



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 1, 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 – Absent Unexcused
Aliza Verma, Commissioner – Present
Yued Orozco-Garcia, Student Absent Unexcused
Troy Woods, Council Liaison – Present

STAFF/LIAISONS

Jordyn Lehman, Staff Liaison – Present

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Sonnek called for a motion to adopt the July 1, 2026 meeting agenda.

M/Clark-Williams, S/Strang
Motion carried 6-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of June 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the June 3, 2026 meeting minutes with the change that notes the next ACC meeting is July 1st not June 3rd.

M/Nadeau, S/Perfect

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. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Public Art

Staff liaison Lehman shared that the Coin Press is currently in production. The company has notified staff parts for the machine were on backorder and they are currently waiting for those parts to arrive to continue production.

2- Murals

Staff liaison shared the feedback from the Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) regarding the 45th Parallel Monument proposal for Southwood Nature Preserve. The PRC was excited by the project and had two significant pieces of feedback. They did not agree with the proposed obelisk design and recommended a more natural monument such as a boulder or wooden sign. Second, they requested that the ACC touch base with the Southwood Nature Preserve volunteers to hear their thoughts on the project.

Chair Sonnek noted that the Commission is currently waiting to hear back from the NSP VFW regarding a potential mural on their building. Additionally, Sonnek noted that he is looking into redoing the light pole banners along Margaret Street and Downtown NSP.

3- Utility Boxes

Commission noted that the Heart Hands utility box at Casey Lake Park has been wrapped. The Commission expressed that the box looks wonderful and encourages everyone to see it.

Commissioner Strang also noted that staff had directed the Commission to vote if they would like to save applicant #7 from the Silver Lake Utility Box Project submissions. After some discussion it was determined that a vote would not be required until a new project was identified.

4- Art Night/Art Cart

Commissioner Perfect brought back her thoughts on the Kids Music in the Park at Hause. She noted that there was low participation at the Art Cart. Contributing factors could be poor coordination with the Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator and lack of advertising for the Art Cart. Perfect noted that the contractor for the event was great to work with and suggests that greater communication and integration of the Art Cart into the event could help increase participation.

Commission noted that the Art Cart will be at the July 9th Silver Lake Beach Party and July 10th Big Truck Night.

5- Existing Art Signage

Vice-Chair Nadeau shared that she has spoken with the utility box wrapping contractor regarding adding a small wrap on the existing utility box wrap for signage. The contractor said that could be done with \$10 per sign and potentially more depending on other factors. Vice-Chair Nadeau additionally reached out to a separate vendor to look into signage for murals.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

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 Strang had no updates related to City business.

Commissioner Perfect 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 City budget discussions, Time Capsule Reveal, elections, and more.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sonnek adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Attested:

Approved:



Jordyn Lehman Staff Liaison



Tom Sonnek Arts & Culture Commission Chair