Williams suggested making the event ticketed so you pay a flat fee to enter the event. Commissioner Strang noted that it should be a goal to get people to try most if not every vendor at the event rather than their favorites or what is familiar to them. Council Liaison Woods suggested creating a stamp system where every resident receives a stamp for visiting each vendors and once they have visited all vendor they are entered into a raffle which would help encourage residents to try all vendors. Commissioner Black also noted it might be best to schedule the event for a Thursday as opposed to a Friday as that is a busy night for restaurants.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

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

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Soto had no updates,

Commissioner Clark-Williams had no updates.

Vice-Chair Nadeau has no updates

Commissioner Verma shared that the seeding's from pollinator garden are thriving

Commissioner Black had no updates.

Commissioner Strang has no updates.

Chair Sonnek has no updates

Student Commissioner Orozco-Garcia stated that he lost his student council treasure run and plans on running for student council president next year.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Woods noted that the prior Council Meeting included a presentation from the fire department about code enforcement.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM.

M/Verma, S/Strang

Motion carried 7-0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM.