



CITY OF  
**GRAND RAPIDS**  
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

**ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, February 06, 2024**  
**4:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Kari Hedlund at 3:45PM. It was noted that the Agenda said the meeting was at 4:00PM, this was in error and will be corrected.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Ed Zabinski  
Commissioner Jennifer Gorman  
Commissioner Kari Hedlund  
Commissioner Myrna Peterson  
Commissioner Aaron Squadroni  
Commissioner Sara Slaubaugh  
City Administrator, Tom Pagel  
MacRostie Program Manager, Emily Carlson

ABSENT

Commissioner Amanda Lamppa  
Commissioner Angie Miskovich  
Commissioner Derek Fox

PUBLIC INPUT: (if anyone wishes to address the Commission)

None.

SETTING THE AGENDA:

**Motion made by Commissioner Peterson, Seconded by Commissioner Gorman to add Item 3A) Blandin Mural Update to the Agenda. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni and Commissioner Slaubaugh.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve January 2, 2024 Minutes

**Motion made by Commissioner Gorman, Seconded by Commissioner Squadroni to approve the January 2, 2024 Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni and Commissioner Slaubaugh.**

FINANCIALS: Updated 2024 Budget - No Change

There was no change to the Financials and the Budget for 2024 has been updated to \$7,500. There is also money from last year and some from this year's project that will transfer into capital from city projects.

**Motion made by Commissioner Zabinski, Seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve the Financials. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni and Commissioner Slaubaugh.**

BUSINESS:

2. Riverfest 2024

Discussion of the 2024 Riverfest Music Festival. It was said that the Music is the "Art" of the festival and that whatever art is added shouldn't take away from the promotion of the Music at the Festival. For example, last year's art was sculptures of musicians, which didn't distract from the Festival. Whatever art is chosen should be something that can enhance and not distract from the Festival. The goal, even with having art downtown during the Event is to add as much without taking away from the Festival itself. The Commission asked MacRostie Program Manager Emily Carlson to check to see if the MacRostie has any ideas.

UPDATES:

3. NW Neighborhood Art Project/Park Design

City Administrator Tom Pagel met with the Blandin Foundation, Community Development Director Rob Mattei and Civic Center Manager/Director of Parks and Recreation Dale Anderson regarding a Legion Park Master Plan. They discussed how art fits into the plan, improvements, economic impacts and other contributing activities to the multiuse area. They also discussed hiring a planner to develop a "Park Plan".

Due to the development of a Legion Park Master Plan, City Administrator Tom Pagel asked the Commission if they wanted to consider putting the NW Neighborhood Art Project on pause or move to another location. The Commission agreed to pause the NW Neighborhood Art Project and decided to move their focus to the Crystal Lake Fishing Pier Park in the NE Neighborhood.

**Motion made by Commissioner Squadroni, Seconded by Commissioner Zabinski to instruct City Administrator Tom Pagel and MacRostie Project Manager Emily Carlson to communicate with the three NW Neighborhood Artists at \$500 each to create an art concept for the NE Neighborhood Art Project at the Crystal Lake Fishing Pier, to be presented in April. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni and Commissioner Slaubaugh.**

3A. Blandin Mural Update

Discussion that the Blandin Foundation would like to take the mural off of their building. The Commission should contact Leah to see if it can be taken down or possibly recreated and put on another building. The Commission should check to see if there is a possibility that it can be scanned and put on vinyl panels, the costs and think about other places downtown that it could possibly be erected for the next meeting.

4. Blanket Exercise

The Blanket Exercise is scheduled for April 8th at 6pm at the Yanmar Arena. There will be a blessing, presenter and a meal. After the City Council meeting adjourns, they will go to the Exercise. The Human Rights Commission has been invited to participate and will be asked to pay for half of the costs.

**Motion made by Commissioner Gorman, Seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve the Blanket Exercise Celebration to be held on April 8th, 2024 at 6pm at the Yanmar Arena and pay vendors Gary Charwood \$250.00 for the blessing and Jim Michaud \$500.00 for the meal. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni and Commissioner Slaubaugh.**

5. Band Map

Commissioner Zabinski gave an update on Karen Noyce's Band Map. She is gone for a couple of months and he will meet with her in April to discuss the site prep for the display. The Band Map will be closer to being finished in June/July.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Fox's coaching for cross country skiing will be wrapping up and he will be attending meetings once again.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

2. Riverfest
3. Mayor's Art Award
4. Strategic Plan

UPDATES:

5. NE Neighborhood Art Project
6. Blandin Mural
7. Blanket Exercise

ADJOURN:

**Motion made by Commissioner Gorman, Seconded by Commissioner Zabinski to adjourn. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni and Commissioner Slaubaugh.**

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman