



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 3, 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 – Absent Unexcused
Raquel Soto, Commissioner – Present
Aliza Verma, Commissioner – Present
Yued Orozco-Garcia, Student Commissioner – Absent Excused
Troy Woods, Council Liaison - Present

STAFF/LIAISONS

Jordyn Lehman, Staff Liaison - Present

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Sonnek called for a motion to adopt the September 3, 2025 meeting agenda.
M/Nadeau, S/Soto
Motion carried 6-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of August 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the August 6, 2025 meeting minutes.
M/Clark-Williams, S/Verma
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. Autumn Arts Updates and Role Discussion

Staff liaison Lehman presented to the Commission a list of updates and requests from the City's Communications Coordinator Ava Griemert regarding the upcoming Autumn Arts Festival. Included in this update was the layout change from the grass to the parking lot, volunteer assignments, volunteer delegation, and details for the Community Craft project.

B. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Mural Project

Chair Sonnek shared that the NSP Historical Society mural is currently on hold but the Commission is hopeful that they can continue the project next year. Commissioner Clark-Williams noted that there was no further movement on a mural and that the Commission is still open to creating another work of art before the snow flies.

2- Utility Boxes

Staff liaison received approval from the Commission on the \$3,000 estimate for the Heart Hands utility box design at Casey Lake Park. The Commissioner approved the decision 6-0 M/Nadeau S/Verma. Commissioner Clark-Williams shared that the Veteran's Memorial utility box had been wrapped the day before the park's 10th anniversary celebration and that the design has received positive responses from the veteran's community.

3- Art Cart

Commissioner Soto shared that the Art Cart will be at the Autumn Arts Festival on September 13th and they will be making fall themed beaded corn cobs. Commissioner Soto additionally requested sandbags for the Art Cart tent.

4- Art Night

Commissioner Nadeau shared that the next Art Night will be Water Color Bookmarks on September 23rd.

5- Taste of North St. Paul

Commissioner Verma shared that they are still waiting to hear a final decision from the City attorney on if the Taste of North St. Paul idea is viable. The Commission discussed if this idea was too similar to the Park Passport initiative by the Parks & Recreation Commission but ultimately decided the programs offered different experiences.

6- Public Art Project

Staff liaison Lehman reported that there are approximately 60 Take Home Snowies remaining out of 200.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Staff liaison Lehman presented the project proposal form that was created with the goal of providing more clarity for the Commission and staff for upcoming projects. Lehman noted she would like project proposal forms for all 2026 projects submitted to staff by December 8th so they may be reviewed by staff for feedback and then by the Commission by the January 2026 meeting. The Commission requested looking into making these proposals living documents that will be updated as the project progresses.

Additionally Lehman informed the Commission that the invoice for the Snowy Trading Cards in 2024 had not been paid and would have to come out of the 2025 budget. The Commission recommended the funds be taken from the branding and communications and the Art Cart line items.

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 Soto had no updates.

Commissioner Black shared that she is participating as a vendor in three upcoming art events in the Twin Cities metro area.

Chair Sonnek shared a reminder for the Autumn Arts Festival on September 13th from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Troy Woods shared updates from the prior Council meeting which included discussion about budgets the Community Center grant.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM.

M/Black, S/Verma

Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 6:30 PM.