



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

**ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, May 07, 2024**  
**3:45 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Gorman at 3:45pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Ed Zabinski  
Commissioner Jennifer Gorman  
Commissioner Myrna Peterson  
Commissioner Aaron Squadroni  
Commissioner Amanda Lamppa  
Commissioner Derek Fox  
Commissioner Sara Slaubaugh  
City Administrator, Tom Pagel  
MacRostie Program Manager, Emily Carlson

ABSENT

Commissioner Kari Hedlund  
Commissioner Angie Miskovich

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

None.

SETTING THE AGENDA:

**Motion made by Commissioner Lamppa, Seconded by Commissioner Squadroni to approve the agenda with the addition of 5a, Artists in the Loft. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Slaubaugh.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. April 2, 2024 Minutes

**Motion made by Commissioner Lamppa, Seconded by Commissioner Zabinski to approve the April 2, 2024, Minutes with the correction to add Commissioner Miskovich as being present. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Slaubaugh**

FINANCIALS:

2. Approve April 2024 Financials

**Motion made by Commissioner Zabinski, Seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve the April 2024 Financials. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Slaubaugh**

BUSINESS:

3. Approve Payment of Half of the Blanket Exercise Overage

**Motion made by Commissioner Lamppa, Seconded by Commissioner Squadroni to approve the payment of \$25.00 to Jim Michaud, which is half of the \$50.00 overage from the Blanket Exercise held on April 8, 2024. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Slaubaugh.**

4. NE Neighborhood Art Project

After discussing the three artist's presentations from the last meeting on April 2, 2024, the Commission decided to vote.

Round 1; Although some of the Commissioners liked Ann Klefstad's concept, it was eliminated from the first round as the Commission felt that it didn't reflect the neighborhood.

Round 2; The Commission gave Greg Mueller's "Crystal" concept 1 vote and his "Swing" concept 3 votes. Tom Page's "Story Pole" received 3 votes and his "Ice Cutter" received no votes. Therefore, the Commission eliminated both the "Swing" and the "Ice Cutter" from the final round.

Round 3; The Commission voted on the remaining two concepts. Greg Mueller's "Swing" received 4 votes and Tom Page's "Story Pole" received 3 votes.

The Commission directed MacRostie Program Director, Emily Carlson to contact Greg Mueller to let him know the results and request a day that he can come to participate in a work session

with the Commission.

5. Riverfest 2024

City Administrator, Tom Pagel gave an update on Riverfest, he said that so far, ticket sales are ahead of the last year's. Word gets out about the bands that are performing, such as Spoon and Shakey Graves which he feels are drawing ticket sales. Commissioner Squadroni will get more examples and info on the Wall of Fame sculpture.

5A. MacRostie Program Manager, Emily Carlson let the Commission know that the three Artists in the Loft on the top floor at Central School will be ending their residency. Two of them will come to the June meeting to let the Commission know how their residency went this past year. There will be three new artists starting in July.

UPDATES:

6. Blanket Exercise

Commissioner Peterson commented that she heard that the Blanket Exercise was eye-opening and a cool way of hands on learning. It was a success and others are interested in attending a future event.

7. Strategic Plan/New Commissioner Training Subcommittee

There's no update on this item yet from the subcommittee. However, it was mentioned that former Commissioner Sonja Merrill would like to look at the Strategic Plan. The Commission discussed that a template could be used to identify where we are at the present regarding the Strategic Plan and that it would assist each new Commission member to easily receive information when they come on board. There will be more discussion at the June meeting.

8. Tru North Central School Sculpture/Welcome Sign Proposal

The owner of Tru North is moving forward and would like help funding the Central School Sculpture and would like to attend a meeting to discuss and continue generating ideas. Commissioners Zabinski and Squadroni will make up the Committee on this item and will meet again before the June meeting.

9. Blandin Mural

Commissioner Squadroni has been unable to locate a photographer who would digitally save the mural prior to it's removal. Once in digital form, it could be replicated on vinyl and showcased on another building when determined. Commissioner Squadroni offered to try his hand at capturing the mural digitally.

10. Pokegama Band Map-Karen Noyce

Commissioner Zabinski said that Karen Noyce will be back to give an update on her research in June.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. Artists in Residence
4. NE Neighborhood Art Project
5. Riverfest 2024

UPDATES:

6. Strategic Plan/New Commissioner Training Subcommittee
7. True North Salon-Central School Sculpture
8. Blandin Mural
9. Pokegama Band Map-Karen Noyce

ADJOURN:

**Motion made by Commissioner Squadroni, Seconded by Commissioner Slaubaugh to adjourn at 5:00 pm. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Slaubaugh.**

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman.