

**Red Wing Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
April 15, 2026**

Members Present: Chair Katie Nolan; Commissioners Zamira Mendoza (arrived at 5:44), Stephanie Rogers, Alyssa Riegelman, Gary Stone, David Culver, Mark Granlund (arrived at 5:35), Sam Brown, and Evan Wert

Members Absent: All members in attendance

Others Present: Teri Swanson, City Clerk; Melissa Hill, Staff Liaison

1. Call to Order

Chair Nolan called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Workshop Items

A. Municipal Arts Fund Balance.

Commissioner Wert asked why the budget shows a balance of \$53,000. Staff Liaison Hill stated the spreadsheet details the information, but there was Covid recovery money designated, a general fund transfer of \$6,000, and a SEMAC grant.

Commissioner Wert clarified that there is no annual revenue stream. Staff Liaison Hill noted that it is correct, just qualifying development projects.

Commissioner Wert asked why they don't utilize the fund more. Commissioner Culver stated that those funds are precious and the Commission will likely not receive another influx as they received during COVID.

Staff Liaison Hill noted that the Commission is being cautious due to the lack of regular, predictable incoming funding streams.

Chair Nolan stated that the Commission has been conscientious in its financial approach, aiming to ensure sufficient funds are available to cover known annual expenses without depleting the fund. She acknowledged that the Commission could choose to allocate remaining funds toward specific projects if desired, but emphasized that the current priority has been maintaining stability for recurring costs. She also noted that, because the fund is relatively new, there is not yet a clear understanding of the consistency or scale of its revenue stream.

Commissioner Wert asked why the City doesn't handle maintenance and voiced that he understood the Commission's job was to enhance art and culture. Commissioner Rogers acknowledged what Commissioner Wert expressed, but noted that artwork maintenance is specialized work that the City's Public Works Department wouldn't be able to complete.

Commissioner Granlund noted that maintenance is usually contracted out if there isn't a Public Art Administrator within the City.

Commissioner Wert asked why the maintenance contract couldn't be directly with the City.

Chair Nolan stated that she understood the concern being raised was why maintenance costs must come out of the Art and Commission Fund rather than another City fund. She explained that the statute establishing the fund specifically includes maintenance, and she believes it would be difficult to make a case to the Council that this fund should not be used for that purpose.

Staff Liaison Hill noted that the Council has not historically budgeted for public art maintenance, and that this fund is currently the only one specifically earmarked for such expenses, which fall under the Commission's purview.

Commissioner Culver noted that the Fire Department is responsible for maintaining its own equipment, and the Parks Department likewise maintains its equipment. He added that the Commission can approach the Council if additional funding is needed.

Chair Nolan responded that the Commission could similarly advocate for a dedicated maintenance budget. She also mentioned that there is a public art maintenance plan in place and that she intends for the Commission to review it at a future meeting.

Chair Nolan then asked where the budget spreadsheet is housed and who is responsible for maintaining it.

Staff Liaison Hill stated that she currently only accesses this information by meeting with someone in the Finance Department. She noted challenges with understanding the budget due to limited access, including not being aware of certain charges, such as insurance. She suggested that conducting quarterly reconciliations with Finance could improve transparency.

Commissioner Culver asked for clarification about the insurance expense. Staff Liaison Hill explained that certain sculptures were appraised when acquired, at which time insurance coverage was established. She noted that the cost is approximately \$6 per month.

Commissioner Granlund expressed support for holding quarterly meetings, stating that doing so would help keep revenue and fund activity more visible to the City's Finance Department.

Commissioner Culver asked whether the Commission could establish a trigger

for automatic notifications from Finance whenever funds are deposited or withdrawn. Staff Liaison Hill indicated that this may not be realistic, but suggested that the Commission could instead track its own expenditures and review them during quarterly reconciliations.

Staff Liaison Hill stated that she would take responsibility for presenting the quarterly reconciliation reports to the Commission.

Commissioner Nolan recommended developing a process to help onboard new members to the Finance Committee, ensuring continuity and understanding of financial procedures over time.

Commissioner Rogers suggested adding a third column to function as a checkbook-style balance tracker. Staff Liaison Hill responded that the Excel spreadsheet provided by the Finance Department already includes such a column.

B. Creative Laureate Program Applications.

Chair Nolan stated the Commission received four applications. She discussed when voting needs to occur, the process for processing applications, and the five factors to assess for each applicant.

The Commission discussed Applicant A within the criteria set.

The Commission discussed Applicant B within the criteria set.

The Commission discussed Applicant C within the criteria set.

The Commission discussed Applicant D within the criteria set.

Chair Nolan asked the Commission whether they would be prepared to vote at the next meeting. The Commission indicated that they were ready to proceed.

Staff Liaison Hill inquired about the process the Commissioners would use to complete their scoring sheets.

Commissioner Rogers stated her preference for using the scoring sheets to calculate an average score, rather than relying on a simple yes-or-no vote.

A consensus was reached to utilize the score sheets to inform a yes or no vote among Commissioners.

Commissioner Mendoza stated she would be happy to tally the scoring and noted why the scoring method is beneficial.

Staff Liaison Hill noted she will send out an email to request scoring sheets, which she will then pass to Commissioner Mendoza.

Commissioner Stone clarified that the Commission could fund zero to three individuals.

Staff Liaison Hill asked the Commission to discuss Arts in the Park and fees. Commission consensus was reached for funding to come from the Municipal Arts Fund or the Commission's budget.

C. Large Jester Repair Quote.

Chair Nolan stated she received an updated quote and noted that if there are further questions, please let her know.

D. Committee Check-Ins.

Chair Nolan stated that the Arts and Culture Commission is now allowed to have a student voting Commissioner, due to recent Council action to change the board and commission policy.

Staff Liaison Hill further discussed the student voting Commissioner role and the student advisory role. She encouraged Commissioners to reach out to students to apply.

3. Adjournment

Chair Nolan adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.