



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

The Philadelphia Art
Commission

Established 1911

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

Robert Roesch

Chair

José Almiñana

Deborah Cahill

Carmen Febo San Miguel

Sarah McEaney

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/>).

*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 (00:02:28).

C. Beige Berryman

Staff

Minutes

- February 9, 2022, meeting minutes.

Hearing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion to approve the February minutes and did a consensus vote of the Commission.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Almiñana. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the February minutes.

One Parkway Building

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Report of the Sign Committee – February 23, 2022

Appeal:

1. **30-22**
Holt's Cigar Co.
1522 Walnut Street

Michael Walter and Gary Martin begin describing their sign proposal and their appeal against the Sign Committee's recommendation. The Committee had recommended that the existing stone panel be restored and incorporated into the new signage and that EIFS or Dryvit would not be approved for the back panel. Alex Smith, from the Art Commission staff, confirmed this conversation.

Further conversation continued about the backing material between commissioners Nasser, Zacharjasz, and Almiñana. Quality of the material and branding were discussed. Agreement was reached that the Planning Commission's façade review should occur, and then the project should return to the Art Commission.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to have the project received its façade review and then return to Art Commission.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEaney, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to uphold the Sign Committee's recommendation and return to the Art Commission after façade review (9-0).

Second Reviews:

1. **249-21**
Sam Shaw's Treatory
306 South Street
2. **14-22**
Artizia
1725-27 Walnut Street

First Reviews:

1. **29-22**
Sonder
1776 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
2. **32-22**
2nd Street
1606 Chestnut Street

3. **33-22**
Vans
1702 Walnut Street
4. **31-22**
Welnox
1510-12 Sansom Street
5. **34-22**
T-Mobile
1737 Chestnut Street
6. **36-22**
Grace Loves Lace
1719 Chestnut Street
7. **35-22**
Citizens Bank
600 S 9th Street

Previously reviewed on October 27, 2021:

1. **202-21**
Villekebabs
1722 Sansom Street

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the remainder of recommendations from the Sign Committee from February 23, 2022 (00:30:46).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner Nasser, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the remainder of the Sign Committee recommendations (9-0).

Administrative Agenda

1. **41-22**
Fitzpatrick Playground Improvements
12501 Torrey Road
Review Type: Minor construction project located on City property
Project Details: Repairs and replacement to playground
Submitted By: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Ms. Berryman presented the first administrative item (00:31:43). This proposal is submitted by Parks and Recreation and the scope of work includes installing new safety surface, new spray

ground features, new pieces of play equipment, and other site amenities such as benches and picnic tables.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for approval (00:32:14).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Fitzpatrick Playground improvements (9-0).

2. 42-22
33rd and Wallace Playground
3302 Wallace Street

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

Ms. Berryman presented the second administrative item (00:32:54). This proposal is also submitted by Parks and Recreation, and the scope of work includes general improvements such as installing new safety surface and new play equipment. Other minor site improvements such as surface games and handrails will enhance accessibility and inclusivity of the park.

Hearing no questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for approval (00:33:15).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Zacharjasz, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the 33rd and Wallace Playground improvements (9-0).

Presentations for Second 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 the second review for final approval (00:34:31). She outlined the previous two main critiques from the Commission, the track layout and stage location. The track route became more integrated with the other site improvements and the stage shifted to the east to take advantage of the shade from the trees.

Chairperson Roesch commented that the before and after images showed remarkable improvements, then inquired about the heat on the outdoor classroom during the summer, height of the fence, and cost estimate of the project.

Kari Sannino responded that much of the project is funded by a grant from the Philadelphia Water Department, and asked if that funding source counted towards the Percent for Art requirement for the project. Ms. Berryman stated that staff will follow up with the Office of Arts and Culture to help gain clarification.

Questions and comments from the Commission at minute mark (51:20).

Commissioner Almiñana asked if the perimeter boundary line of the resurfacing could be simplified, and then he also gave suggestions for using a site furnishing company that was carbon neutral.

Commissioner Zacharjasz asked if any sports field boundary lines would be painted on the artificial turf and suggested volleyball lines be included within the basketball court. He then inquired about the lighting and security. Ms. Mannion stated that the turf will not have lines in order to remain a flexible space, and that lighting wasn't included in the project but that the building has exterior wall mounted lighting.

Commissioner Cahill appreciated the different track walking paths and painted asphalt and suggested that the trees get protection. Further discussion and suggestions continued on the subject, including ideas for barriers such as benches or boulders instead of fences.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for final approval (01:01:10).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Almiñana and seconded by Commissioner Zacharjasz, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously for final approval (9-0).

2. 5-22

FDR Park Welcome Center 1500 Pattison Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Alteration of existing guardhouse and stables building

Submitted By: WRT

Allison Shocker began the presentation by stating the Welcome Center and associated playground are the first efforts in the gateway phase of the FDR Park plan and then introduced Erin Roark, who presented an overview of the project and changes made as requested by the Commission. These revisions included approval from the Philadelphia Historical Commission, detailed planting materials and stormwater efforts at the Welcome Center and playground, landscape materials plan, lighting, and the Percent for Art initial ideas (01:02:22).

Charlie Neer presented the planting plan, stormwater management plan, playground, and landscape materials plan. He reviewed the natural playground elements, including the Corkeen material, the “bird house” play equipment, and mega swing.

Questions and comments from the Commission at minute mark (01:20:20)

Chairperson Roesch found the equipment interesting and expressed concerns about the aluminum materials during the summer heat and about light pollution. The light fixture was confirmed to only shine downwards. Commissioner Cahill agreed with Chairperson Roesch about the metal slide. Additionally, she stated the standard 16-foot clearance needed in all directions around the mega swing for safety.

Commissioner Zacharjasz asked about the surface of the trees used for play and if they will splinter. Commissioner Almiñana was concerned that not enough development and details were presented for the Commission to make a final approval, and perhaps the Commission could not appreciate the details from the renderings.

Commissioner Osorio and Almiñana agreed with Commissioner Cahill’s comment about safely accessing the swings and safely walking around the swings.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for final approval with the proviso that additional details be provided to staff including the swing clearance, the aluminum material, and access to play area (01:40:24).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Cahill, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEaney, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously for final approval with the conditions (9-0).

Presentations for Concept Review

1. 43-22

Fotteral Square

2400 N 11th Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Site and amenity improvements

Submitted By: Ground Reconsidered

Ariel Vazquez began the presentation by introducing the Rebuild initiative to make physical improvement to parks, recreation centers, and libraries. Amanda Colon-Smith presented the project’s community engagement, and finally TJ McIntyre presented the design. He provided a brief overview of the existing infrastructure, tree health, and the below standard conditions of the fields and equipment. The proposal includes new ADA paths, new playground equipment, a public restroom, and plaza area.

Chairperson Roesch clarified that the applicants were requesting concept approval for phase I (01:57:12).

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark (01:57:32).

Commissioner McEneaney was glad that restrooms were included and reminded applicants to share information about the Percent for Art program.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked about the gap in the number of trees being removed and the number being replanted. Commissioners Nasser and Cahill agreed that there was space for more trees to be planted, that the ratio should be 1:1, and that the entrances would be a good location for more tree planting.

Commissioner Zacharjasz asked if the baseball field could be multi-functional. The response was that baseball was desired by the community. He also asked if there would be additional consideration and activation for the open space adjacent to 11th Street. Adding to this comment, Commissioner Osorio asked if passive spaces with flexible programming could be added in this area, which would give the community ownership of the space.

Further discussion continued with Angela Dixon, Mr. McIntyre and the Commission regarding the activation of this open space, including furniture, trees, benches, accessibility, and lighting.

Chairperson Roesch summarized the commissioners comments, including more trees, more benches, activation along 11th Street, and details on the restroom. Additional drawings should include more renderings and section drawings to better understand the existing topography (02:15:47).

Hearing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for concept approval (02:20:53).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously for (7-0). Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Almiñana were no longer in attendance.

2. 44-22
PHL Airport Restroom Renovations Phases 5-9

8000 Essington Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: 30 restroom renovations and 2 new restroom sets

Submitted By: HDR

Ruth Krieger went over the goals of the project, which were to maximize the existing restrooms, provide more efficient layouts, and increase the stall sizes. Also, adding gender neutral restrooms, service animal relief areas, and companion care facilities are part of the proposal. In

general, the new restroom materials are moving away from using grout and small tiles in order to reduce the potential for germs and to increase the ease of cleaning.

Questions and comments from the Commission at minute mark (02:56:15).

Commission questions included if more accessory hooks would be included, if the canine turf was anti-bacterial, if water filling stations were included, and finally about the health of hand air dryers. These were all addressed satisfactorily.

Commissioner Roesch brought up the Percent for Art requirement, which will be a separate presentation in the future.

Commissioner Osorio asked about wayfinding. New signage is included in the project.

Commissioner Cahill commended the use of smart monitoring for cleaning.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for concept approval.

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

3. 45-22

OY/YO Sculpture

5th and Market Streets near the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History

Review Type: Construction within Independence Hall Area and in public right-of-way

Project Details: Sculpture location

Submitted By: Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History

Julia Guerrero introduced the project and turned the presentation over to Dr. Josh Perelman to walk the Commission through the plans (03:11:19). The project is the installation of Deborah Kass's OY/YO sculpture, which is intended to be displayed for about a year and in conjunction with the reopening of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History on May 1, 2022.

The piece interfaces with the museum's message, the Independence Mall community, and adds to the narrative, and visual diagram, between the Rocky statue, and LOVE sculpture. It represents many linguist vernaculars, multi-culturalism, as well as an exuberance and grittiness that are all found in Philadelphia. It also interacts with the existing Neo-classical sculpture, and will be located in the sidewalk at the corner of 5th and Market Streets.

SEPTA has given their support and communications with the Streets Department has begun.

Questions and comments from the Commission at minute mark (03:23:29).

Commissioner McEneaney wanted to know the timeline of the sculpture and if there were an additional editions. Dr. Perelman said that the sculpture is currently planned to be installed for one-year, and that it is the third edition. Commissioner Zacharjasz and others asked if there would be any possibility of the sculpture remaining longer, as they were enthusiastic about the proposal.

Commissioner Cahill inquired about the clearance distances for the sidewalk and the tree pits. The exact placement and dimensions still need verification.

The Commission expressed their admiration for the wonderful project.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chairperson Roesch asked if there was a motion for conceptual approval (03:28:57).

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

Hearing no further comments or questions from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn (03:29:42).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner Cahill, with consensus by the Commission, the meeting adjourned.

This concluded the March 9, 2022, Philadelphia Art Commission.

The next Art Commission will be held Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.