



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

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair 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 – Absent Excused
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 August 6, 2025 meeting agenda.
M/ Nadeau, S/Strang
Motion carried 6-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of July 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the July 2, 2025 meeting minutes.
M/Clark-Williams, S/Nadeau
Motion carried 6-0.

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. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Mural Project

Commissioner Clark-Williams shared that they have tentatively picked an artist for the NSP Historical Society mural project. Currently the details of the design and project are being worked on. The Commission anticipates a starting date of no sooner than August 20th.

2- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Strang shared that the heart hands design has changed boxes to a closer location in Casey Lake Park at the beginning of the walking trails. Next steps would be to get the dimensions of the box. Commissioner Strang requested that the sub-committee received guidance on what designs and topics could be put on the box on 17th and Sean's Way. Chair Sonnek suggested that the utility box sub-committee creates criteria and guidelines for different utilities boxes, what would be acceptable for certain areas, and to categorize the list of boxes for the City Manager to review. Additionally the sub-committee would like a social media push for the heart hands box once the design is installed.

Staff liaison Lehman shared that the wrapping company has received the designs for the Veteran's Memorial utility box wrap and will be wrapped once the weather is suitable for installation.

3- Art Cart

Commissioner Soto shared that the next event for the Art Cart is Music in the Park on Thursday August 14th and they will be doing canvas paintings.

4- Art Night

Commissioner Black stated that the next art Night will be water color greeting cards on September 23rd with Swetha Avula.

5- Autumn Arts Festival

Commissioner Black presented to the Commission a spread sheet of roles and tasks that need to be completed for the Autumn Arts Festival. The Commission then discussed points such as commissioner availability, leads for tasks, and other topics relating to the Autumn Arts Festival. The Commission also provided City staff direction on potential volunteer meal vouchers and recommendations for the remainder of the Autumn Arts budget.

6- Public Art Project

The Public Art sub-committee attended National Night Out to give out pre-ordered Snowies and to host a decorating station. Vice-Chair Nadeau proposed that the Take Home Snowies be offered on an ongoing basis while budget allows. Staff liaison Lehman noted that the Snowies are still available to purchase but are no longer purchasable through the City's park website but may be purchased and picked up in person at City Hall. Commissioner Strang suggested that moving forwards it may be a good idea for the Commission to participate in NNO yearly with Fire Department approval.

Regarding the concrete stamps, Commissioner Strang updated the Commission that next steps for the project is to send the final details to Councilmember Woods.

B. 2026 Project Planning Discussion

Staff liaison Lehman requested that the Commission begin to think about and plan for 2026 Arts & Culture Commission projects. Lehman provided the proposed 2026 budget for the ACC and a list of potential questions to think about regarding 2026 projects.

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 noted she was excited to see the new fire engine

Commissioner Soto had no updates.

Commissioner Black had no updates.

Chair Sonnek shared an email from Ava Griemert regarding a community partnership opportunity for senior education programs.

Student commissioner had no updates.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Troy Woods shared details from the prior council meeting and information on the digital security breach at the City.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

M/Soto, S/Black

Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM.