



Draft Meeting Minutes: Public Art Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Minutes prepared by: Sarah Kidwell

Location: Western Service Center – Conference Room 106, 14955 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley

Attendance

- Al Tsai
- Cheryl Caponi
- Bob Erickson
- JuliAnne Jonker
- Meridith McKinley, Via Partnership (via Teams)
- Lil Leatham, Dakota County Planning
- Beth Landahl, Dakota County Parks
- Teresa Mitchell, Dakota County Public Services & Revenue Division
- Sarah Kidwell, Dakota County Public Services & Revenue Division
- Heather Stephenson, Dakota County Library

Agenda

- Approval of Agenda / Chair / Approval or Modification
- Approval of Minutes / Chair / Approval or Modification
- Per Diem Requests will be emailed / All / Member Signature
- 2026 Budget Update
- Presentations
 - PAAC Greenway Tunnel Proposal: Beth Landahl
 - Revisit tabled motion from March meeting
 - Blueprint Public Art Plan Update: Via Partnership
- Project Updates
 - Wentworth Library Remodel: Cheryl Caponi, Liaison
 - Burnhaven Library Remodel: Cheryl Caponi, Liaison
 - 2026 Music in the Park: Mike Todaro, Liaison
 - PAAC Table: Lead an activity at Music in the Park
 - Unity Trail: Mike Todaro & JuliAnne Jonker, Liaisons
 - 2026 Art Contest: Al Tsai, Liaison
 - Artist Reception: Monday, April 20 @ Western Service Center
 - Exhibition
- Unfinished Business
 - Digital Message Board Follow-up: Mike Todaro

- New Business
- Announcements

Next Meeting

Date: May 12, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm (New time)

Location: Virtual Meeting via Teams

Agenda items: Blueprint Public Art Plan Update and Greenways Pilot plan

Meeting Notes

Approval of Agenda: Chair

Bob Erickson moved to approve the agenda, and it was seconded by JuliAnne Jonker. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: Chair

Bob Erickson moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, and it was seconded by JuliAnne Jonker. The motion passed.

Per Diem Requests: All

Per diem requests were distributed for signatures.

2026 Budget Update: Teresa Mitchell

Teresa Mitchell reported that based on new directives from new County Finance Director and County Senior Leadership stating that unspent budget from previous years has been eliminated. The County is facing a difficult budget environment, and this policy affects all departments unless there is a contract or grant that encumbers funds. Then those remaining funds can be carried to the following year with proof. The Public Art Blueprint funds that have been dedicated by PAAC have been carried over to fund the Via Partnership contract. Teresa reviewed a high-level budget for 2026. Additionally, Sarah Kidwell's position will not be filled at this time.

Presentations

- **PAAC Greenway Tunnel Proposal: Beth Landahl**

Beth Landahl presented information on the Parks Departments Operational and Strategic plans. She shared that the Parks vision is Nature Protected, Community Reflected, All Are Connected. Highlights included the Parks Core Values and the County Board Priorities. Beth highlighted all the collaborations that Parks and PAAC have engaged in.

Based on the wishes and suggestions for greenway murals by PAAC members, Beth introduced a proposal that could serve as a pilot within the Public Art Blueprint and could inventory, characterize and prioritize grade-separated crossings (e.g. tunnels and bridges). This pilot work and strategic prioritization would set the public art plan up for better chances at outside grants and funding.

- **Blueprint Public Art Plan Update: Via Partnership**

Meridith McKinley carried forward the proposal suggestion that Beth introduced to develop a Parks pilot as part of the Blueprint Plan. She went on to lead discussion on the Roles and Responsibilities in the Plan. It was made clear that the County has funding and staffing challenges. PAAC members were expecting to have the Garlough tunnel project replicated in other tunnels on an annual basis.

Meridith spent some time talking about possible work plan concepts that would require a host department to staff the work and manage projects. PAAC members expressed a desire to be able to initiate projects which lead to further discussion about finding partners, stakeholders and resources to move forward.

The host liaison/department for PAAC would be responsible to maintain documentation and administration of the committee and collection. They would also host a public art summit each year with department liaisons and project managers to discuss potential projects and progress that would support the content of the annual work plan.

Project Updates

- **Wentworth Library Remodel: Cheryl Caponi, Liaison**

Opens May 6th – event from 5:30 to 7:30.

- **Burnhaven Library Remodel: Cheryl Caponi, Liaison**

Just closed. Will reopen next spring. Possibly considering an outdoor installation on the grounds.

- **2026 Music in the Park**

Parks invites the Advisory Committee to have an information table again and an interactive activity. Mike Todaro will coordinate working with Parks.

- **Unity Trail: Mike Todaro and JuliAnne Jonker, Liaisons**

Benches are underway, lots of public engagement. Will be installed before June 30.

- **2026 Art Contest: Al Tsai, Liaison**

Due to the great response and amount of submissions, a Middle School category was added. Library is coordinating for art rail space for exhibition. Details will be reported at next meeting. The Artist Reception is on April 20th.

Unfinished Business

- **Recognition for Sarah Kidwell**

Bob Erickson moved to recognize Sarah and express grateful appreciation for her meaningful contributions to the success of the PAAC. Bob made the motion and it was seconded by Cheryl Caponi. All members and staff present expressed appreciation for Sarah's efforts and wished her well.