



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

**ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING AGENDA**  
**Tuesday, August 01, 2023**  
**3:45 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

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

SETTING THE AGENDA:

CORRESPONDENCE:

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. July 5, 2023 Minutes

FINANCIALS: There has been no change through July.

BUSINESS:

2. Review New Mayor's Art Award
  - A) Discuss Nomination Selections
  - B) Determine Award

UPDATES:

3. Riverfest
4. Pokegama Band Map - Karen Noyce

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:



CITY OF  
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**ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Wednesday, July 05, 2023  
3:45 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The Arts & Culture Meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Hedlund at 3:54pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Commissioner Ed Zabinski, Commissioner Jennifer Gorman, Commissioner Kari Hedlund, Commissioner Myrna Peterson, Commissioner Aaron Squadroni, Commissioner Amanda Lamppa, Commissioner Angie Miskovich and Commissioner Derek Fox

CITY STAFF: City Administrator Tom Pagel

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

None.

SETTING THE AGENDA:

**Motion made by Commissioner Peterson, Seconded by Commissioner Gorman to approve the Agenda as written. All in favor, Motion passed.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. May 16, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

**Motion made by Commissioner Squadroni, Seconded by Commissioner Lamppa to approve the Minutes with two changes. All in favor, Motion passed.**

FINANCIALS:

**Motion made by Commissioner Gorman, Seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve the financials, of which there was no change. All in favor, Motion passed.**

## BUSINESS:

## 2. Welcome New Commissioner

The Commission welcomed new Commissioner Derek Fox. City Administrator Pagel gave an overview for Commissioner Fox of resources and the guiding document for the Commission, the Implementation Plan which can be found on the City Website. The Commission is in Year 3 now.

## 3. Review New Mayor's Art Award Policy and Discuss Nominations

Discussion on the Mayor's Art Award that will go to the City Council for approval. Commissioners are to send their nominations to the City Administrator Pagel by Friday, July 7th and he will send to the MacRostie Art Center Program Manager for assistance with pictures and 3-5 bullets for each selection. Then the next step for the nominations would be social media and hopefully by September the Commission will be ready to Award by October.

## 4. Riverfest

Discussion started with Riverfest Artist, Tom Page will have his mosaic prints and cast iron sculptures on display throughout the event. Ticket sales are doing well, approximately 2,600 sold of the sell-out of 3,500. There will be more chair sealing and 3, possibly 4 bleachers this year as well as a video screen and more food vendors.

## UPDATES:

## 5. Pokegama Band Map - Karen Noice

At this time there is no update for Karen Noyce.

## 6. Neighborhood Art Sculpture Request for Council Action

The top three scored artists from the RFP Scoresheets will be Tom Page, Ann Klefstad and Greg Mueller. City Administrator Tom Pagel will put together an agreement to bring to the City Council for approval.

**Motion made by Commissioner Hedlund, Seconded by Commissioner Peterson to recommend three artists, Tom Page, Ann Klefstad and Greg Mueller for the NW Neighborhood Art Project to the City Council for approval. All in favor, Motion passed.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

## SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

- 2) Review New Mayor's Art Award
  - A) Discuss Nomination Selections
  - B) Determine Award

UPDATES:

- 3) Riverfest
- 4) Pokegama Band Map - Karen Noyce

ADJOURN:

**Motion made by Commissioner Gorman, Seconded by Commissioner Zabinski to adjourn. All in favor, Motion passed.**

ATTEST: Respectfully by Cynthia Lyman

Dear Ed:

Despite my very best intentions, I have had almost no time at all to work on the project during the past 2 months.

I did, however, have a great meeting with Colleena Bibeau and Leah Lemm. They are both very supportive of the project. Leah has particular interest in developing digital and media aspects alongside physical elements, and I believe that when the time comes, she will be a great resource.

I talked with them about the need to speak with Sandy Lake Band members and other elders who might have had family history in this area. Colleena suggested holding a listening session - getting a select group of such people together in the same room and just posing some questions and see what information and ideas come of it.

Jim Merhar and Frank Bibeau's names came up, as well as some of the members of the group of Ojibwe who oversee the property given to them by the mines a little ways up the Iron Range some years ago. (These were families recruited from White Earth by the mines to come and work.) That group meets monthly, I believe, and Jim is involved in it.

I am planning to stop in next week and chat with Jim anyway, as I haven't seen him in a year, and I will introduce the idea of a listening session to him. Bernadine has already asked Frank Bibeau if he will meet with us. That came close to happening, but his mother fell very ill and at the moment he is tied up with caring for her and is not able to make any plans. I have still not heard back from Sue Meisner and I will not bug her again. I can get probably a better introduction to Sandy Lake band members through Frank, once I meet with him.

My plan is as follows:

- 1) I must complete the compilation of all my historical notes and anecdotes into a chronological narrative of what happened here at the Long Rapids of the Mississippi and in the Pokegama area. This has to be done in order to decide just what story we aim to tell in this project and which parts of the story lend themselves to which parts what types of presentation. That task of compiling the notes is entirely in my hands. I have a good start on it but have not been able to touch it for two months.
- 2) If possible, I will stop in on Jim Merhar next week, tell him more about the project, introduce the idea of a listening session, and find out how to meet/talk with the Iron Range Group.
- 3) Hopefully, things will be stable enough for Frank Bibeau that when I return from New York in early August, we can meet. Frank has historical knowledge, understands the political context, and has close ties to the Sandy Lake band, who are, interestingly, currently working on becoming recognized as a distinct band by the Federal Government, I think.
- 4) Convene a listening session this fall with selected band members, the goal of which will be to glean any historical information we can about the Pokegama band, and make sure that the products of this work grow out of local Native knowledge, experience, and perspective.
- 5) After all this is done, I envision having a planning team together of me, Leah, Colleena, hopefully a couple of other local Anishinaabe engaged during the first four steps, as well as Katie Marshall and you or someone else from the Arts & Culture Commission, to plan the specific parts of the project and put together a strategic/work plan for finding resources, artists, project manager and finances to execute it. That's the big picture for now.

Hope your summer is going well.

Karen Noyce