



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

**ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, January 06, 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, January 6th, 2026, at 3:45pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT**

Commissioner Jennifer Gorman  
Commissioner Myrna Peterson  
Commissioner Aaron Squadroni  
Commissioner Nancy Jacobson  
Commissioner Amanda Lamppa  
City Liaison, City Administrator Tom Pagel  
MacRostie Program Manager, Emily Carlson

**ABSENT**

Commissioner Angie Miskovich

**Motion made by Commissioner Jacobson, Seconded by Commissioner Squadroni to elect Commissioner Gorman as the Chair of the Commission. Voting Yea: Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Lamppa. Voting Abstaining: Commissioner Gorman. Motion Passed.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Gorman, Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson to elect Commissioner Lamppa as the Vice Chair of the Commission. Voting Yea: Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Jacobson. Voting Abstaining: Commissioner Lamppa. Motion Passed.**

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

None.

**SETTING THE AGENDA:**

The Agenda was approved as written.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve December 2nd, 2025, Minutes

**Motion made by Commissioner Squadroni, Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson to approve the minutes for December 2nd, 2025. Voting Yea: Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Lamppa. Motion Passed.**

FINANCIALS:

2. No Financials

BUSINESS:

3. Mayor's Art Award Winner & Presentation

There are two more pinecone art awards that the Commission paid for that will be awarded over the next two years.

4. Commissioner Terms & Nominations

The Commission will discuss the terms more in May and there will probably be new Commissioners coming onboard.

5. Brainstorming

The Commission discussed working on grants for art or other opportunities to volunteer at non-profits such as the MacRostie or the Grand Rapids Arts.

6. City Guidance

City Liaison, City Administrator Tom Pagel recapped the Budget cuts throughout the City and the elimination of the budgets for the Arts & Culture Commission and the Human Rights Commission. He stated that due to there being no funding for two to three years, would the Commission want to continue or pause until money was available? The Commissioners discussed their options of meeting quarterly or just a couple times per year as to not dismiss the Commission altogether. They also requested that they get a City Liaison to be at their meetings.

**Motion made by Commissioner Peterson, Seconded by Commissioner Squadroni to make a recommendation to continue meeting as a Commission in the months of January, May and October, the first Tuesday of each at 3:45pm. Voting Yea: Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Lamppa. Motion Passed.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Gorman, Seconded by Commissioner Lamppa to let the City Council know that the Commission will meet three times per year until funding is available and they can let new applicants know these changes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Lamppa. Motion Passed.**

7. Fountain

City Administrator Tom Pagel said that the Blandin Fountain was gifted to the city and it is in storage. The Commission is interested in looking at it and that it would be a great project to work on for the future.

8. Citizen Group

Commissioner Squadroni reached out to the Citizen Group in Chisholm. He has not heard back from them yet regarding their downtown revitalization project that they worked with a non-profit on the project. He said he will get more information for the May meeting.

UPDATES:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. Commissioner Terms & Nominations
4. Brainstorming
5. Fountain

UPDATES

6. Citizen Group

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 5:42pm.  
Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman