



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 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 6:32 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 – Absent Unexcused
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 November 5, 2025 meeting agenda with the amendment to move the 2025 Event Recap and 2026 Proposed events to item A of section 7 of the meeting agenda and move 2026 Project Process Document to item B.

M/Nadeau, S/Soto
Motion carried 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of November 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve November 5, 2025 meeting minutes.

M/Nadeau, S/Soto

Motion carried 5-0.

B. Approval of November 17, 2025 Workshop Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve November 17, 2025 workshop meeting minutes.

M/Nadeau, S/Black
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. 2025 Event Recap and 2026 Proposed Events

Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator, Ave Griemert, presented a recap of 2025 City events and shared upcoming events planned for 2026. Griemert thanked the Commission for their participation in 2025 City events, including events unrelated to Arts & Culture, and highlighted the importance of the Commission's efforts to these events. Griemert touched on the success of the Autumn Arts Festival and Guided Art Night as highlighting areas of improvement. Additionally, she spoke of upcoming events such as the time capsule opening, upcoming Art Nights, and the 2026 Autumn Arts Festival and expectation for the Commission which includes volunteering at least two events per year.

B. 2026 Project Process Document

Chair Sonnek shared that the project process document before the Commission is a further built out version of what was worked on at the November 17th workshop. This document was received by City staff who added their own comments and then reviewed further with staff by Chair Sonnek and Council Liaison Troy Woods. Chair Sonnek reviewed each section of the process document and addressed questions and suggestions from the Commission.

The Commission wanted clarification that in 1.5 and 2.5 feedback is given by City Staff to the Commission via email. Additionally, the Commission suggested moving legal review from 2.2 to be closer to 1.4.

C. Arts & Culture Commission Bylaws Review

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the Arts & Culture Commission Bylaws with no additional changes.

M/Soto, S/Clark-Williams
Motion Carried 5-0

D. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Murals

Commissioner Black shared artist feedback she has received from Artists who noted that it poses difficulties to muralists to create a full mock-up for a mural project especially when it is not guaranteed they will be picked by the City. Commissioner Black wants the Commission to be aware that this may pose a barrier to some Artists.

2- Utility Boxes

The Commission had no updates for utility boxes.

3- Art Cart

Staff liaison Lehman shared that after inspecting the new Art Cart she felt that the Commission will need more shelving. Public Works Supervisor Randy Miller informed Lehman that adding wood shelves would come with a minimal cost and effort. Lehman plans to schedule a time to meet with Miller to discuss shelving layouts.



Vice-Chair Nadeau proposed potentially hiring artists for Art Cart crafts and activities with the surplus Art Night budget. It was noted that there will be candle making, canvas painting, a cookie decorating, and other activities included in the upcoming Art Nights.

4- Art Night

Nadeau shared that Art Night artists are lined up and ready to have final contracts sent out in 2026.

5- Public Art Project

Staff liaison Lehman shared that the Penny Press project will be moved to early 2026 to allow staff to further review the project.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Staff liaison Lehman noted that this meeting is Commissioner Black's last meeting and thanked her for her work on the Commission.

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

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Vice-Chair Nadeau shared she attended the Pizza Factory taste event and noted Pizza Factory's success, and shared pride and enthusiasm for the unique businesses in North St. Paul.

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 gave a shout-out to the North St. Paul Drama at North High for their performance of the Little Mermaid.

Student Commissioner Orozco-Garcia had no updates related to City business

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Troy Woods shared that the resolution to extend three Commissioner's terms passed at the December 2nd City Council meeting. Councilmember Woods also expressed gratitude to the Commission for their patience while he learned more about the Commission and his role.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM.

M/Clark-Williams, S/Soto

Motion carried 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 6:30 PM