

Minutes

The Philadelphia Art Commission

January 11, 2023 - 9:30 a.m.

Remote – Zoom Meeting – Hosted by DPZ

The Philadelphia Art
Commission

Established 1911

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

Meeting of the Philadelphia Art Commission

Robert Roesch

Chair

José Almiñana

Deborah Cahill

Carmen Febo San Miguel

Matthew Kenyatta

Sarah McEaney

Raed Nasser

Pepón Osorio

Mario Zacharjasz

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.*

C. Beige Berryman

Staff

Chair Roesch extended appreciation towards the staff before calling the meeting to order at the minute mark (00:02:34).

Minutes

- September 14, 2022 meeting minutes
- September 19, 2022 meeting minutes

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:03:20).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Osorio, the vote carried with all in favor to approve the September 14th and 19th minutes.

One Parkway Building

1515 Arch St.

13th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

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Report of the Sign Committee – December 21, 2022

First Reviews:

- 1. 231-22
Joybird
1507 Walnut Street**

- 2. 232-22
J. Crew Factory
1535 Chestnut Street**

- 3. 233-22
Carbon Health
701 S Broad Street**

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee from December 21, 2022 (00:04:02).

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 Kenyatta, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chair Roesch.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Sign Committee recommendations (9-0).

Administrative Agenda

Ms. Berryman presented two administrative items (00:05:23).

- 1. 1-23
Kendrick Recreation Center Improvements
5800 Ridge Avenue**
Review Type: Minor construction project on City Property
Project Details: HVAC system upgrades
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

The project's goal is to upgrade the HVAC system. The new mechanical work requires that the building's power get upgraded and a pad mounted transformer be installed behind an existing fence along Roxborough Avenue. Architectural work is limited to a partial roof replacement, select ceiling replacement, and patching finishes impacted by the HVAC system. The exterior impact is limited to addition of the transformer, associated fence modifications, and three roof top units. Staff worked with Parks and Recreation to add additional vegetation around the transformer to help screen it.

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:06:27).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner Almiñana, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chair Roesch. Motion for approval carried unanimously (9-0).

2. 224-22

Comet light fixture installation

1916 Race Street

Review Type: Minor construction project within Benjamin Franklin Parkway Area

Project Details: Light artwork within entrance area signage

Applicant: Moore College of Art and Design

The Moore College of Art and Design recently rebranded and the associated new exterior signs and logo were reviewed by the Sign Committee in August 2021. The sign package received approval from the Art Commission in September 2021, which included a skyline sign, an entrance sign, gallery sign, and others. This item is an artist-designed light installation that accompanies the entrance sign. The signage is on the underside of the entryway ceiling, which is a recessed, semi-exterior entrance space. The light installation, a neon interpretation of a comet, will be installed as part of the composition of the now existing recessed ceiling signage. The signage design was always intended to include the light installation.

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:08:44).

Commissioner Almiñana requested to see images of the proposal. Ms. Berryman introduced the representative from Moore College, Gabrielle Lavin Suzenski to answer further questions (00:11:40). Commissioners were complimentary of the proposal and had questions about the placement and installation regarding bird nesting and general protection of the work.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:19:49).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner McEneaney and seconded by Commissioner Kenyatta, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chair Roesch. Motion for approval carried unanimously (9-0).

Presentations for Final Review

1. 209-22

East Park Booster Pump Station 33rd Street and Girard Avenue

Review Type: Construction project on City property

Project Details: New construction to replace existing pump house

Applicant: Philadelphia Water Department

Presenter: JMT

Denis Gentilin began the presentation at (00:21:12). Mr. Gentilin went over the comments from the previous review, which included trees, lighting plan, and additional architectural consideration. The project was initially reviewed on November 9, 2022. New trees are proposed where possible. Four dormers were added to each side, brick details, lightings, windows, and louvers were described.

Questions and comments from the Commission

Commissioner Cahill inquired about the landscape design, asking for more details about the new trees and the trees proposed to be removed. Commissioner Almiñana stated concern that not enough details were available for a final review.

Further discussion continued about the trees (00:29:53). Commissioner Zacharjasz stated that a replacement tree plan was missing, and that the Commission needed to know what was being removed and what was being replaced. Mr. Gentilin offered to return to the Commission after the zoning permit was issued. Commissioners advocated for the project to go above and beyond code requirements to improve the city's environment as best as possible.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chair Roesch restated the Commission requests to see an existing tree plan, a replacement tree plan, details of the lighting.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Almiñana, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chair Roesch. Motion carried unanimously for the project to continue (8-0).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairman Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn the January Art Commission meeting (00:44:22).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner Nasser, the January 11, 2023 Philadelphia Art Commission meeting concluded.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

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