



**Arts & Culture Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2026  
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  
Ashley Perfect, Commissioner – Present  
Sharon Clark-Williams, Commissioner – Present  
Laura Strang, Commissioner – Present  
Raquel Soto, Commissioner – Present  
Aliza Verma, Commissioner – Present  
Yued Orozco-Garcia, Student Commissioner – Absent Excused  
Troy Woods, Council Liaison – Absent Excused

STAFF/LIAISONS

Jordyn Lehman, Staff Liaison – Present  
Ken Roberts, Community Development Director – Present  
Jack Brooksbank, City Attorney – Present

**III. ADOPT AGENDA**

Chair Sonnek called for a motion to adopt the February 4, 2026 meeting agenda.

M/Nadeau, S/Soto  
Motion carried 7-0.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of January 7, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the January 2026 meeting minutes.

M/Perfect, S/Clark-Williams

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. Commission Training with City Attorney Jack Brooksbank

City Attorney Jack Brooksbank reviewed and discussed the following topics with the Commission: Open Meeting Laws, Data Practices, Conflicts of Interest, Gift Laws, Role of the City Manager and Robert's Rules of Order.

Commissioners asked for further clarification on best conduct in instances of chance encounters with other Commissioners. In summary, Brooksbank advised the Commissioners to give their best effort to avoid instances of chance encounters that lead to a quorum as it is difficult to prove that no City business was discussed. Chance encounters will happen and do not always mean a violation of open meeting laws but keeping the encounters brief and not seeking other Commissioners out is ideal. If there is knowledge that a quorum could be met, especially for a scheduled City Event then it is recommended to notify the City so proper notifications can be sent out.

Commissioner Perfect inquired on how photos taken by Commissioners for promotion of City events should be handled. Brooksbank recommended sending the photos to the Commissioners City emails and then deleting the photos off their personal device so that the information remains intact in a City account and is removed from the personal device.

Vice-Chair Nadeau inquired about monetary donations and the rules regarding the subject. Brooksbank noted that donations can be accepted by the City Council with the money earmarked for a specific purpose but the City cannot solicit donations.

Commissioner Clark-Williams asked questions regarding voting on changing money allocations and purchasing small items such as supplies for the Art Cart. Brooksbank noted that money moved for internal record keeping should be voted on by the Commission and when a contract goes to Council that is when council would "approve" that specific budget reallocation. Brooksbank advised that purchasing small items does not need a vote if there is consensus regarding the purchase and it should be conducted during meetings for the greatest transparency.

### B. Review of Commission Expectations with Ken Roberts

Community Development Director Ken Roberts gave a presentation to the Commission to review expectations for the Commission and City Staff. Roberts reviewed the Commissions Bylaws and noted that project proposal forms will be required for projects moving forwards.

### C. Sub-Committee Updates

#### 1- Autumn Arts

No updates from the Commission.

#### 2- Murals

No updates from the Commission.

#### 3- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Clark-Williams shared she has submitted a project proposal form for the Minnesota Photography utility both and plans on pivoting on the design for the second utility box design. She is currently working on the proposal form for the new design.

4- Art Night

Vice-Chair Nadeau shared that the first Art Night of 2026 is scheduled for tomorrow February 5<sup>th</sup>. The activity included is painting mandala on mugs and all 15 spots for the class have been filled.

5- Art Cart

Vice-Chair Nadeau shared that the sub-committees for Art Cart and Art Night are proposing to combine. The sub-committee proposes hiring artists to lead Art Cart activities in a similar way to how Art Nights are conducted.

6- Public Art Project

Vice-Chair Nadeau shared that a date to present the Coin Press to City Council has been set for March 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Both the 2025 Event Calendar and 2026 Budget Tracker Sheet were listed on the staff reports.

Staff liaison Lehman requested direction on the budget as the coin press exceed the amount budgeted for public art projects in 2026. The Commission agreed to move money from the mural budget to the public art project to cover the cost.

### **IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Vice-Chair Nadeau had no updates related to City business.

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

Commissioner Perfect had no updates related to City business.

Commissioner Strang had no updates related to City business.

Commissioner Soto had no updates related to City business.

Commissioner Verma 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 was absent from the meeting.

### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 PM.

M/Clark-Williams, S/Perfect

Motion carried 7-0.

**The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 6:30 PM**