



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 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 – 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 February 4, 2026 meeting agenda.

M/Clark-Williams, S/Verma
Motion carried 7-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of February 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes

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

M/Nadeau, S/Perfect

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. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Autumn Arts

Staff liaison Lehman shared that the new location for the Autumn Arts Festival is expected to be in the City Parking lot along 7th and Margaret. Lehman noted that Communications and Events Coordinator Ava Greimert requests the Commission determine their AFF sub-committee as she plans to schedule a meeting sometime that following week. Commissioner Perfect and Student Commissioner Orozco-Garcia volunteered to join the AFF sub-committee.

2- Murals

No updates from the Commission.

3- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Clark-Williams shared that Minnesota Photography utility box at Silver Lake Park is underway and continues to make progress. She also shared that she is working on the basic outline for the Good Life in Minnesota utility box to be reviewed by staff.

4- Art Night/Art Cart

Vice-Chair Nadeau shared that the Art Night/Art Cart Sub-Committee reached out to KidsCreate in Woodbury to lead two Art Cart activities at the upcoming music in the parks events in May and July. Vice-Chair Nadeau recommended that the Commission proceeds with contracting KidsCreate for these two events at a total cost of \$600.

M/Sonnek, S/Nadeau

Motion carried 7-0

Commissioner Soto asked for clarification on why certain events made it onto the event calendar included in the packet and what the expectations are for the Commission for some of these events. Staff liaison Lehman and other Commissioners clarified that events that are managed by the ACC are more mandatory while other events are optional for ACC participation.

Vice-Chair Nadeau also noted that the sub-committee has agreed to proceed with purchase of a large box of crayons for the planned Holly Jolly Night coloring activity.

Staff liaison Lehman inquired if the Commission wanted to continue to charge \$10 for the upcoming Art Nights due to their higher costs. The Commission discussed and ultimately agreed to keep the registration price at \$10.

5- Spoken-Word Poetry Slam

Commissioner Clark-Williams shared that the sub-committee is interested in hosting a poetry slam but in a spoken word format at a City Event, potentially the Big Truck Night. Participants would submit their work to be reviewed and approved by the City. Currently final details of the idea are being worked on and then will be submitted to staff for review.

6- Public Art Project

Commissioner Strang noted that she will follow-up regarding the concrete Snowy Stamp

Vice-Chair Nadeau shared that her and Chair Sonnek will be presenting the Coin Press to the City Council at the City Council Meeting on March 17th.



The Commission also shared that they are continuing to explore sidewalk poetry as a future project.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Staff liaison Lehman noted that after the direction given by the City Attorney Jack Brooksbank at the previous ACC meeting that moving forwards purchases over \$200 need to be formally voted on by the Commission. This will aid in transparency and record keeping of spending and purchases in the meeting minutes. Purchases under \$200 do not need to be explicitly voted on but should be noted that those purchases have been made or are intended to be made during a meeting.

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

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Vice-Chair Nadeau noted that the Student Commissioner is on his last year and with the Commission able to have two student commissioners it would be a good time to push advertising and heightening efforts to promote the other open position.

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 gave an update on the prior City Council meeting on March 3rd.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM.

M/Clark-Williams, S/Perfect

Motion carried 7-0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 6:30 PM