



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026
6:30 PM**

North St. Paul City Hall – Council Chambers
2400 Margaret Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Nadeau called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

Tom Sonnek, Chair – Absent Excused
Carey Nadeau, Vice-Chair – Present
Ashley Perfect, Commissioner – Present
Sharon Clark-Williams, Commissioner – Present
Laura Strang, Commissioner – Present
Raquel Soto, Commissioner – Absent Excused
Aliza Verma, Commissioner – Present
Yued Orozco-Garcia, Student Commissioner – Absent Unexcused
Troy Woods, Council Liaison – Present

STAFF/LIAISONS

Jordyn Lehman, Staff Liaison – Present

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Vice-Chair Nadeau called for a motion to adopt the May 6, 2026 meeting agenda.

M/Perfect, S/Verma
Motion carried 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of March 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Nadeau asked for a motion to approve the March 4, 2026 meeting minutes.

M/Verma, S/Clark-Williams

Motion carried 5-0.

B. Approval of April 1, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Nadeau asked for a motion to approve the April 1, 2026 meeting minutes.

M/Clark-Williams, S/Strang

Motion carried 5-0

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Eugenia Meltzer of the Metro Symphony Orchestra spoke to the Commission about the orchestra. She introduced herself to the Commission and welcomed any guidance on advertising.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Autumn Arts

Commissioner Perfect reviewed event details with the Commission. She also proposed facilitating a sidewalk chalk art activity during the Autumn Arts Festival.

2- Murals

Vice-Chair Nadeau noted that Chair Sonnek has spoken with the VFW in North St. Paul who have expressed interest in installing a mural.

Commissioner Clark-Williams shared updates regarding the 45th Parallel Monument project. Clark-Williams recommended an obelisk for the shape of the marker and that installation be in the Southwood Nature Preserve. Clark-Williams asked for clarification on if the Parks & Recreation Commission needed to review the project idea. Staff were unsure if it would be required and would follow up with the Commission later.

3- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Clark-Williams noted that MN Photography Utility Box is currently in progress and is waiting for artist applications to come in. Staff liaison Lehman reported that five applications have been received for the project.

Vice-Chair Nadeau made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$3,500 for the MN Photography Utility Box Project.

M/Nadeau, S/Strang
Motion carried 5-0

Staff liaison Lehman shared with the Commission best practice for selecting an artist after a call for artist has been published. Lehman explained the Commission will need to review finalists that sub-committees have recommended to the Commission as the best options for the project.

Commissioners raised concerns regarding this process and critiquing applications in a public setting. Staff Liaison Lehman noted the concerns to be discussed with the Community Development Director on how to further proceed.

4- Art Night/Art Cart

Vice-Chair Nadeau shared that the Candle Making Art Night is tomorrow night the 7th and Cookie decorating was rescheduled to May 21st.

5- Spoken-Word Poetry Event

Lehman shared staff's concern hosting the poetry slam event at the Autumn Arts Festival. Primary concern is that other performances at the event, downtown location, and other activities would overshadow the spoken-word performance.

Commissioners expressed that their vision for the poetry slam event was to have it connected to another event to help it grow. Commissioners suggested potential options that could integrate the activity into the Autumn Arts Festival. Staff liaison Lehman noted that she will follow up with the Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator regarding the Commission's feedback and what options are available to include the event at the Autumn Arts Festival.

6- Public Art Project

Staff liaison Lehman shared image proofs of the four-coin designs for the Coin Press. Commissioners approved of the designs and directed staff to proceed with ordering the press.

B. Discussion:2027 ACC Budget Proposal to City Council

Commission discussed considerations for the 2027 Arts & Culture Commission budget proposal. Topics discussed included potential new Art Cart redesign, budgeting for Art Cart programming, Children's Art Gallery Event, signage for current art installation in the City, and murals.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Staff liaison Lehman noted that the Art Cart budget line was over budgeted by \$95.31 and requested direction on where to pull the excess money from. Commission agreed to draw from the branding and communications line item.

M/Nadeau, S/Verma

Motion carried 5-0

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

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 Verma had no updates related to City business.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Troy Woods gave an update on the 5/5 City Council meeting and

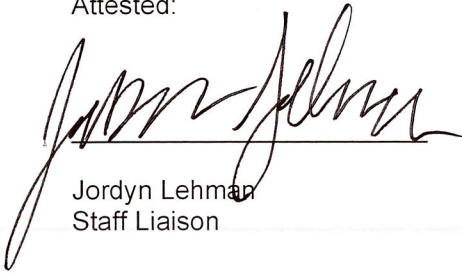
XI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Nadeau adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.



The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, June 3, 2026
at 6:30 PM

Attested:



Jordyn Lehman
Staff Liaison

Approved:



Tom Sonnek
Arts & Culture Commission Chair