



CUYAHOGA FALLS
PUBLIC ART BOARD
MINUTES
September 11, 2025

Planning Division
2310 Second Street
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
330-971-8135

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Board Members Present: Rick Krochka, Chair
Danielle Dieterich, Vice Chair
Tom Sullivan, Secretary
Molly Hartong
C. Arthur Croyle
Mark Gilles (Non-Voting)

Board Members Absent: Meika Penta (Non-Voting)

Planning Division: Adam Paul, Asst. Planning Director
Lori Jones, Admin. Specialist

Mr. Rick Krochka called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm, and he explained the meeting process. He then asked if there were any conflicts of interest with any items on the agenda, and with none, the pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Tom Sullivan read the Agenda into record.

Mr. Krochka opened the first item to the City.

NEW BUSINESS

ART-25-00008

Mr. Adam Paul thanked everyone for attending on such a significant date as September 11th, and then he went over the substantive changes to this project and the added changes that were desired for the project. He provided updates about the permit, the maintenance getting completed soon, and the new element to be added. He spoke of the need to choose a color, and then spoke of the vinyl product choice, the adherence and temperatures necessary to apply it. He stated that the artist will wash and paint the wall, and then went over the green and sepia choices, and spoke of the decision between the colors, and that the artist preferred the green. He then spoke about the new side art mural attraction to be added. He then stated that he could answer any questions.

Mr. Krochka closed the item to the City, opened it to the applicant, who was not present, so he closed it to the applicant. He then opened it to the public, and with none present, he closed it to the public and opened it to the Board.

Ms. Molly Hartong stated that she liked the sepia color because it is historic in nature, but she can be swayed to the green, especially since it is preferred by the artist. She then questioned if

this will be done in time.

Mr. Paul stated that it should be done in time, unless there is a sudden drop in temperatures, but they do need a 2-week gap between painting and installing the vinyl.

Mr. Krochka stated that he knows the Board did like the sepia because of the rust, but the green looks nice with the beams and it looks historic also, so he could go either way. He also stated that he loves the way it has now been anchored to the ground, it is so much better.

Ms. Danielle Dieterich stated that she appreciates that the artist prefers the green, and she too likes the green.

Mr. Sullivan questioned if once the state is done, could the background be a color that we decide on, and Mr. Paul stated that ODOT does provide a spec color tint to be used, so he is not sure if it can be changed.

Mr. Krochka spoke of the difficulty that changing that background could cause in matching the art background to a different color if they change it. He also stated that he wanted to be sure to mention that he loves the addition of the extra art on the side, and that it is a great, natural, industrial looking addition.

With no further comments or questions from the Board members, Mr. Krochka closed the item and requested that a motion be made.

Mr. Croyle made the following **MOTION**:

The City of Cuyahoga Falls Public Art Board moves to approve the proposed changes to the mural installation on the Portage Tr. bridge underpass on Riverfront Parkway as described in file ART-25-00008, to include forest green paint and the additional side artwork.

The **MOTION** was **seconded** by Ms. Hartong.

With no further discussion, Mr. Krochka requested a **Vote**:

The Vote to APPROVE the item: Yes- 5, No- 0. The MOTION is APPROVED with a vote of 5 to 0.

STORY WALK ART PROJECT

Mr. Krochka opened the item to the City.

Mr. Paul stated that he wanted to provide the Board with updates about the funding for this project and the money coming from CDBG and HUD. He spoke of Ms. Dieterich providing a concept for Valley Vista, but that they needed to find another site, so they chose Preston. He stated that he has key criteria to provide to them, but that it will likely not get installed until next year, but there is not a need to vote on this at this time. He spoke of the materials not being expensive, and how he feels that there may be enough funds for 2 locations. He described how they could be fixtures with art on them, having sidewalk art that is changeable in set intervals, and he stated that he does want to open a purchase order this year. He spoke of there being enough money for an art group to want to come in and do this.

Mr. Krochka closed the item to the City, opened it to the public, and with none present, he closed it to the public and opened it to the Board.

Mr. Hartong questioned if the second location would be a school or park, and Mr. Paul stated that it could be either, but it has to be a low to moderate income area, and mentioned Trails End. Mr. Sullivan stated that this was an excellent choice.

Mr. Krochka questioned if there are other places that have used stands for their story walks, and Mr. Paul stated that he tried to find some, but did not see any. He spoke of art at Children's Hospital, and then talked about material options to use for the posts.

Mr. Krochka questioned if they could use something that could be raised above the ground and wrapped in vinyl to allow for interest and changes, and Mr. Paul said yes, but that costs would need to be evaluated.

Mr. Arthur Croyle questioned why this project falls under this Board when the new Riverwalk has gone under the Parks Department. Mr. Paul stated that the stipulations of using the CDBG funding state that it needs to be done in this way. He also stated that there will be a decent number of sidewalks to be done, as well, so it is not just pedestals.

Ms. Dieterich stated that others have done a lot of this too, and spoke of how you can take something standard and make it special. She then questioned what happens if Preston School ends up getting closed. Mr. Paul stated that he had not considered that, but that it must stay in a low to moderate income area, but that it could possibly be moved later. She then stated that they will know by next month what is happening with the school.

Mr. Krochka questioned if this is a project for next year, and Mr. Paul said it is, but that he wants to get the RFP started this year and to get the funding established this year also.

Mr. Paul questioned if the Board is alright with him writing the RFP and getting it out, and they stated that they are.

Ms. Hartong questioned where the Parks and Recreation Story walks are located at, and Mr. Paul stated that they are at Lions Park and the Quirk Cultural Center.

Mr. Krochka requested that Mr. Paul keep the Board informed, to which he agreed to do so.

With no further comments or questions, Ms. Dieterich closed the item.

MINUTES

May 1, 2025

With no comments or corrections, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Sullivan to **APPROVE** the minutes from May 1, 2025. The **MOTION was seconded** by Mr. Croyle. **The Vote to APPROVE: Yes- 5, No- 0. The MOTION CARRIED with a vote of 5-0.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mr. Krochka stated that the utility box wraps are completed, and they all look very nice. He also spoke of how great the parking deck looks. He then complimented Ms. Dieterich's new mural at the Cuyahoga Valley Art Center. He spoke then of attending a grade school reunion that had people in town who have not been here for some time, and they questioned why we do not do something with the tower at the Cathedral of Tomorrow. He stated that, living here, we are just used to seeing this, but that this could be an amazing location for art, and that it is a location to consider, although it is privately owned. Maybe there can be some imagination started as to what could be done there.

Mr. Paul stated that it has come up in conversations, and it is private property, so the City is not permitted to directly fund it, but he feels that this would be a well-received project and that it would get a lot of positive attention.

Mr. Croyle questioned if the Parks Department was not still planning to come to this Board for their walkway for the Riverwalk, and Mr. Paul stated that they no longer needed those components in the design to continue with the plans at this time.

There were no further comments or information to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made to **adjourn** the meeting by Ms. Dieterich. The **MOTION was seconded** by Mr. Sullivan. **The VOTE to APPROVE: Yes- 5, No- 0. The MOTION CARRIED with a vote of 5-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Minutes submitted by Lori Jones