



**Arts & Culture Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 5, 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 – Absent Excused  
Laura Strang, Commissioner – Present  
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 November 5, 2025 meeting agenda with the amendment to strike article 7 section B due to the Student Commissioner's absence and its place discuss staggering the current Arts & Culture Commission terms during staff reports.

M/Black, S/Nadeau  
Motion carried 6-0.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of October 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve October 1, 2025 meeting minutes with one change to note Commissioner Nadeau's thank you to the NSP Public Works and Fire Department for donating a tour of their facilities for the 622 Education Foundation silent Auction.

M/Strang, 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. Biennial Review of the Arts & Culture Commission Bylaws**

According to the Arts & Culture Commission's bylaws the Commission will review their bylaws every two years to determine if the Commission would like to recommend updates to the bylaws or have them remain the same. Chair Sonnek shared with the Commission that Commissioner Clark-Williams is currently working on amendments to the bylaws to clarify and greater emphasize the Commission's cultural promotion. For this reason Chair Sonnek made a motion to table this discussion until the December 3 Arts & Culture meeting. M/Nadeau S/Black 6-0

### **B. Sub-Committee Updates**

#### **1- Penny Press Machine**

Vice-Chair Nadeau shared that she has received a quote for a penny press machine and drafted a project proposal for staff to review. The Commission further shared they planned to have 2 permanent designs and 1-2 designs that change yearly. Additionally, the Commission is looking into options to include an adapter for the press so it can process other forms of change such as nickels and dimes. Staff liaison noted that staff have received the proposal form and have started circulating it to the appropriate departments for review.

#### **2- Utility Boxes**

Commissioner Strang thanked everyone for getting staff the approvals for the design charge for the Heart Hands Utility Box. Strang and staff liaison noted that the wrapping company has received the designs and approvals to move forwards with a wrap if the weather remains over 60 degrees.

#### **3- Art Cart**

Commissioner Black opened the conversation by explaining that the Commission should have received an email that explains that the Commission has an opportunity to use a different City trailer as the Art Cart. Staff liaison Lehman explained that this trailer has experienced little use, is outfitted with racks for tables and chairs, has a ramp on the back for easier loading and unloading, and is overall easier for Public Works to manage. Lehman did note that there was no large double side door that opens the side of the trailer on the new cart. After some discussion the Commission ultimately decided to accept the new trailer the City has offered and decommission the old orange trailer.

#### **4- Art Night**

Commissioner Nadeau shared that last month they had the chunky knit blanket class that went well. Nadeau also shared that their sub-committee is planning classes for next year and plan on having new and old artists host.

#### **5- Public Art Project**

Commissioner Strang noted that she had gotten in contact with the company to make the branding irons for the snowy stamps and has received confirmation they could make the stamp without the borders. Strang was given the options of 4-inch stamps for \$80 each or 5-inch meeting for \$110. The Commission agreed that a 5-inch stamp would be the best option.

## **VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF**

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

Staff liaison Lehman at the request of the Commission explained to the Commission that it has come to staff's attention that 5 Arts & Culture Commissioner terms were expiring in 2026. Traditionally when new Commissions are created their terms are staggered, which is what was noted in the ACC bylaws. Unfortunately, the original 5 Commission terms were never staggered. At the direction of the City Manager staff have been instructed to rework Commissioner terms so that the terms are staggered as directed in the bylaws. Staff have sent the proposed reworked terms to Commissioners to review.

## **IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Vice-Chair Nadeau had no updates related to City

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.

Chair Sonnek noted that the Commission would like to plan a workshop on Monday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 to discuss bylaws and planning for 2026 projects.

## **X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON**

Council Liaison Troy Woods shared that last month the Council attended the annual North St. Paul History Museum meeting and it was noted that there will be an event for a time capsule opening in 2026 and Woods suggested that could be a potential opportunity for the ACC. Councilmember Woods also noted that the City is looking into installing the City logo on the Margaret Street bridge.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM.

M/Black, S/Strang  
Motion carried 6-0.

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