



The Philadelphia Art
Commission

Established 1911

Minutes

The Philadelphia Art Commission

June 9, 2021 - 9:30 a.m.

Remote – Zoom Meeting – Hosted by DPZ

Members Present: Alan Greenberger, Carmen Febo San Miguel,

Raed Nasser, Robert Roesch, Mario Zacharjasz, Steve Hartner, Natalie Nixon

Alan Greenberger

Chair

José Almiñana

Carmen Febo San Miguel

Bridget Collins-Greenwald

Raed Nasser

Natalie Nixon

Robert Roesch

Mario Zacharjasz

Steve Hartner

C. Beige Berryman

Staff

Meeting of the Philadelphia Art Commission

Beige Berryman – staff member of the Art Commission – introduced the Zoom platform and remote Art Commission process, noting that the meeting is being recorded and those participating in the meeting are giving their consent to be recorded. A link to the recording, will be posted on the Art Commission website and the meeting agenda and materials can also be found on the website at: (<https://www.phila.gov/departments/philadelphia-art-commission/>).

*Ms. Berryman polled the commission via roll call, then stated a few instructions for the public. Members of the public may comment on agenda items during the meeting. When the agenda item that you are interested in is being discussed, you can use the “raise hand” feature and staff will unmute you during the public comment period. If you’re joining by phone, you can also use the hand raise feature by dialing *9 during the public comment period, and if you have any submitted comments through email, staff will read those emails out loud at the appropriate time. Thank you.*

Before handing the agenda over to Chairperson Greenberger, Ms. Berryman recognized the service of both Commissioner Nixon and Chairperson Greenberger, who were ending their tenure at the Art Commission at today’s meeting. Ms. Berryman read excerpts from the Mayor’s Citation for Chairperson Greenberger and Commissioner Nixon. Chairperson Greenberger and Commissioner Nixon thanked both the staff and Claudia Becker for their hard work.

Minutes

- May 12, 2021 meeting minutes

One Parkway Building

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Philadelphia, PA 19102

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Greenberger asked if there was a motion to approve the May minutes and did a consensus vote of the Commission at the minute mark (00:08:12).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Roesch and seconded by Commissioner Nasser, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the May minutes (6-0).

Report of the Sign Committee – May 26, 2021

First Reviews:

**1. 91-21
SEPTA Jefferson Station Entrance**

1000 Filbert Street

**2. 94-21
H&R Block**

135 S 20 Street

**3. 98-21
Fitler Club**

2402 Market Street

**4. 95-21
Govberg**

1529 Walnut Street

**5. 96-21
Wells Fargo Bank**

1634 Walnut Street

**6. 97-21
Art City Vet**

2000 Hamilton Street

With regards to the Sign Committee, Chairperson Greenberger mentioned that he appreciated the recommendations and thanked applicants for being cooperative with the Sign Committee.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission on the Sign Committee Report, Chairperson Greenberger asked if there was a motion to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee at (00:09:21).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations (6-0).

Administrative Agenda

1. 101-21

Fox Chase Elementary School 600 Rhawn Street

Review Type: Minor construction paid by City funds

Project Details: Façade renovation

Submitted By: Gannett Fleming

2. 102-21

Pelbano Recreation Center 8101 Bustleton Avenue

Review Type: Minor construction on City Property

Project Details: Roof replacement

Submitted By: Converse Winkler Architecture

Ms. Berryman presented two administrative items.

The School District of Philadelphia is undertaking renovations at Fox Chase Elementary School. The renovations include window replacement, door refurbishment, brick and pairpoint repointing, and some minor interior work. The mortar is specified to match the existing mortar for the repointing. No landscaping or other site modifications are included in the project scope of work.

The Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department together with the Rebuild Initiative submitted the proposal for Pelbano Recreation Center. The center is comprised of two main buildings. The roof replacement project includes complete removal of all existing slope roof assemblies. The existing gymnasium roof will be repaired to eliminate existing leaks, and additional snow and ice guards will be installed towards the edge of the exiting roof to match existing. The roof renovations will not impact the visual appearance of the facility.

Seeing no questions or comments about the items for administrative approval, Chairperson Greenberger asked if there was a motion to approve at (00:11:24).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Roesch, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative items (6-0).

Presentations for Second Review

1. 68-21

Waste Transfer Station 5201 Umbria Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: New structure within existing waste facility site

Submitted By: Philadelphia Streets Department

Kevin McCartney began the presentation at the minute mark (00:12:08). Mr. McCartney addressed the Commission's previous concerns regarding replanting trees, fencing, windows, and materials. The applicant presented a rendered image from the corner of

Domino Lane and Umbria Street depicting the new tree plantings and building. The material color was reviewed, and the window openings were enlarged.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (00:17:10).

Chairperson Greenberger clarified the size and placement of the Kalwall façade material. He then inquired about the 3" caliber trees that would be planted around the perimeter. Stephen Massa stated that 32 shade trees and about 45 evergreen trees would be planted. As many existing trees as possible would be salvaged, although the sidewalk reconstruction might necessitate the removal of many. Chairperson Greenberger asked if staff could evaluate the project after construction to ensure that the trees are planted, as the plantings are critical to the success of the project. Mr. Massa offered that his staff will be managing the entire construction of the project and he ensured the plantings would be properly installed.

Seeing no questions or comments, Chairperson Greenberger asked if there was a motion to approve at (00:22:34).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Roesch and seconded by Commissioner Nasser, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Hartner, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Nixon, Commissioner Roesch, and Chairperson Greenberger. The Commission voted unanimously for final approval (6-0).

2. 86-21

Christ Church Garden

22-34 N 2 Street

Review Type: Construction in the Independence Hall Area Overlay

Project Details: Landscape and circulation improvements

Submitted By: Olin

Brian Velleman began the presentation with a summary of the comments from the Commission's first review (00:24:03). The comments included questions about replacement plantings for the Sycamore that is proposed to be removed; clarification of how the two phases are planned to keep the site open; additional information on the brick paving; and how the new plantings will help to deter vandalism at memorial sites.

Chairperson Greenberger commented that the project is a very thoughtful set of renovations to an important historical place in Philadelphia and he greatly appreciated the attention they gave to the project.

Seeing no questions or comments about the items for final approval, Chairperson Greenberger asked if there was a motion to approve at (00:32:39).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Nixon, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Hartner, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Nixon, Commissioner Roesch, and Chairperson Greenberger. The Commission voted unanimously for final approval (6-0).

3. **85-21**

Ziehler Playground
200-64 E. Olney Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Site and building improvements
Submitted By: Salt Design Studio

Steve Buck, landscape architect began the presentation with a review of what was previously requested from the Commission, which included alternatives to the landscape berm; types of fencing; more information on energy saving or renewable energy elements; durability of material choices; and more information on the Percent for Art component (00:34:04).

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (00:47:08).

Chairperson Greenberger asked for clarity on the extent of the new fencing. Mr. Buck verbally described where the decorative fence was proposed and where the chain link fence would be installed. Chairperson Greenberger encouraged the applicant to use the decorative fence across the entire length of the building's entry to present a consistent "face" of the building.

Commissioner Nixon asked about the use of LED lighting. Commissioner Roesch complimented the solution to the landscape berm, an at grade slide.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the public about the items for final approval, Commissioner Nasser made a motion to approve at (00:54:44).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Hartner, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Nixon, Commissioner Roesch, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Greenberger. The Commission voted unanimously for final approval (7-0).

Presentations for Concept Review

1. **103-21**

Olney Recreation Center
100 E Godfrey Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Site and building improvements
Submitted By: Kelly Maiello Architects

Before the presentation, Chairperson Greenberger noted that the Olney Recreation Center and the Barrett Playground are both part of the Rebuild Program and were reviewed by the Rebuild Design Excellence Committee.

Troy Leonard, Principal of Kelly Maiello Architects began the presentation at (00:56:19). The site is located on a 13-acre parcel at 100 E. Godfrey Avenue and consists of a 20,600 sq. ft. recreation building. The building was built in two phases, with phase one being the recreation building that was constructed in 1957. That section of the building is in poor condition and will be demolished. A gymnasium was constructed as phase two in

1962. The site is surrounded by a very diverse context. All of the site amenities will be either replaced or refurbished. Emilia Crotty provided a community engagement summary. Public Health Management Corporation, (PHMC) contracted three Olney-based community organizations to serve as community engagement partners on the Olney Recreation Center Rebuild project: Greater Philadelphia Asian Social Services, Olney Culture Lab, and the Olney Eagles Youth Organization. Julie Bush gave an overview of the site plan, which included a new staircase, an accessible walkway, playground, and low seat walls. Custom play equipment, based on the community's request, is part of the proposal.

Mr. Leonard went over the floor plan and building design concept. He outlined the Design Excellence Committee's comments which included requests for more windows in the gym, to widen the "Main Street" corridor, and create a more dynamic entrance. Chairperson Greenberger pointed out that the primary entrance is typically accessed from the side, thus by extending the canopy more visibility would be achieved for the entry area (01:16:20).

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (01:18:21).

Seeing only one light pole, Commissioner Nasser asked about the lighting. Ms. Bush responded that there's existing lighting on the basketball court and in other areas, they are just missing from the rendering. Commissioner Zacharjasz asked about functionality of the decorative screens in front of the windows, if they are removable for cleaning. Mr. Leonard responded that the screens will be removable. Commissioner Roesch asked how much light would be filtered by the screens. They are still investigating different designs to achieve the correct balance of light quality. Further discussion continued about the windows and screens, the rendered light patterns, and final lighting goals.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel inquired about the hours of use and Commissioner Hartner inquired about a site elevation change. Chairperson Greenberger suggested that a night rendering showing all proposed lights be included in the next presentation. Seeing no questions or comments about the items for concept approval, Chairperson Greenberger asked if there was a motion to approve at (01:30:42).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Roesch, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Hartner, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Nixon, Commissioner Roesch, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Greenberger. The Commission voted unanimously for concept approval (7-0).

2. 104-21

Barrett Playground 641 Lindley Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Site and building improvements
Submitted By: SMP Architects

The presentation began at the minute mark (01:39:35). Ms. Schuh provided an overview of the project and Todd Woodward went over the community engagement meeting and events. Community engagement civic, community and faith organizations, local schools, senior facilities, businesses, city and government agencies. Some clarification questions

were asked about the height of the retaining wall on Lindley Avenue and the mitigation efforts to reduce the perception of it as a barrier with the proposed, wide staircase. Compliments were given about the large amount of glass being used at the entrance and a Design Excellence Committee comment was mentioned - that the colors around the entry should have a connection with the community.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (01:56:01).

Chairperson Greenberger noted the significant change between the existing and proposed conditions, a positive improvement. Commissioner Zacharjasz agreed and asked about any budget restraints. Commissioner Nasser asked if there would be a baseball field. Ms. Schuh stated that the community did not request a baseball field however, the large lawn area could accommodate space for baseball and soccer as needed in the future.

Commissioner Zacharjasz asked about the interior storage and equipment room, suggesting that more space and a separation of sports equipment from lawn equipment would be practical. Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked about the One Percent for Art program and about lighting. Further discussion continued regarding the site and field, the track, material, lighting, and if the amount of rain gardens could be increased (02:00:13).

Based on this discussion, Chairperson Greenberger suggested that the project has many details to resolve before coming back to the Commission.

Seeing no questions or comments about the items for concept approval, Chairperson Greenberger asked if there was a motion to approve at (02:08:02).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Roesch, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Hartner, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Nixon, Commissioner Roesch, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Greenberger. The Commission voted unanimously for concept approval (7-0).

3. 107-21

Eastwick Regional Park

2500 S 77 Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Site improvements

Submitted By: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Priyanka Malik presented an overview of the project beginning with the location and existing conditions, site images, and finally the tennis courts which need improvement (02:09:30). They are resurfacing of the two existing tennis courts. The third court will be transformed into active and passive open space consisting of a new shade structure, site furnishings, games painted on asphalt, and a running track.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (02:15:05).

Chairperson Greenberger expressed concerns about the “ordinary” shade structure. Commissioner Roesch added that it wasn’t inspiring, then asked if the community was

involvement with the project. Ms. Malik stated that the improvements were requested by City Council and the proposed site furnishings represent the available budget. Commissioner Nixon asked if the budget constraints accounted for the use of chain link fencing as well. In addition, the Percent for Art program is not required for this small scope of work. Chairperson Greenberger suggested eliminating the shade structure until they could afford something better in the future.

Recognizing that the project has limited flexibility and is relatively modest, the commission agreed that final approval is appropriate.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner Roesch, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Hartner, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Nixon, Commissioner Roesch, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Greenberger. The Commission voted unanimously for final approval (7-0).

4. 106-21

Independence National Historical Park Vehicle Barriers Independence National Historical Park, 19106

Review Type: Construction in the Independence Hall Area Overlay

Project Details: Street bollard installation

Submitted By: Permit Philly

Brett Madsen began the presentation at (02:23:00), then introduced Ryan Mason to continue the presentation. Mr. Mason provided an overview of the project, which includes bollard and gate replacement at nine different areas. Many of the barriers are existing but need upgrades. New gates and bollards will be the standard National Park Service approved brown color.

Mr. Mason continued to describe the barrier installations at each of the nine locations, including the type of barrier, any historic paving that needs protection, and other site-specific installation details.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (02:45:14).

Chairperson Greenberger stated a general disappointment that crash barriers were necessary for this historic place, reflecting on the unfortunate state of the world these days. He then pivoted to discuss design. He suggested that all bollards have a cap or top to hide the concrete.

Commissioner Roesch asked why some locations used a gate with an arm while others used bollards. He also mentioned the availability of hydraulic controlled bollards that often look better than the removable type. Mr. Mason stated that gates are used in locations that are accessed more frequently and also that they are trying to have the existing hydraulic bollards retrofitted but maintenance on these types is high. Commissioner Zacharjasz asked if the Commission had purview over federal property. Chairperson Greenberger clarified that it was City property and Commissioner Hartner added that the federal government leases the park from the City. Further discussion continued regarding a raised platform for vehicles, pop-up blade and wedge barriers, and maintenance (02:47:55).

Questions and comments from the public at the minute mark (02:49:46).

Benjamin She stated that the gate replacement at Area A is the most objectionable of the whole project.

Commissioner Roesch asked the applicants to consider changing the material of the bollards, other commissioners did not agree. However, there was general agreement among the Commission that Area A is the most sensitive and the current proposal is most objectionable at this location. More detail on all the areas, including color, materials, and detailed imagery are needed. Area A should return with alternative solutions.

Seeing no questions or comments about the items for concept approval, Chairperson Greenberger asked if there was a motion to approve at (02:53:32).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner Roesch, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Hartner, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Roesch, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Greenberger. The Commission voted unanimously for concept approval (7-0).

5. 105-21

Girard Station

37 W Girard Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Renovation to station egress structure

Submitted By: SEPTA

Emily Silver began the presentation at (02:56:00). Ms. Silver gave a brief overview of the existing layout and the new reconfiguration of the stairs, stating its improvements are similar to those seen previously by the Commission at other SEPTA locations.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (02:59:27).

Chairperson Greenberger asked about the remaining width of the sidewalk between the new exit enclosure and the curb, which is 6'-2 ½" on a 12' sidewalk and thus meets Streets Department requirements. Chairperson Greenberger then asked if there was a motion for final approve as the proposal is straight forward and is without much flexibility.

Questions and comments from the public at the minute mark (03:03:23).

Benjamin She stated that the project hinders the usage of the sidewalk in general and could be designed to better integrate into the building facility.

Following Ms. Berryman's clarification on the motion for approval, Chairperson Greenberger clarified that the motion is for final approval.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel for final approval, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Hartner, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Nixon, Commissioner Roesch, and Chairperson Greenberger. The Commission voted unanimously for final approval (6-0).

6. **108-21**

**Climate Justice Initiative Mural
1700 Spring Garden Street**

Review Type: Art in the Benjamin Franklin Parkway Area Overlay

Project Details: Exterior mural

Submitted By: Mural Arts Philadelphia

Ron Whyte began the presentation with an introduction of the lead artist Eurhi Jones, who is a well-known in Philadelphia (03:09:56). Mr. Whyte provided background information on the Environmental Justice Movement, engagement and leadership, and the climate justice initiative project timeline. Shari Hersh continued with the concept development of the mural site and visuals.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (03:18:52).

Commissioner Nixon thanked the design team for their thoughtful approach and applauded the project, however she asked that they broaden their discussion to recognize that humans are part of the natural environment. Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked if the team was aware of the history of the immediate area, specifically the Puerto Rican community that was displaced.

Chairperson Greenberger commented on the thoroughness of the presentation and appropriate location for the proposal. He then expressed concerns about the apartment building across the street. Ms. Hersh stated that they have spoken with the Logan Square Neighbors Association and they have a representative from the apartment building on the design committee. There will be a public meeting, July 7, 2021.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel raised concerns about gentrification impacting the Puerto Rican and Hispanic community. Mr. Whyte stated that they are working with several indigenous people, who define themselves as Puerto Rican as well, and they are still in the concept design phase. Chairperson Greenberger underlined that the team will need to come back to the Art Commission when the design is finalized but at this point, the Commission is considering the broad theme of the mural and it's proposed location. Commissioner Nixon added to Chairperson Greenberger comments regarding Commissioner Febo San Miguel question, as it relates to climate environmental justice issues.

Commissioner Roesch commented that the message should be expressed using graphics rather than text, as text is distracting to drivers and could be a traffic hazard. Chairperson Greenberger agreed, furthering the comment by saying the mural should be designed to be appreciated at two levels, as you drive by in a car quickly, and also as a pedestrian walking by.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Greenberger asked for a motion for concept approval (03:27:40).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Roesch and seconded by Commissioner Nasser, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Hartner, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Nixon, Commissioner Roesch, and Chairperson Greenberger. The Commission voted unanimously for concept approval (6-0).

Chairperson Greenberger thanked everyone, expressed what an honor it's been to lead the group, and encouraged everyone keep raising the standards for design in Philadelphia.

"Looking forward to running into everybody on the street again."
~A.G.

The Commission thanked Chairperson Greenberger for his leadership.

The June 9, 2021 Art Commission was adjourned at the minute mark (03:29:13), ending at 12:59 p.m.

The next Art Commission will be held Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.