



**Arts & Culture Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 7, 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 – Absent Excused  
Sharon Clark-Williams, Commissioner - Present  
Laura Strang, Commissioner – Present  
Raquel Soto, Student Commissioner – Absent Excused  
Aliza Verma, Commissioner - Present  
Yued Orozco-Garcia Student, Commissioner – Absent Unexcused  
Troy Woods, Council Liaison - Present

STAFF/LIAISONS

Jordyn Lehman, Staff Liaison - Present

**III. ADOPT AGENDA**

Chair Sonnek called for a motion to adopt the May 7, 2025 meeting agenda.  
M/Nadeau, S/Strang  
Motion carried 5-0.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of April 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the April 2, 2025 meeting minutes with one change that the 2024 event calendar to be corrected to 2025.  
M/Nadeau, S/Clark-Williams  
Motion carried 5-0.

**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. Introductions – Ken Roberts

The new Community Development director Ken Roberts gave an introduction to the Commission and described his work history and education. Roberts noted that the Downtown Design manual was a project of interest for him.

B. Community Craft Project Discussion

Staff liaison Lehman noted that after the past ACC meeting staff had realized that a vendor would be making bracelets at the Autumn Arts Festival and that it may be best to not make corded bracelets for the Community Craft Project in order to avoid creating a competing experience. Lehman also relayed a message from Commissioner Black that she believed the Commission should do only the felt coasters for the Community Craft Project. The Commission agreed and noted that they want enough materials for around 100 coasters.

C. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Mural Project

Commissioner Clark-Williams shared that they have received several strong responses to the NSP Historical Society Mural call for artists. The sub-committee plans to meet with the Historical Society in a few weeks on 5/28 to discuss the fine details of the project and would like have the artist chosen by June 6<sup>th</sup> or earlier.

2- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Clark-Williams noted that a call for artists for the Veteran's utility box will be sent out soon if not by tomorrow. The scope of potential artists have been broadened and the sub-committee has received more input from the Veteran's Park Board. Commissioner Strang shared copies of the colored photos for the Heart hands utility box. She believes this box will be completed this summer.

3- Art Cart

Art Cart will be at the Big Truck Night for the Friday Night Car Show.

4- Art Night

Commissioner Nadeau shared that the first Art Night with terracotta pot painting was a success and that Commissioner Verma will be volunteering at next month's Art Night.

5- Autumn Arts Festival

Staff liaison Lehman shared that the number of approved Autumn Arts vendor application is nearly at the maximum of 40 vendors.

6- Taste of North St. Paul

Commissioner Verma stated that after researching the permits and finding the right space for a tasting event that unfortunately the sub-committee believes that this was not a viable idea and would need to look for a more accessible alternative. The sub-committee believed that a food passport would encourage people to visit restaurants without putting too much strain on businesses. People would be rewarded with a prize for visiting a certain amount of restaurants on the passport.

7- Public Art Project

Commissioner Strang shared that the sub-committee has gathered multiple quotes for the take home snowy from businesses such as Wood From the Hood and Calisota Girl Creations. Vice-Chair Nadeau noted that they would like to set up a table at the City's National Night on August 5<sup>th</sup> to give out the Snowy's and for people to decorate them. In addition to the wood signs the sub-committee would also like to pursue a urethane rubber Snowy stamp that would be used on concrete. Commissioner Strang asked the public works director Ron Ritchie who will look into the process of getting a custom stamp made. Commissioner Strang described that they see the stamp being around 6 inches and have them hidden



around the City for residents to find. Council Liaison Troy Woods noted that he had spoken with the City Engineer and who said that the stamps could be implemented in the current street and utility improvement project around Casey Lake.

#### **VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF**

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

#### **IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Clark-Williams had no updates.

Vice-Chair Nadeau had no updates.

Commissioner Verma had no updates.

Commissioner Strang had no updates.

Chair Sonnek Community shared that he is volunteering at the Community Clean-up Day on Saturday.

#### **X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON**

Council Liaison Troy Woods shared that it is Park clean-up day May 18<sup>th</sup> and on the 19<sup>th</sup> there is a fundraiser for the Silver Lake Improvement Association at Mac's. Woods also noted that at the last council meeting they discussed the website update and the user engagement of the City's different social media platforms.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM.

M/Nadeau, S/Verma

Motion carried 5-0.

**The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 6:30 PM.**