



## Draft Meeting Minutes: Public Art Advisory Committee

Date: November 18, 2025  
Minutes prepared by: Sarah Kidwell  
Location: Virtual via Teams

### Attendance

- Cheryl Caponi
- Bob Erickson
- JuliAnne Jonker
- Al Tsai
- Tony Wotzka, Dakota County Parks
- Beth Landahl, Dakota County Parks
- Anna Ferris, Dakota County Parks
- Meridith McKinley, Via Partnership
- Erika Fiola, Via Partnership
- Lil Leatham, Dakota County Planning Department
- Teresa Mitchell, Dakota County Public Services & Revenue Division
- Sarah Kidwell, Dakota County Public Services & Revenue Division

### Action Taken

- Approve the 2026 Public Art Advisory Committee Work Plan.

### Decisions Made

- Al Tsai and Bob Erickson will attend the General Governance and Policy Committee meeting on December 2 to present the 2026 work plan.
- Al, Bob, Julianne and Cheryl would like to assist in identifying bench locations along the Unity Trail.
- 2026 Student Art Contest will open on December 1, 2025, and close on March 27, 2026.

## Agenda

- Approval of Agenda / Chair / Approval or Modification
- Approval of Minutes / Chair / Approval or Modification
- Per Diem Requests will be emailed / All / Member Signature
- Unfinished Business
  - Approve 2026 Work Plan
    - Tony Wotzka, Greenways Manager, will provide insight on the Greenways Plan
    - Presentation to the General Government & Policy Committee: December 2 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Sub-Committee Progress Updates
  - Unity Trail Update: Beth Landahl & Anna Ferris
  - 2026 Art Contest Subcommittee: Al Tsai
    - Theme: Voices of Nature
    - Contest Opens: Monday, December 1, 2025
- Unfinished Business
  - Dakota County Blueprint Public Art Plan: Via Partnership Staff
    - Role of the Public Art Advisory Committee in the ongoing implementation
- New Business
  - Library RFP for artwork at Burnhaven Library, Burnsville: Teresa Mitchell

## Next Meeting

Date: December 9, 2025

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Jonker Studio, Apple Valley

Agenda items: Shorter meeting w/ social time

## 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 will be distributed at the next meeting.

## New Business

- **Approve 2026 Work Plan**

Tony Wotzka was invited to speak about the Greenway Plans that Parks is currently updating, which could clarify and expand the public purposes of greenways. This is relevant to the 2026 work plan since one area that the Advisory Committee included in the plan is to identify how the county's inventory of public art intersects with public art along the greenways. The Advisory Committee made a few minor changes to words included in the work plan.

Julianne Jonker moved to approve the 2026 work plan, and it was seconded by Cheryl Caponi. The motion passed.

Al Tsai and Bob Erickson will attend the General Governance and Policy Committee meeting on December 2 to share the 2026 work plan.

## Sub-Committee Progress Updates

- **Unity Trail Update: Beth Landahl & Anna Ferris**

Beth Landahl and Anna Ferris gave an update of the Unity Trail project. There are 7 nodes where benches will be located. An RFP was issued and two artists were selected to create the benches. They would like the committee's engagement to select the location where each bench will be placed. Three will be on county property. Al, Bob, Cheryl and Julianne are all interested in assisting with this project.

- **2026 Art Contest Subcommittee: Al Tsai**

Al Tsai gave an update that the student art contest. The contest will open on Monday, December 1, 2025, and close on Friday, March 27, 2026. The artist reception and announcement of winning artwork will be held on Monday, April 20, 2026.

## Unfinished Business, continued

- **Dakota County Blueprint Public Art Plan**

Meridith McKinley and Erika Fiola, Via Partnership, shared their findings from the engagement events and provided a benchmarking summary.

Lil Leatham and Teresa Mitchell will provide an update of the work completed so far to the General Governance and Policy Committee on December 2.

## **New Business**

- None

## **Announcements**

- **December 9th meeting** - will be a lighter agenda. Julianne will host the December meeting and social at her studio. The menu was discussed and refreshment approval from PS&R Division will be given.