



Cuyahoga County Monument Commission

Minutes

October 31, 2025

8:30 AM

County Administration Building, Room 5-006

Call to Order – Meeting of Friday, October 31, 2025

Patrick Hewitt called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Roll call showed a quorum.

Attending –

Patrick W. Hewitt

Juan Quirarte

Matt Rymer

Patti Choby

Dr. Judith Cetina

Absent –

Joseph Nanni

Thomas Yablonsky

Guests –

Annette Linden, County Planning

Ryan Geary, County Law

Virtually –

1. Minutes – August 22, 2025 meeting minutes approved. On a motion by Juan Quirarte, seconded by Dr. Judith Cetina, to accept the minutes as written, the vote was unanimously approved.
2. Public Comments – None
3. Monuments Survey (Assessment & Maintenance Program) – Patrick Hewitt reported that Matt Rymer, Patti Choby, and Patrick Hewitt had met with Jim Gwinner from McKay Lodge via zoom for an update on the Monuments Survey. Matt Rymer informed the commission that the motion to proceed was issued to McKay Lodge on August 5th, but no work had commenced as of the zoom call. The three (3) tasks as outlined by McKay Lodge are for stonework, murals, and sculptures. The experts on those mediums will be contacting Mr. Rymer to

schedule time to evaluate each piece, but Mr. Rymer had not yet heard from them. The stonework and murals will likely be evaluated first then the sculptures.

4. Siegel and Shuster Tribute Plaza Post-Project Review – Ideas to improve the monument approval process were discussed, and Greg Huth from County Law may be invited to the next meeting. Patti Choby stated that public engagement is an important aspect that needs to be included in future monument reviews, and the Commission needs to be engaged earlier in monument design to ensure the ability of the Commission to impact design where appropriate.

Another issue that needs to be reviewed is the location and site determination for future monuments. Patrick Hewitt stated that the monument Inventory and Assessment as well as the review of County land will be helpful going forward in planning appropriate locations for monuments. Mr. Hewitt also stated that a Monument Plan would be a helpful next step for the Commission following the completion of the Inventory and Assessment.

Dr. Judith Cetina stated that the Commission should continue efforts to publicize the mission and role of the Monument Commission for the public.

Matt Rymer stated that the maintenance plan for future projects needs to be submitted by the applicant at the time of application to the Monument Commission. Patrick Hewitt stated that the Commission should use the current Inventory and Assessment project to enumerate the items that should be included in all future maintenance plans.

Patti Choby recommended a plan for existing monuments as the next item of business to be completed and requested a timeline for upcoming tasks for the next 3-5 years.

A final issue to determine is the process for drawing down dollars from the maintenance fund that was required as part of the monument approval.

5. Addition to Monument Inventory – Patrick Hewitt discussed two statues located at the Court of Appeals that are believed to be the original test models for the Soldiers and Sailors monument. Dr. Judith Cetina reached out to Greg Palumbo, who would be interested in the statues if the Court of Appeals would be willing to depart with them.

Patrick Hewitt also discussed the Global Flight and Celebration monument located at the Cleveland Airport. While the monument is not a County-owned monument, it will likely have to move with the reconstruction of the airport.

Additionally, Patrick Hewitt reported that a recent article on the Monument Commission yielded questions from readers about other monuments around greater Cleveland, including the Abraham Lincoln statue on the Mall, a proposed Revolutionary War soldier monument, and a monument to the actress Margaret Hamilton.

Matt Rymer is looking into about ten (10) wall hangings in the Metzenbaum building with depictions of children playing that may not have made it into the inventory. There is also a statue of Jane Edna Hunter in the building named after her that may not have made it into the inventory. Dr. Judith Cetina mentioned that the Archives building has ceramic tiles that had been at the juvenile detention center that may belong on the inventory along with a painting of the Battle of Lake Erie and a small model sculpture of Thomas Jefferson that was used for scale for the sculpture in front of the courthouse.

6. Public Comment Plan and Website Updates – Patti Choby has been working on a plan for how to engage the public throughout monument approval processes. An agenda item will be added to the next meeting to discuss engagement protocol and associated website updates.

Matt Rymer left the meeting at 9:15 am.

7. Goods and Welfare – Commission members agreed that the article on Cleveland.com was a positive piece and spurred interest in the Commission and resulted in public questions. The Monument Commission and the City of Cleveland are interested in having conversations about art at Huntington Park and the relationship to upcoming Lakefront development. Dan Shinkle from City Planning will be invited to the next Monument Commission meeting.
8. Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, Patrick Hewitt adjourned the meeting at 9:36 a.m.