



Village Hall & Administration
10631 Main Street, Roscoe, IL 61073
p: 815-623-2829 | fax: 815-623-1360
www.RoscoeIL.gov

Date: August 19, 2025

To: Village of Roscoe Board of Trustees
Trustee William Babcock
Trustee John Broda
Trustee Dayne Mead
Trustee Justin Plock
Trustee Michael Sima
Trustee Michael Wright

Re: Veto of Resolution 2025-R35
(Removal of Mural – 10534 Main Street)

Trustees:

I return to you Resolution 2025- R35, and for the reasons and objections set forth herein, veto it in its entirety.

Public art serves many purposes. The mural at 10534 Main Street transformed a drab gray wall on an older building into an engaging and attractive space appreciated by many residents and visitors.

The expansive aerial depiction of the Rock River Basin educates viewers by providing a sense of space and place—Roscoe’s identity and development along the Rock River.

Most importantly, this public art has served as a catalyst for the economic revival of our downtown district, encouraging people to gather, explore, and connect with the community. This work draws visitors, sparks conversation, and contributes to a sense of vitality along Main Street.

The Board’s decision to fund the removal of this public art from private property is, in my judgment, a misuse of public resources. This action diminishes the value of the artist’s work, disregards the opinions of many residents who supported the project, and does not serve the broader public interest. Public funds should be directed toward initiatives that promote the common good, strengthen community identity, and support economic growth. This misuse of public funds only serves to invite ridicule, disbelief, and loss of public trust.

For these reasons, I hereby veto Resolution No. 2025-R35 in its entirety.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol A. Gustafson".

Carol A. Gustafson,
Village President

Carol Gustafson

From: Roscoe, IL <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 12:58 PM
To: Carol Gustafson
Subject: Painting over mural


Name: Ken Ramsay

Email: 

Message: I read in the Rockton Roscoe News that the Village is voting on painting over the mural on the Masonic Building. Not a fan of the mural, nor do I find the mural objectionable. I am not a fan of paying to paint buildings when the current paint is still in good shape. I don't know if even 10% of the Roscoe population is aware of the plans to paint over the mural. I'm guessing the Village will find if there are admirers of the mural once the repainting commences. Will the Village create a "mountain" by covering art out of the "molehill" of those that don't like the art? The article did not indicate a large percentage of the population asking for the mural removal. I think Village tax dollars can be better spent

than painting again a recently painted wall.



Carol Gustafson

From: Roscoe, IL <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 11:41 AM
To: Carol Gustafson
Subject: Main Street Mural

Name: Jessie Crow Mermel

Email: [REDACTED]

Message: Dear Carol, I saw on the news that the Village of Roscoe voted to paint over the beautiful mural of the confluence of the Pecatonica River and the Rock River on Main Street. It's been so lovely having that mural in Roscoe. I was so proud that we finally got a mural in Roscoe and one that highlighted the natural beauty of our area. It's only been up for a few years and is in great condition. I am flabbergasted by the decision to paint over it. If a new community mural is desired, then let's put another one up. Why ruin a piece of public art?! I hope the board will reconsider this decision, as I am sure it doesn't reflect the opinions of the community. Thank you for your time.

Mural

From Paula Mikos <jjmpjm@hotmail.com>

Date Fri 8/29/2025 1:21 PM

To Village Clerk <clerk@roscoeil.gov>

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Saw on the news the other night that Carol blocked the painting over of that mural on the side of the lodge building in downtown Roscoe. One of the best decision ever made. Love that mural. Was upset when I heard they wanted to paint over it. It's got plenty of life, let's get our moneys worth out of it by enjoying it. If they want a different mural, use the other side of the building, or find another building. Tell Carol kudos.(if they decide to paint over it, let those individuals pay for it: the cost of the original + the cost of the replacement. Taxpayers not interested in paying for others whim to replace a good painting/decoration just because others feel like it) Thanks for listening.

Sent from my iPad