



**The Philadelphia Art
Commission**
Established 1911

Robert Roesch
Chair

José Almiñana
Carmen Febo San Miguel
Steve Hartner
Sarah McEneaney
Matthew Miller
Raed Nasser
Pepon Osorio
Mario Zacharjasz

C. Beige Berryman
Staff

Minutes

The Philadelphia Art Commission

October 13, 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, Matthew Miller, Pepon Osorio

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.*

Chair Roesch called the meeting, then Claudia Becker, Art Commission counsel, completed the swearing in for Commissioner Pepon Osorio. Ms. Becker, Chairperson Roesch and the Commission congratulated and welcomed Commissioner Osorio.

Minutes

- September 1, 2021 meeting minutes

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion to approve the September minutes and took a consensus vote of the Commission at the minute mark (00:05:14).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the September minutes (6-0). Commissioner Osorio abstained, as he was not at the September meeting.

Report of the Sign Committee – September 22, 2021

First Reviews:

1. **166-21**
Citizens Bank
1401 Walnut Street a.k.a. 150 S Broad Street

2. **164-21**
Museum of Illusions
401 Market Street a.k.a. 101 N Independence Mall East

3. **168-21**
Joanne Hudson
2402 Market Street

4. **165-21**
Sugar Factory
1214 Chestnut Street

5. **171-21**
Good Shepard Penn Partners
1800 Lombard Street

6. **167-21**
For Eyes
1711 Chestnut Street

7. **169-21**
Boost Mobile
1211-15 Chestnut Street

8. **170-21**
Truist
1845 Walnut Street

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the Sign Committee recommendations (00:06:34).

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

Administrative Agenda

1. 183-21

Fernhill Park Pavilion

4600 Morris Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: New outdoor pavilion structure

Submitted By: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

2. 184-21

Bus Shelter Upgrades

Various locations

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

Project Details: 10 locations around the city

Submitted By: Intersection

Ms. Berryman presented two administrative items. The Fernhill Park Pavilion proposal is for 24 ft x 34 foot pavilion located next to the existing baseball field adjacent to the parking lot at Fernhill Park. The Pavilion was requested by the community. It's a standard metal structure on a concrete pad.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion to approve the Fernhill Park Pavilion at (00:07:52).

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

Commissioner Febo San Miguel said she would have liked to see images of the new structure. Ms. Berryman stated that submission materials, even for administrative items, are posted online. However, she will consider the comment for next time.

For the second administrative item, a second batch of SEPTA bus shelter upgrades, Chairperson Roesch stated that the shelters do not make any controversial changes to the public realm. Ms. Berryman confirmed, all the upgrades are positive improvements.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the administrative item at (00:09:44).

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, Commissioner Orosio, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously for approval (7-0).

Presentations for Second Review

1. 119-21

Maplewood Mall Public Art

Greene Street Plaza near W. Armat Street and Greene Street

Review Type: Art installation on City property

Project Details: Artwork on capstones of seat walls

Submitted By: Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy

Matt Wysong, staff of the City Planning Commission who served as the project manager for the reconstruction of Maplewood Mall, made brief introductory remarks about the renovation. Stephanie Fuentes and Kate Kaman reported on the follow-up items that the Art Commission requested during the first review for the public art, including material properties, installation method, and final layout.

The brass inlays would not cause excessive heat, slopes for drainage were added to the capstones, the existing lighting conditions were clarified, and the plan view of the design layout was presented.

Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, and Chairperson Roesch expressed how beautiful the project was and Commissioner Miller praised the community engagement process.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for final approval (00:23:54).

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 McEneaney, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously for final approval (7-0).

Presentations for Concept Review

1. 186-21

Park at Penn's Landing

101 S. Columbus Boulevard

Review Type: Construction project paid with City funds

Project Details: New 12-acre park capping I-95

Submitted By: Delaware River Waterfront Corporation

Due to technical difficulties, the Park at Penn's Landing was presented next.

Joe Forkin, along with others from the project team, including Mary Margaret Jones, Richard Maimon, and Lizzie Woods, presented an in-depth description of the new park including a pavilion, play areas, wooded areas, open lawn and garden areas, and an amphitheater. Construction is expected to begin in the fall 2022. The project budget of \$95 million funding sources is the City of Philadelphia, DRWC including William Penn Foundation, Knight Foundation, Pew Trust, and others.

Joe Forkin gave an overview of the planning efforts and Lizzie Woods presented the community engagement efforts. Mary Margaret Jones gave a design overview, explaining the concepts of connecting to the river, welcoming everyone, and designing for resiliency. She described the cap structure over I-95 as being a “waffle system” that allows for integrated landscape planting above it. Elements in the new park include an ice rink, pavilion, memorials, event programming, a stage area, fountain, a woodland open space, play area, and other outdoor spaces. The new park setting is kept throughout each space, however the designers also strive to keep the authenticity of the current Penn's Landing space.

Richard Maimon presented the pavilion, a zero carbon building with a warm and inviting architecture that fits into the park setting. All service areas are located in the least visible direction. The breezeway is especially dramatic with shaped wood structure that draws in visitors.

Joe Forkin wrapped up with the timeline, plans for further public comment, the timeline for the Percent for Art presentations, and budget.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (01:10:37).

Chairperson Roesch expressed that the project was exciting, well-thought out, and a great asset to the community. He then inquired about the ADA compliance of the play area and about light pollution. Ms. Jones replied that there will be bridges, ramps, and slides, and all lights are downward projection. Chairperson Roesch asked for clarification on the resiliency efforts. Ms. Jones detailed that the project does not adjust the bulkhead or seawall, and the open lawn space over the river is designed to be flooded.

He then asked about the resulting space underneath the cap, the tunnel created over Columbus Boulevard. Ms. Woods replied that they are looking into treatment for the entire area to make sure that it's as pleasant as possible and that it connects the neighborhood into the park. Commissioner McEneaney asked about the experience for pedestrians and bicyclist as they go under the structure.

Commissioner Osorio asked about transportation to the site, mentioning how difficult it is to access Penn's Landing now. Ms. Woods stated that they are looking into a bike share in the area and parking in terms of street parking, food trucks, as well as public parking. They are looking into bicycles, buses, pedestrians, and vehicles to the full extent that they can.

Further discussion continued about SEPTA connections, the Irish and Scottish memorials, lighting, paths, and the skating rink between Ms. Jones, Commissioner Pepon, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, and Commissioner Nasser, who asked about activities during the winter months (01:19:07).

Chairperson Roesch summarized elements to focus on at the next presentation. Light fixture details should be shown, the space under the tunnel should be shown, a transportation and circulation diagram should be presented, additional winter images should be included, and more planting details.

Questions and comments from the public at the minute mark (01:28:10).

Karen Davies asked if there would be 24/7 security in the park. Mr. Forkin responded that security would be covered under DRWC operations and part of their 24-hour security.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel for concept approval, and seconded by Commissioner Nasser. Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Hartner, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously for concept approval (6-0). Commissioner Miller recused himself from this item.

2. 185-21

Mayfair Elementary School Addition 2901 Princeton Avenue

Review Type: Construction project paid with City funds

Project Details: New addition building

Submitted By: The Sheward Partnership

Geoff Chalkley began presentation at (01:29:53) with an introduction of the team. He then introduced the project, which is a two-story addition consisting of six classrooms. The School is located at the corner of Princeton Avenue and Hawthorne Street in the Mayfair neighborhood of Philadelphia. The School District of Philadelphia, under the current Capital Improvement Program, issued the program for expansion in 2021 due to student population increases. A few years ago, another addition was completed, and approved by the Art Commission.

Mr. Chalkley described the design as matching the first addition in terms of materials and colors. The proposed addition defines the entrance better and enlivens the façade.

Ms. Ward asked the Commission for a final approval because of their construction timeline and efforts prevent overcrowding again at Mayfair (01:51:44).

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (01:53:10).

Chairperson Roesch asked about the playground, if the fence around it was already installed, why artificial turf was chosen, if the grey color on the plan was asphalt, and where are the locations of the trees and plating areas. Ms. Ward replied yes, it is an existing chain link fence since the 1950's and Ms. Dipeso replied that the turf was a School Board request, the grounds have existing asphalt, and there aren't any trees in the proposed playground area.

There was a question if gender-neutral bathrooms are being installed. The School Board has a policy to provide inclusive, gender-neutral bathrooms, thus there will be gender-neutral bathrooms in key locations on the first and second floors.

Commissioner Osorio asked if the playground would be accessible to the community after school hours. Ms. Ward stated that the specific school has a public playground on the backside, which the school does not utilize so it is the community playground. Commissioner McEneaney asked if the temporary trailers were staying. The classroom trailers will remain until the construction is complete of the new addition and will serve as a "swing space". Further discussion continued about the ADA staircase and the collaboration room between Ms. Ward, Commissioner McEneaney, and Commissioner Osorio (01:58:20).

Chairperson Roesch asked if the Commission was considering final approval.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel stated that she hadn't heard the need for any design modifications to come back to the Commission, and if the only issue was giving commissioners access to material samples, then they could be sent to Ms. Berryman who could make the materials available to those interested, then she would feel comfortable giving final approval (02:02:05). Chairperson Roesch agreed.

Chairperson Roesch asked the Commission for a motion at (02:05:13). Commissioner Nasser raised a concern about the reoccurring requests from the School Board for the Commission to give final approval during concept review.

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

Commissioner Nasser acknowledged Commissioner Febo San Miguel for her recent achievement award. The Commission congratulated Commissioner Febo San Miguel and Chairperson Roesch added that Commissioner Febo San Miguel is an asset to the City and the country (02:08:20).

Seeing no further comments or questions from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn (02:09:08). Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel, the October 13, 2021 Art Commission was adjourned at the minute mark (02:09:18).

The next Art Commission will be held Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.