



The Philadelphia Art
Commission
Established 1911

Minutes The Philadelphia Art Commission February 9, 2022 - 9:30 a.m. Remote – Zoom Meeting – Hosted by DPZ

Robert Roesch
Chair

Members Present: Deborah Cahill, Matthew Miller, Pepón Osorio, Raed Nasser, Sarah McEneaney, Robert Roesch

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 (00:02:14).

Minutes

- January 12, 2022 meeting minutes.

Hearing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the January minutes and took a consensus vote.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner McEneaney, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the January minutes.

Report of the Sign Committee – January 26, 2022

Second Reviews:

1. **226-21**
TD Bank
1500 John F. Kennedy Boulevard

First Reviews:

1. **16-22**
Kimmel Center Cafe
300-18 S Broad Street
2. **14-22**
Artizia
1725-27 Walnut Street
3. **10-22**
Free People
1617 Walnut Street
4. **12-22**
Kura Sushi
1721-23 Chestnut Street
5. **9-22**
Cosi
1035 Chestnut Street
6. **11-22**
Hertz
1700-20 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
7. **13-22**
Van Leeuwen
1734 Chestnut Street a.k.a. 115 S 18th Street
8. **15-22**
Endgame Boxing Fitness
2026 Chestnut Street

Hearing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the Sign Committee Report.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner McEneaney, The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Sign Committee Report.

Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Commissioner Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Sign Committee Report (5-0).

Administrative Agenda

1. 20-22

Spring Garden School 1126 Melon Street

Review Type: Minor construction project paid with City funds
Project Details: Routine exterior maintenance
Submitted By: Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Ms. Berryman began with the Spring Garden School. The scope of work includes routine exterior envelope repairs, including window replacements to match existing, brick repair to match existing, exterior door refurbishment, and roofing material repair and replacement.

Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the administrative item (00:04:19).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Osorio, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Commissioner Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Spring Garden School improvements (5-0).

2. 21-22

Stinger Square Park Improvements 3200 Dickinson Street

Review Type: Minor construction project located on City property
Project Details: Repairs and replacement to playground equipment
Submitted By: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

The next administrative item includes the removal of existing play equipment and safety surfacing, and the relocation of three benches. New play equipment, new play mounds, and new safety surface will replace the worn-out components. The existing site tree will remain and be protected during demolition and installation.

Commissioner Cahill stated that she would like to see a tree protection plan as well as the location of new benches on the plans.

Chairperson Roesch suggested approval with the proviso that the tree protection plan and bench location details are subsequently submitted to staff.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the administrative item (00:06:38).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Osorio, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Commissioner Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Stinger Square Park improvements with the proviso (5-0).

3. 22-22

**Mcllvain Playground
5200 Penn Street**

Review Type: Minor construction project located on City property
Project Details: Repairs and replacement to playground equipment
Submitted By: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

The play area will be equipped with new play equipment and safety surface. This portion of the play space will become partially contained with a new fence and gate. The spray ground will receive all new plumbing, concrete pad, and water features. New signs and benches will be installed. The basketball courts will receive new line painting and backboards.

Commissioner Cahill asked for additional details on the drawings, including the locations of the new signs and benches.

Chairperson Roesch suggested approval with the proviso that those details are subsequently submitted to staff. Ms. Berryman confirmed that staff can facilitate collecting any additional drawings.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the administrative item (00:09:04).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Osorio and seconded by Commissioner Nasser, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Osorio, and Commissioner Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Mcllvain Playground improvements with the proviso (6-0).

Presentations for Second Review

1. 196-20

**Vare Recreation Center
2600 Morris Street**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Site improvements, building renovations, new construction
Submitted by: Make the World Better Foundation

Presenters Alize Allison, Ian Smith, and Lauren Elachi began the presentation. Lauren Elachi described the site plan and landscape improvements. Ian Smith described the building design, stating that some of the exterior materials are still being confirmed.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (00:33:05).

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1515 Arch St.
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

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Commissioner Cahill praised the extensive and inclusive way they engaged the community and included design innovations for social spaces and activities within the site. She then asked about plans for the pool and lighting. Mr. Smith responded that there are no improvements being made to the pool. Three types of lighting are being considered: field, building, and playground lights.

Due to the amount of artificial turf, Chairperson Roesch asked if the project had stormwater concerns. Stormwater is being held in a retention basin under the field and will be piped out. PWD will be doing work on Morris Street in the near future, but the exact timing is not clear.

Commissioner Osorio asked where spectators might stand and if ADA access was planned for in the bleacher area, which it is.

Chairperson Roesch commended the ramp and stair design. Commissioner Miller expressed his appreciation for the community engagement aspect of the project, and then inquired about the demographics of who would be using the park. He suggested showing greater diversity in the renderings of the people using the space. He also stated that the wayfinding indicators around the exterior may need additional refinement.

Commissioner Nasser inquired about material of the outside chairs, location of the restrooms, and the type of trash cans. Ms. Elachi addressed the inquiries. Commissioner McEneaney asked about the One Percent for Art component. The applicants are working on the details but shared the community's hope that the art would be dispersed throughout the site.

Commissioner Nasser commented on the possible need to prevent skaters from misusing the site furniture. He then asked if more trees or other landscape could be placed alongside 27th Street. Commissioner Cahill added she would like to see draining plans.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to continue the project's review (00:55:28).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Miller to continue the review process, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Osorio, and Commissioner Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to continue the project's review (6-0).

Commissioner Osorio then asked if any existing artwork or sculptures were inside the center. Commissioner Nasser said yes. Discussion continued between Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, and Commissioner Osorio that suggested a follow up from the team to address the existing artwork. Chairperson Roesch asked Ms. Berryman to make a note of the request.

2. 6-22

Norris Square Improvements

2100 N Howard Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Site improvements

Submitted By: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Presentation began at (00:58:21). Yadiel Rivera-Diaz gave an overview of the project, which included the vision plan, tree and plant details, basketball court and play area, central gathering space design development, furniture and lighting details, and sustainability and art.

Chairperson Roesch asked for clarification about the construction phasing. Future phases would need to return to the Commission and the Percent for Art project would be part of Phase I.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (01:18:47).

Commissioner Nasser asked if the lighting would fall under Phase I and if volleyball could be integrated into the program. The lighting will fall under Phase I; however, the community had not expressed interest for volleyball facilities. Commissioner Cahill expressed gratitude for the design and complimented the overall project.

Chairperson Roesch asked if the secondary walking paths were concrete and met ADA requirements. These points were confirmed.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for final approval (01:24:21).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Cahill, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEaney, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Osorio, and Commissioner Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously for final approval (6-0).

Presentations for Concept Review

1. 23-22

Direct Bus B

Various locations along Roosevelt Boulevard

Review Type: Fixture located in public right-of-way

Project Details: Bus stations and amenities

Submitted By: Office of Transportation, Infrastructure & Sustainability

Patricia Ellis-Dinatale began presenting an overview of the proposed Direct Bus stations: Pratt Street, Langdon, Rising Sun, and Broad Street at (01:25:58). These four stops (in both directions) are being funded from multiple sources. Additional stops will be constructed by SEPTA and will be presented to the Commission later.

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Direct Bus is part of the Route for Change program. This program develops both short-term and long-term improvements to make Roosevelt Boulevard safer for all users. Direct Bus was initiated in the fall of 2017 and has been successful. It's limited stops have improved travel times for riders as well as their experience waiting.

The Direct Bus will eventually connect the Frankford Transportation Center with the Wissahickon Transportation Center. Each of the stations will have pedestrian scale lighting, a shelter, kiosk, and benches. A charcoal-colored concrete plaza designates each station. These elements were previously approved by the Art Commission. Ms. Dinatale and her team also worked with an arborist to determine actions for existing trees and replanting details where needed.

The timeline for the project, if given approval today, would be to bid in the fall of 2022 and begin construction in the winter/spring of 2023.

Questions and comments from the Commission at minute mark (01:40:05).

Chairperson Roesch commented that the project sounded great, and has been a long time coming.

Commissioner Nasser asked about advertisements at the stations and if the community could use the ad space. They would need to apply through Intersection and comply with the City's policy, but yes, the community could use the ad space.

Commissioner Cahill commended the project and all its improvements, then asked if the 5'x5' tree pit size applied to all locations. Commissioner McEneaney asked about the large tree in front of a residence at the Pratt station, if it could be replaced. Ms. Dinatale said that it did need to be removed, but she would check with the arborist if there was enough space to replace it.

Chairperson Roesch stated that he would like to give the project final approval with the proviso that additional information regarding the tree pit size and possible tree replacement be submitted to staff.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion for final approval (01:46:13).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner McEneaney, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Osorio, and Commissioner Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously for final approval (6-0).

Seeing no further comments or questions from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Cahill, the Commission adjourned. This concluded the February 9, 2022, Philadelphia Art Commission meeting.

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

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