



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2025
6:30 PM**

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Nadeau called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

Tom Sonnek, Chair – Arrived at 6:32 PM
Carey Nadeau, Vice-Chair - Present
Amanda Black, Commissioner – Arrived at 6:33 PM
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

Vice-Chair Nadeau called for a motion to adopt the July 2, 2025 meeting agenda.
M/Clark-Williams, S/Strang
Motion carried 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of June 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Vice-chair Nadeau asked for a motion to approve the June 4, 2025 meeting minutes.
M/Clark-Williams, S/Soto
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. National Night Out Discussion

Staff liaison Lehman opened conversation by explaining that staff would like to know of any supplies or pre-planning that needed to be in done ahead of the ACC handing out the snowies at National Night Out. Commissioner Soto suggested that the Commission request two tables for the event, one for handing out the cut-outs and another for decorating. The Commissioners also agreed to purchase white exterior latex paint and foam paint brushes for the decorating station.

B. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Mural Project

Commissioner Clark-Williams shared that she had a meeting with a potential artist and the NSP Historical Society to discuss the mural design. The artist has verbally flushed out the design and the next step would be to have a physical mockup created. Commissioner Clark-Williams and Vice-Chair Nadeau explained that no artist has been officially picked.

Vice-Chair Nadeau shared that she had met with an organization that helps to maintain the Gateway Trail regarding interest in a potential mural. They told the Commissioners that they have to check with their staff liaison from the DNR and will get back to the Commission.

2- Utility Boxes

Chair Sonnek relayed some of the points discussed in his conversation with City Manager Frandle prior to the meeting. Chair Sonnek suggested to start drafting parameters for projects, specifically for different utility boxes depending on their location and what needs to be considered and review this with the City.

In regards to the heart hand utility, box Chair Sonnek laid out two possible scenarios moving forwards. One option would be to reach out the residents who live around the utility box to get public feedback. The other option would be to find another utility box for the design such as one of the boxes in Casey Lake Park. Commissioner Black shared that moving the box to a park would have some benefits as people can walk up to and closely examine the design. Commissioner Strang had made a PowerPoint to be used for public outreach. Chair Sonnek suggested that the PowerPoint be sent to Troy and himself for review and then forwarded to the City Manager.

Commissioner Clark-Williams shared that an artist has been selected for the Veteran's Memorial utility box and the design is complete.

3- Art Cart

Commissioner Soto noted that the last two Art Cart events were unfortunately canceled due to rain but they are hopeful they will get out to an event soon. The next event the Art Cart will be at will be the Music in the Park at Silver Lake on July 17th.

4- Art Night

Commissioner Black shared that the last Art Night with Acrylic Studio Arts went very well. She noted that some feedback they had received was that it is difficult to find information about upcoming Art Nights. Additionally the next Art Night will be in September and includes making mandala on coasters.

5- Autumn Arts Festival

Staff liaison Lehman asked on the behalf of Communications and Event Coordinator Ava Griemert for a verbal confirmation of Commissioners who will be attending the Autumn Arts Festival.

6- Taste of North St. Paul

Chair Sonnek shared that the Commission recently received news that the city attorney advised that the City does not pursue the Taste of North St. Paul food passport idea in its current form due to legal concerns. Chair Sonnek relayed his conversation with City Manager Frandle and that the City Manager would reach out to the city attorney to revisit the discussion about the Taste of North St. Paul and what can be done to make this idea work.



Commissioner Verma shared that they have received a quote from a printing company for 1,500 passports and custom stamps for around \$1700. The subcommittee believed this to be an appropriate number as they would like to give these passports out at events such as the Car Show, have some placed with restaurants, the passports are cheaper bought in bulk, and that number is roughly 10% of the NSP population.

7- Public Art Project

Council Liaison Woods relayed his conversation with public works and the City Manager regards the concrete snowy stamp. Work is being done by Casey Lake so the Commission would have to start moving on getting a stamp created if they would like to stamp the concrete on that project. The commissioner agreed it would be good to create criteria to give the contractors on how they want the concrete stamped.

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.

Commissioner Soto had no updates.

Commissioner Black had no updates.

Chair Sonnek had no updates.

Student commissioner had no updates.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Troy Woods shared that at the last City Council talked on budgets for 2026. Additionally there was discussion on parks and Rec and work being done around Casey Lake Park and Gaga ball pits.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-chair Nadeau asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM.

M/Black, S/Sonnek

Motion carried 7-0.

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