



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 4, 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, Commissioner – Present
Aliza Verma, Commissioner - Present
Yued Orozco-Garcia, Student Commissioner – Present
Troy Woods, Council Liaison - Present

STAFF/LIAISONS

Jordyn Lehman, Staff Liaison - Present

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Sonnek called for a motion to adopt the June 4, 2025 meeting agenda.
M/Soto, S/Black
Motion carried 7-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of May 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the May 7, 2025 meeting minutes.
M/Nadeau, 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. Taste of North St. Paul Budget Discussion

Staff liaison Lehman opened the conversation by introducing a proposed reallocation of the 2025 Taste of North St. Paul budget from City staff. The proposed budget reallocation is \$500 to the Taste of North St. Paul, \$1,000 for two additional Art Nights in 2025, and \$500 for a community craft project for the September Give Back Event.

Commissioner Verma shared that currently the sub-committee has not settled on a number for the budget but she feels that although they likely will not use the full \$2,000 dollars that is currently allocated, that \$500 will likely be too low for this event. Commissioner Verma described that the passport would be around 20 pages, they are looking into pricing for 500 and then 1,000 booklets, and Commissioner Strang is looking into custom snowy stamps for the restaurants to use. Both Commissioners agreed they were not ready to make a decision on budget reallocation at that moment.

B. 2026 Budget Discussion

The Commission discussed what they would like to submit to City Council for their proposed 2026 budget and decided on \$7,000 for utility box wraps – phase 4, \$500 for Art Cart supplies, \$12,500 for murals, \$5,000 for public art, and \$1,000 for branding and communications. Additionally, the Commission approved the proposed event budget items from Ava Griemert. Vice-Chair Nadeau called for a motion to adopt this budget proposal with a second from Commissioner Verma. Motion carried 7-0.

C. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Mural Project

Commissioner Clark Williams shared that the sub-committee had met with the NSP Historical Society to review applications and she will meet with the Historical society and mural artist tomorrow to get a better understanding their ideas for the project. Vice-Chair Nadeau noted that the Commission is looking into the potential of a mural along the Gateway Trail. Nadeau had reached out to the Gateway Trail Association and they seemed interested in the project.

2- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Strang shared that staff liaison Lehman had received the images for the Heart Hand Utility Box. Staff liaison Lehman confirmed with the Commission that this design was planned to be on the utility box on the corner of 17th street and Sean's Way. Lehman informed the Commission that City Manager Frandle felt that the design was very colorful and made a large statement for something that is in a resident's yard and along a busy street and foresees potential issues with that particular design in that location. From this information the Commission felt very confused since the box was on the approved list of utility boxes from the Electric Director. The Commission discussed the matter further and felt that they would like to establish better expectations between the Commission and the City and to develop a consistent approach to projects moving forwards. Commissioner Clark-Williams shared that the sub-committee will be meeting with the Veteran's Park Committee to review applications and choose a design.

3- Art Cart

Chair Sonnek shared that the Art Cart will be at the Big Truck night will be doing water color abstract as well as giving out snowy cards.

4- Art Night

It was noted that the 5/15 candle making Art Night was very well received and the next event is water color bookmarks on 6/12.

5- Autumn Arts Festival

Staff liaison Lehman informed the sub-committee that Events and Communications Coordinator Ava Griemert plan on scheduling monthly meetings with the sub-committee as the event date approaches.

6- Taste of North St. Paul



It was noted that the sub-committee is working on getting a finalized number of businesses who would like to be a part of the Taste of North St. Paul event. Additionally Commissioner Verma passed around a demo of the potential passport.

7- Public Art Project

Commissioner Strang shared that Public Works Director Ron Ritchie found a company called Calico Products who could potentially create rectangular concrete snowy stamps. Vice-Chair Nadeau continued the conversation by noting that they plan on having a table at National Night out to hand out the take home wooden snowy cutouts where there will be a station for people to be able to decorate their snowy. The Commission tentatively plans to purchase 150-200 cutout snowies for \$1,000. The Commission would also like to look into the possibility of selling the snowies for \$5.00 on the City's park rental website.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

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

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Clark-Williams make a clarification on the utility box discussion that the Commission was less upset but more seeking clarification from the City and ultimately this shows the Commission's growth.

Vice-Chair Nadeau had no updates.

Commissioner Verma had no updates.

Commissioner Strang had no updates.

Commissioner Soto had no updates.

Commissioner Black had no updates.

Chair Sonnek had no updates.

Student commissioner shared he was now a student board representative and intends to start a Rotary club at his school.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Troy Woods shared that at the last meeting they had a recap at the Spring Clean-Up Day and what they can do to address the event's issues and how to make the event better next year. Additionally, the Council will discuss the Community Center at the June 17th Council Meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM.

M/Aliza, S/Clark-Williams

Motion carried 7-0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 6:30 PM.