



The Philadelphia Art  
Commission

Established 1911

## Minutes

### The Philadelphia Art Commission

September 1, 2021 - 9:30 a.m.

Remote – Zoom Meeting – Hosted by DPZ

Members Present: Robert Roesch, Carmen Febo San Miguel, Raed Nasser, Steve Hartner, Sarah McEneaney, Dr. Matthew Miller

Robert Roesch

Chair

José Almiñana

Carmen Febo San Miguel

Steve Hartner

Sarah McEneaney

Matthew Miller

Raed Nasser

Mario Zacharjasz

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 announcing a quorum, 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 discussion of the agenda items began, Claudia Becker, who swore in newly appointed commissioners, Sarah McEneaney and Dr. Matthew Miller. Ms. Becker, Chairperson Roesch and the Commission welcomed and congratulated both commissioners.*

### Minutes

- July 14, 2021 meeting minutes

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion to approve the July minutes and did a consensus vote of the Commission at the minute mark (00:06:33).

One Parkway Building

1515 Arch St.

13<sup>th</sup> Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

215-683-4674

artcommission@phila.gov

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

**Report of the Sign Committee – August 18, 2021**

Appeal:

1. **60-21**  
**Motto**  
29-31 S 19th Street

Second Review:

2. **111-21**  
**Citizens Bank**  
1515 Market Street

First Reviews:

3. **131-21**  
**Kraftwork**  
541 E. Girard Avenue
4. **123-21**  
**Penn Medicine**  
1 Convention Avenue
5. **136-21**  
**Moore College of Art and Design**  
1916 Race Street
6. **135-21**  
**Maj Hotel**  
2225 Spring Garden Street
7. **126-21**  
**Compass**  
1430 Walnut Street
8. **132-21**  
**Bankroll**  
1910-1920 Chestnut Street
9. **127-21**  
**UPS Store**  
2101 Walnut Street
10. **128-21**  
**Common Weal Art Gallery**  
1607 Latimer Street
11. **129-21**  
**Kratom**  
1700 Walnut Street

**12. 137-21**

**Dr. Martens**

1704 Walnut Street

**13. 130-21**

**Crossfit**

2300 Chestnut Street

**14. 134-21**

**Exxon**

615-29 S Broad Street

Michael Roberts presented the appeal of the Sign Committee's recommendation. The contested recommendation was to remove the "motto" text from the north and south sides of the canopy. Clarifying discussion continued about illumination on the canopy and if the zoning code expressly prohibited projecting signs at this location. Mr. Roberts stated that the sides were not illuminated, and that blade signs were currently installed nearby.

*Commissioner Carmen Febo San Miguel made a motion to accept the appeal recommendation to reduce the size of the motto sign and accept the lettering on the side as presented. Commissioner Hartner seconded.*

*Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Hartner, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Miller, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously (6-0).*

Chairperson Roesch then asked for a motion to approve the remainder of the Sign Committee recommendations (00:17:01).

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

**Administrative Agenda**

**1. 146-21**

**Calder Bicentennial Banners**

**1901 Vine Street**

Review Type: Art installation on City property

Project Details: 8 banners for interior display at the Free Library Parkway Central Branch

Submitted By: PHDC Percent for Art

Ms. Berryman presented three administrative items beginning with the Calder Bicentennial banners. Eight fabric banners designed by Alexander Calder were originally commissioned in 1976 for the Center Square building through the Percent for Art program of the PRA, which is now run by PHDC. The banners were deinstalled and placed in storage until the late 1980s, where they remained until they were donated to the Free Library Foundation in 2018. At present, four of the eight are restored and installed. The item is before the Art Commissions today because the Free Library Parkway Central branch is City property. They are being hung in an interior public

common area, with no negative impact on the design of the spaces or permanent damage to the architecture, or to the banners themselves. Hearing no questions from the Commission or public comments, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion to approve the administrative item at (00:19:47).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner McEaney, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the item (6-0).*

**2. 147-21**

**Bus Shelter Upgrades**

**Various locations**

Review Type: Encroachment in the public right-of-way

Project Details: 14 locations around the city

Submitted By: Intersection

The proposal is for replacement of bus shelters that have the old, outdated design with the current bus shelter design. 14 locations throughout the city are being considered in the submission. Eight of the 14 are proposing new shelters, where currently no shelter is existing. Staff have reviewed each location in terms of Complete Street standards. While the recommended Complete Street walking zone dimensions cannot be met at all locations, staff recommends approval as the shelters offer improved conditions.

Hearing no questions from the Commission or public comments, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion to approve the administrative item at (00:21:09).

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

**3. 89-20**

**Christopher Columbus Statue**

**Marconi Plaza, 2700 South Broad Street**

Review Type: Removal, relocation or alteration of existing artwork owned by the City

Project Details: Six-month report on the status of the Christopher Columbus statue removal

Submitted by: City of Philadelphia, Public Art Office

As a condition of the Art Commission's approval decision on August 12, 2020 to remove the Columbus statue from our Marconi Plaza, the City was asked to make updates every six months concerning the progress of relocation plans. This is the second update.

Plaintiffs have filed an appeal of the Art Commission's decision to allow for the relocation of the statue to the Licenses and Inspections Review Board. Licenses and Inspections Review Board has yet to schedule a hearing for this appeal.

The August 17, 2021 decision regarding the Christopher Columbus statue involved the Historical Commission's decision, not the Art Commission. On August 17, 2021, Judge Patrick in the Court of Common Pleas, issued an order reversing the Historical Commission's decision to allow for relocation of the statue. The City is appealing Judge Patrick's order.

In addition, a Motion for Preliminary Injunction, seeking to prevent the City from relocating the statue, was filed by the Plaintiffs and denied in the Court of Common Pleas on September 11, 2020. The Plaintiffs have filed an appeal of the Court's denial of their motion to the Commonwealth Court and the judge order that the City cannot relocate the statue while the appeal is pending. A tentative date for the oral argument has been scheduled for November 15, 2021.

The City still intends to move forward with its plan for the relocation of the Columbus statue. The timing of the removal remains dependent on the resolution of this ongoing litigation and the schedule of performing the relocation work. The City still intends to undertake a community engagement process to determine what new artwork should replace the statue.

Public comments began and Matt Minsky, Esq., Counsel to the Friends of Marconi Plaza, spoke at the minute mark (00:31:30). He stated that because of the recent decision that the Historical Commission's approval was unlawful, the Art Commission's approval of the City's application is also. He argued that the Art Commission Regulations state that when proposals must be reviewed by the Historical Commission, the Art Commission will not make its decision until approvals have been obtained from the Historical Commission. Thus, the Friends of Marconi Plaza do not see a reason for the Columbus Statue removal to remain on the Commission's agenda.

He went on to describe that the Columbus Statue is currently covered in a plywood box and requests that the City allow the Friends of Marconi Plaza to replace it with a plexiglass box so that the statue is no longer obscured from view. The cost of the new box would be paid by the Friends organization.

*Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (00:32:48).*

Commissioner Raed commented that he did not have any issues with the idea, his priority is to protect the statue. Some discussion continued between Mr. Minsky, and various commissioners about the box material.

Jason Greenspan, Esq., representing the City's Administration and working in the City's Law Department, clearly stated that the Art Commission's decision still holds while the litigation is on-going and further that Mr. Minsky's clients have no authority to go onto the City's property to replace the City's boxing.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked Claudia Becker, Esq. what the role of the Commission was for this item. Ms. Becker responded that the item before the Commission is the six-month report, and the Commission's action is to either accept the report as written or ask the City Administration and the Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy for further information.

Commissioner Nasser said thanks for the update and added that if Mr. Minsky wants changes to the box, he needs to submit those changes as a separate matter.

Hearing no questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion to approve at (00:36:33).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser to approve the update report and seconded by Commissioner McEneaney, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the updated report (6-0).*

## **Presentations for Second 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

Emilia Cotty, Troy Leonard, and Julie Bush began the presentation at the minute mark (00:38:26). Mr. Leonard summarized the specific design revisions requested by the Commission, including making improvements to the “Main Street” corridor, increasing the entrance’s prominence visually, addressing the light quality of the decorative screens, providing a night rendering of the proposed site, and details about materials. For the Main Street corridor, improvements included an enlarged vestibule, a wider corridor, and additional glazing. The entrance’s height and overall scale was increased to become more monumental in appearance. Finally, the quality and amount light, as well as the level of security of the decorative window screens was analyzed in more depth.

Julie Bush continued the presentation by providing a detailed overview of site furnishings, play equipment, landscape design, tree health assessment, and planting plan.

*Questions and comments from the Commissioner at the minute mark (01:00:52).*

Chairperson Roesch commented on the beautiful, detailed presentation, then inquired about the lighting and window screens (00:57:57). The lighting will be provided by Parks and Recreation’s standard fixtures and the window screens are a new, custom design.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel inquired about the hours of operation, and if there was a concern that the metal tables and chairs would get too hot to be comfortable in the summer. Ms. Bush responded that she was unsure of the hours, but that site lighting would be on all night and that they would consider signage to warn about potential high temperatures.

Commissioner Miller expressed his appreciation for the detailed presentation, loved the creativity of the window screens, and thanked the team for the diversity of people depicted in the renderings.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion for final approval at (1:05:19).

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

**2. 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 and Ryan Mason began the presentation and described the vehicle barriers and the eight installation locations the park (01:06:36). Changes from the first review include removal of Area A from the scope of work and a bollard cap design.

Chairperson Roesch asked about the gate in Area F. Mr. Mason stated that it's a 28-foot long traffic arm beam, brown in color, and crash tested.

*Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (01:22:45).*

Commissioner Miller inquired on the impetus of the proposal, was it a preventative or reactionary measure. Being preventative, he then observed the varying street material conditions, consisting of both cobblestone and asphalt. The street materials effect the speed of traffic, therefore perhaps protective barriers could vary based on those conditions. Mr. Mason did not have that assessment. Commissioner Miller advocated to limit bollards as much as possible.

Further discussion continued with Commissioner Miller, Commissioner McEneaney, Mr. Mason, Chairperson Roesch, and Commissioner Nassar regarding the number of bollards, vehicle ramps, and protective measures versus measures that connote exclusion (01:27:39).

*Questions and comments from the public at the minute mark (01:29:08).*

Winston Clement, Supervisory Project Manager at Independence National Historic Park., stated that the purpose of the proposal is to safeguard pedestrians and to bring the national landmark into park compliance.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion to approve for final approval (01:39:52).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nassar and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel.*

*Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Hartner, Commissioner Nassar, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Miller, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to approve for final review (6-0).*

**Presentations for Concept Review**

**1. 148-21**

**Cobbs Creek Golf Course Improvements**

**7400 Lansdowne Avenue**

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

Jeffrey Shanahan and John Hayes began the presentation with an overview of the golf course at (01:41:08). Their mission is to renovate and restore Cobbs Creek's original splendor, the facility was built in 1916 and is currently closed.

John Hayes explained that they've been working on a master plan to redevelop the course to bring golf back into the community. He described the existing conditions noting that the architecture is secondary to the landscape. The existing men's locker room is proposed to be repurposed into a clubhouse with various amenities such as an outdoor plaza, bathrooms, and offices. He went on to describe the proposed utility building for cart storage. Other parts of the master plan are still being designed, such as the driving range and educational center.

Chairperson Roesch confirmed if they were asking for conceptual approval, then inquired about the overall timeline, and more details about the landscape.

Jeffrey Shanahan clarified that conceptual approval for the master plan from the Art Commission is required for their lease. This is a multi-year project that includes creek restoration, golf course restoration, and buildings and infrastructure.

*Questions and comments from the Commission.*

Commissioner Febo Miguel expressed feeling overwhelmed and confused by the presentation because she didn't have a sense of the timeline nor phasing. She observed that landscape work is a large part of the proposal, but the presentation did not include landscape details.

In response to Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Claudia Becker, Esq. stated that there is no 60-day requirement time limit between the conceptual and final approvals. Today's action is to consider concept approval of what was presented to the Commission. The Commission can condition the concept approval, for example, to require phases to come at later times.

Chairperson Roesch suggested concept approval could be given and then a phased presentation approach moving forward sounded reasonable. He then asked about the reservoir, and community outreach and feedback (02:41:50).

Robert Allen stated that a community engagement plan was completed and approved by Parks and Recreation after years of work. The Foundation has always considered community engagement and public access as paramount to the project. Commissioner Miller added that this is an opportunity to restore relationships with the community, to expand the definition of restoration to include the community.

Further discussion continued about the project proposal including infrastructure tunnels, the maintenance facility, reservoir and pumphouse.



Commissioner Febo San Miguel then presented a motion for consideration. Conceptual approval for the master plan for the Cobbs Creek Golf Course. Elements within the master plan that were presented could also receive conceptual approval including the clubhouse renovation, maintenance facility construction, cart and utility building construction, creek restoration, and pumphouse and reservoir improvements. Some elements of the master plan were not presented, and therefore could not receive conceptual approval.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion for concept approval at (02:49:11).

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

## **2. 149-21**

### **Micro Bus Shelters**

#### **Various Locations**

Review Type: Encroachment in the public right-of-way

Project Details: 6 new micro bus shelters for installation

Submitted By: Office of Transportation, Infrastructure & Sustainability

Patricia Ellis-Dinatale and Kohzy Koh began the presentation at (02:52:21).

The micro bus shelter is their newest type of amenity to be used in locations with many spatial constraints. They are looking for approval to install six shelters in various locations around the city as pilots. The shelter will match existing shelters in terms of color, will be branded for SEPTA, include real time information, and have two seats.

Chairperson Roesch and Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked questions about any customization that would be possible, but learned the item is “off the shelf” and customization is not possible.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion for final approval given that any further design alterations were not possible (03:10:44).

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

*Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Hartner, the meeting ended at the minute mark (03:12:19).*

**The next Art Commission will be held Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.**