



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 1, 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 – 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 October 1, 2025 meeting agenda.
M/Nadeau, S/Soto
Motion carried 7-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of September 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the September 3, 2025 meeting minutes with one change to note that the Veteran’s Park utility box was wrapped for the Veteran’s Park 10th anniversary not the 15th.

M/Verma, S/Black
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. Autumn Arts Updates and Role Discussion

The Autumn Arts sub-committee met with the city event coordinator regarding event feedback for Autumn Arts and wanted to further the discussion with the Commission. Commissioner Strang noted an improvement in the signage and cohesiveness of the event. General feedback was received that the middle line of tents was not ideal and the Commission agreed that it will not happen next year. Commissioner Nadeau noted that two vendors would have preferred that the vendors and performers were closer together as it felt like the performers drew attention away from the vendors. Commissioner Black proposed ending the event an hour or two earlier given feedback from the vendors or potentially having a finale performance during which vendors would be able to tear down.

B. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Mural Project

Chair Sonnek proposed Art Benches to the Commission, which would consist of 4 benches that would be primarily placed in City Parks and painted with commissioned designs. Sonnek noted that the benches would generally have a nature theme and the design of the benches would try to both blend in to the surrounding area as well as stand out.

2- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Strang shared that she has fitted the images for the Heart Hands utility box onto the template but is concerned that there may be file distortion due to the size of the file and template. Commissioner Strang asked if it can be investigated to see if files can be put in a drop box for the wrapping company. Commissioner Clark-Williams shared that the utility box sub-committee plans to have boxes picked out and approved by the City to be ready for a 2026 call for artists.

3- Art Cart

Commissioner Strang noted that the side door on the Art Cart has some sharp edges and points and asked if that could be looked at to be made safer.

4- Art Night

Art Night sub-committee shared that the last two Art Nights for the year will be the Chunky Knit blanket making on 10/16 and Mandala on Coasters 11/20.

5- Taste of North St. Paul

Commissioner Verma shared that she is working on a project proposal for the Taste of North St. Paul that would revisit some of the points that the City Attorney had brought up regarding gambling laws for a raffle prize.

6- Public Art Project

Commissioner Strang shared that the sub-committee met and brainstormed ideas for next year. Strang shared that original stamp was scraped for one more hidden and found a custom branding iron that would be an image that would be 4 by 4 inches. Commissioner Nadeau noted that they are researching a penny press machine in City Hall that would include 4 images including a classic car, Snowy, Henry Castle, and a leaf for Autumn Arts.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Staff liaison shared with the Commission the project proposal forms for murals and utility box wraps and received feedback from the Commissioners.



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

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Clark-Williams had no updates related to City business.

Vice-Chair Nadeau thank the Public Works and Fire Department for donating a tour of their facilities for the 622 Education Foundation silent auction.

Commissioner Verma had no updates related to City business.

Commissioner Soto had no updates related to City business.

Commissioner Black had no updates related to City business.

Commissioner Strang had no updates related to City business.

Student Commissioner had no updates related to City business.

Chair Sonnek had no updates related to City business.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Troy Woods shared updates about the recent City Council meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM.

M/Clark-Williams, S/Soto

Motion carried 7-0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 6:30 PM.