



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 3, 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 6:35 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

Tom Sonnek, Chair – Present
Carey Nadeau, Vice-Chair - Present
Ashley Perfect, Commissioner – Absent Excused
Sharon Clark-Williams, Commissioner – Present
Laura Strang, Commissioner – Present
Raquel Soto, Commissioner – Absent Unexcused
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 June 3, 2026 meeting agenda.

M/Nadeau, S/Clark-Williams
Motion carried 4-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of May 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chair Sonnek asked for a motion to approve the May 6, 2026 meeting minutes.

M/Nadeau, S/Clark-Williams

Motion carried 4-0.

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. MN Photography Utility Box Wrap Application Review

Commissioner Clark-Williams introduced the project and explained the application review process. The Commission reviewed the two applications recommended by the utility box sub-committee, application #1 and application #7. Commissioners expressed that both applications showed great talent but ultimately decided to proceed with application #1.

Approval of application #1 for the MN Photography Utility Box Wrap Project.

M/Sonnek, S/Nadeau
Motion carried 4-0

Vice-Chair Nadeau inquired if application #7 could be saved for a future project. Staff liaison was unsure and noted that she would investigate the possibility of doing so.

B. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Autumn Arts

Vice-Chair Nadeau proposed to contract with ArtStart to facilitate the Community Craft Project at the Autumn Arts Festival. After some discussion, that Commission agreed to the proposal.

Approval to contract with ArtStart to have two artists host a 4 hour craft activity at the Autumn Arts Festival and to use the remaining funds budgeted for Art Night to cover the remaining costs.

M/Nadeau, S/Sonnek
Motion carried 4-0

2- Murals

Chair Sonnek shared that he has been in communication with the NSP VFW regarding interest in a mural.

Commissioner Clark-Williams noted that the 45th Parallel Monument Marker is moving along. The concept will be reviewed for interest and feedback by the Parks & Recreation Commission on June 24th.

3- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Strang shared that the Heart Hands Utility box will be installed within the week at Casey Lake Park.

4- Art Night/Art Cart

Art Cart attended the June Music in the Park event. Rescheduled cookie night was a success.

5- Spoken-Word Event

Staff liaison Lehman recapped with the Commission staff concerns with hosting the Spoken-Word Poetry Event at the Autumn Arts Festival. Staff suggested options for the Commission to consider if the Commission would like to proceed with hosting the activity at the Autumn Arts Festival. Commissioner Strang noted that currently the Autumn Arts Festival has many challenges to overcome to host the Spoken-Word event at the festival. At this time the Commission will look for other locations for the activity.

C. Final 2027 ACC Budget Recommendations to City Council

Staff liaison Lehman started the conversation noting that budget proposals are due to the finance director at the beginning of June and staff is looking for final budget proposals from the Arts & Culture Commission.

Vice-Chair Nadeau commented that she feels as though the prior \$26,000 total budget requested for 2026 and 2025 has been perfect for the projects the Commission is looking to do but certain line items



may need money to be moved around to reflect project shifts for 2027. Commissioners present agreed with the sentiment. After some discussion the Commission settled to keep the \$26,000 total budget request and move funds from mural to the Art Cart line item.

Approval of the 2027 Arts & Culture Commission budget proposal with the following dollar amounts:

\$26,000 total budget request with the following line items.

Utility Box Wraps - \$7,000
Art Cart - \$3,000
Mural Project - \$10,000
Public Art - \$5,000
Branding & Communication - \$1,000

M/Nadeau, S/Clark-Williams
Motion carried 4-0

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.

Chair Sonnek had no updates related to City business.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Troy Woods gave an update City budget discussions, grant funding for the water tower project, elections, and more.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

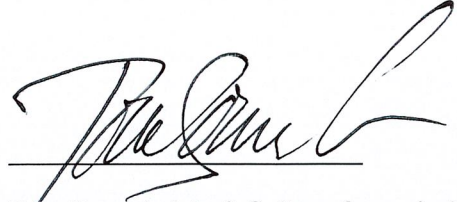
Chair Sonnek adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.

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

Attested:

Approved:


Jordyn Lehman Staff Liaison


Tom Sonnek Arts & Culture Commission Chair