



ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, May 05, 2026
3:45 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, the Arts & Culture Commission will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 5th, 2026 at 3:45pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 3:53pm by Commission Vice Chair Lamppa.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Commissioner Jennifer Gorman, Commissioner Myrna Peterson, Commissioner Aaron Squadroni, Commissioner Amanda Lamppa, Commissioner David Olson, Commissioner Trevor Charnley, Commissioner Matt Maves. City Liaison, City Zoning Administrator, Will Richter, MacRostie Program Director, Emily Carlson

ABSENT: Commissioner Angie Miskovich and Commissioner Nancy Jacobson

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

No one present.

SETTING THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Commissioner Squadroni, Seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve the agenda as written. Voting Yea: Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Olson, Commissioner Charnley, Commissioner Maves. Motion Passed

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Minutes from January 6th, 2026

Motion made by Commissioner Squadroni, Seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve the January 6th, 2026, Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Olson, Commissioner Charnley, Commissioner Maves. Motion Passed

FINANCIALS:

2. No Financials

BUSINESS:

3. Welcome New Commissioners

The Arts & Culture Commission welcomed new Commissioners Trevor Charnley, Matt Maves and Dave Olson.

4. Commissioner Terms

All Commissioner's terms are on the City's website, under the Arts & Culture Commission.

5. Brainstorming

The Arts and Culture Commission brainstormed about the various future art projects. One of them was discussed as the Blandin Fountain. City Zoning Administrator Will Richter said that its bad timing right now and that the mayor is very sensitive to the public perception regarding the use of public funds. But the Arts & Culture Commission has their Roadmap that will assist them in preparing for art projects in the future and can think about partnering with other community organizations. Commissioner Maves suggested teaming up with economic development/rehab through art with Itasca County's jail program.

There was also a discussion around the 8th grade art, how some will miss out on this as it is moving to the 7th grade. The A&CC discussed that they would like to have a special meeting to discuss 8th Grade Community Art. How it can be done and how they can partner with other organizations through the school district.

6. Fountain

The Commission discussed asking Chris Walker, the GR Downtown Alliance Executive Director, to come and speak to them in October, or sooner. He may have some thoughts on the placement of the Blandin Fountain and talking with him would assist the Commission in making their plan for its future in Grand Rapids.

7. MacRostie Happenings

MacRostie Program Manager, Emily Carlson said that the current group of artists in the attic will be there through June, but new applicants of which there were seven for three spots and they will be picked this week. Commissioner Squadroni said that there are some thoughts to create a space for the current artists to move to after their attic residency.

Emily Carlson also suggested that the Commission put the Mayor's Art Award on their August Meeting agenda. Commissioners should pick three nominees by that date as they still have two more plaques (Pinecones) to award.

UPDATES:

8. Citizen Group

Commissioner Squadroni had an update on the Citizen Group that was used to do a project in Chisholm. He said that they used a fiscal agent from a non-profit that handled the funds. City Liaison, City Zoning Administrator Will Richter suggested that the Arts and Culture Commission could also work with a non-profit so the funds don't need to go through the city. He also suggested that the art needs to be tied to the Arts & Culture Roadmap, which is a valuable tool and the Commission should reach out to partner organizations. It was also agreed that the Commission needs to be more organized and use a letter of intent (LOI), but at this time the Commission is basically not ready.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next meeting will be a "Special" meeting on June 2nd, 2026, at the regular time of 3:45pm in the City Council Chambers.

There will be an August Regular Meeting for the Arts and Culture Commission and the Commissioners should have their nominees (3) picked for the Mayor's Art Award to give to MacRostie Program Director Emily Carlson.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS FOR SPECIAL MEETING:

2. 8th Grade Community Arts

UPDATES:

3. MacRostie Update

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.
Respectfully Submitted by Cynthia Lyman