



The Philadelphia Art
Commission
Established 1911

Minutes The Philadelphia Art Commission December 8, 2021 - 9:30 a.m. Remote – Zoom Meeting – Hosted by DPZ

Robert Roesch
Chair

Members Present: Carmen Febo San Miguel, Deborah Cahill, José Almiñana, Matthew Miller, Raed Nasser, Robert Roesch, Sarah McEneaney, and Mario Zacharjasz

José Almiñana
Deborah Cahill
Carmen Febo San Miguel
Sarah McEneaney
Matthew Miller
Raed Nasser
Pepón Osorio
Mario Zacharjasz

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/>).

C. Beige Berryman
Staff

*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 to order at the minute mark (00:02:29).

Minutes

- November 10, 2021 meeting minutes

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion to approve the November minutes and took a consensus vote of the Commission at the minute mark (00:02:47).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Almiñana, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the November minutes (7-0).

Report of the Sign Committee – November 24, 2021

First Reviews:

1. **228-21**
Drexel Health Sciences Building
60 N 36th Street

2. **229-21**
Pier 5
7 N Columbus Boulevard

3. **224-21**
Starbucks
1709-17 Chestnut Street

4. **225-21**
Sugaring NYC
1909 Chestnut Street

5. **226-21**
TD Bank
1500 John F. Kennedy Boulevard

6. **227-21**
Trulieve
501-505 S Broad Street

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the Sign Committee recommendations (00:03:26).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner José Almiñana, Deborah Cahill, Carmen Febo San Miguel, Raed Nasser, Sarah McEaney, Mario Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously (7-0).

Administrative Agenda

1. Proposed 2022 calendar meeting dates

Ms. Berryman presented the 2022 calendar meeting dates (00:04:41). The proposed dates for the Art Commission are the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The proposed date for the Sign Committee, are the 4th Wednesday of the month, with a new start time at 9:30 a.m.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion to approve the 2022 calendar meeting dates, then took a consensus vote of the Commission.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel, the Commission voted unanimously (7-0).

2. 236-21

Zone 5 Garage

6666 Ridge Avenue

Review Type: Minor construction project located on City property

Project Details: Repairs to the exterior for structural safety

Submitted By: Seiler + Drury Architecture

The Zone 5 Parking Garage for the 5th Police District is proposing repairs and renovations to the exterior for structural safety and longevity. The building has a large setback from Cinnaminson Street and the work is all repairs. They are matching materials, where possible and fixing a number of exterior façade issues.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion to approve, then took roll call.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner McEneaney, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner José Almiñana, Deborah Cahill, Carmen Febo San Miguel, Raed Nasser, Sarah McEneaney, Matthew Miller, Mario Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously (8-0).

3. 237-21

Engine 43

2108-14 Market Street

Review Type: Minor construction project located on City property

Project Details: Repairs to the exterior and interior renovations

Submitted By: Department of Public Property

4. 238-21

Engine 54

1913 N 63rd Street

Review Type: Minor construction project located on City property

Project Details: Repairs to the exterior and interior renovations

Submitted By: Department of Public Property

5. 239-21

Engine 61

5334 Rising Sun Avenue

Review Type: Minor construction project located on City property

Project Details: Repairs to the exterior and interior renovations

Submitted By: Department of Public Property

6. 240-21

Engine 64

6100 Rising Sun Avenue

Review Type: Minor construction project located on City property
Project Details: Repairs to the exterior and interior renovations
Submitted By: Department of Public Property

These next four agenda items are all minor repair works to fire engine buildings at four different locations. These are mostly for interior improvements, with some roof work and very minimum visual impact on the buildings or public realm.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion to approve. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Zacharjasz, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner José Almiñana, Deborah Cahill, Carmen Febo San Miguel, Raed Nasser, Sarah McEneaney, Matthew Miller, Mario Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously (8-0).

Presentations for Second Review

1. 117-21

William H. Hunter Schoolyard Improvements 2400 N Front St

Review Type: Construction project paid with City funds
Project Details: Site improvements
Submitted By: Salt Design Studio

Katrina Rogus began the presentation and outlined the design's revisions since their last review. They consulted with an arborist, who evaluated the existing trees and felt that it would be more beneficial to remove all the trees and structure, then plant many new trees in its place. Currently, they have 18 new canopy trees and 16 new understory trees (00:08:49). She described that the raised platform structure will be ADA accessible. The design team performed additional engagement with the teachers at the school which resulted in removing the shade structures at the building entrance, and shifting planters away from the entry to open up the space more for circulation. Lastly, the basketball court dimensions were expanded.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (00:18:40).

Commissioner Almiñana commented on the trees and mentioned that the Commission usually has more detailed plans to assess at a final review. Commissioner Zacharjasz agreed with Commissioner Almiñana regarding the lack of details presented.

Commissioner Almiñana raised concerns about the heat retention of the plastic composite material used for the raised platform. He also asked if more shade and more street trees could be provided. Commissioner Cahill inquired about shading in the seating area and how the structure of the seat walls could protect the planting beds.

Further discussion continued about providing shade through trees, and the concrete and safety surface maintenance (00:27:54). Chairperson Roesch asked about the outside learning area, if low railing was required, and asked for details about the main gate. Commissioner Cahill inquired about the artificial turf and how the trees were planted in it. Commissioner Almiñana wanted to see grading details.

Ms. Berryman offered that staff could show additional existing photographs on the screen if it would be helpful (00:42:16), this was not needed. Considering the significant questions about the design, Commissioner Febo San Miguel suggested bringing the project back for another review. Chairperson Roesch summarized the areas that need further explanation at the next review, including stormwater, shade levels, planting details, program of space, and construction drawings of some of these key issues.

Commissioner Miller expressed concerns about accessibility and universal inclusion, wondering about the perimeter's enclosure and if the playground was open to the neighborhood. Ms. Rogus responded that the intent is for the playground to be open to the community in the future, but currently the schoolyard will be locked when school is not in session due to safety concerns.

Chairperson Roesch requested that the project return with construction drawings.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion for continuing the review (00:49:27).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Almiñana and seconded by Commissioner Zacharjasz, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner José Almiñana, Deborah Cahill, Carmen Febo San Miguel, Raed Nasser, Sarah McEaney, Matthew Miller, Mario Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously (8-0).

Presentations for Concept Review

1. 241-21

F. Amedee Bregy Schoolyard Improvement Project 1700 Bigler Street

Review Type: Construction project paid with City funds

Project Details: Schoolyard Renovation

Submitted By: The Trust for Public Land

Rosa Mannion presented this project (00:51:10), going through the existing site, student participation in the design process, grant funding and the stormwater capture goals of the design. Planting and play equipment details were also described.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (01:08:14).

Commissioner Almiñana expressed appreciation for the project's plant selection and integration of features, such as the rain gardens. He was concerned about the lack of vegetation towards the center of the site given that it's such a vast amount of asphalt. He also observed that the relationship between the stage area and the track looked uncomfortable and "forced".

Commissioner Zacharjasz asked about lighting and if the main entrance was gated. Ms. Mannion stated that it remains undecided if the space will be locked every night or not, and no lighting is included. Commissioner Cahill agreed with Commissioner Zacharjasz and commented that the connections between the spaces could be strengthened. She was also concerned that the tree planting area needed better protection against the basketball court activities.

Commissioner Zacharjasz asked Ms. Rogus if any shade canopies were included, but the budget is too tight to support this idea.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked for a clear description of how the facility is accessible to the community.

Chairperson Roesch summarized the Commission concerns: include the schedule of open hours and operations, resolve the lighting levels, protect vegetation from basketball court, add landscape in the center of the site, improve siting of track and stage, include a maintenance schedule, and clarify the fencing.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for conceptual approval (01:22:26).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Almiñana and seconded by Commissioner Zacharjasz, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner José Almiñana, Deborah Cahill, Carmen Febo San Miguel, Raed Nasser, Sarah McEaney, Matthew Miller, Mario Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously for conceptual approval (8-0).

This concludes the December 8, 2021 Art Commission meeting.

The next Art Commission will be held Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.