

Minutes

The Philadelphia Art Commission

December 14, 2022 - 9:30 a.m.

Remote – Zoom Meeting – Hosted by DPZ

The Philadelphia Art
Commission

Established 1911

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

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

Regarding the agenda, Ms. Berryman announced that the Olney Recreation Center had withdrawn at the applicants request (00:02:15).

Chair Roesch called the meeting to order at the minute mark (00:02:39).

Minutes

- July 27, 2022 meeting minutes

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

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Zacharjasz, the July 27th minutes were approved with no “nays.”

One Parkway Building

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13th Floor

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Report of the Sign Committee – November 21, 2022

First Reviews:

1. **216-22**
Temple University Center City Campus
1515 Market Street
2. **212-22**
BOTLD
119-21 S 18 Street
3. **213-22**
Oakberry
1206 Walnut Street
4. **214-22**
Ritual Shoppe Angela Monaco
2001 Walnut Street
5. **215-22**
Race Street Labs
201-219 N 15 Street

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee from November 21, 2022 (00:04:06).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner McEneaney, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Zacharjasz and Chair Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Sign Committee recommendations (7-0). Commissioner Osorio abstained from this item.

Administrative Agenda

1. Proposed 2023 meeting dates

Ms. Berryman presented two administrative items, beginning with the Art Commission and Sign Committee 2023 public meeting calendar (00:05:22).

The Art Commission will continue to be held via Zoom every second Wednesday of the month beginning at 9:30 a.m. The Sign Committee will continue to be held via Zoom on the last Wednesday of the month beginning at 9:30 a.m., except for December when it will be held on the third Wednesday.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the Art Commission and Sign Committee 2023 public meeting calendar (00:06:19).

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 Kenyatta, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz and Chair Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Art Commission and Sign Committee 2023 calendar (8-0).

2. 223-22

Ellwood Elementary School Improvements

1201-51 Oak Lane

Review Type: Minor construction project paid with City funds

Project Details: Routine maintenance

Applicant: Philadelphia School District

The primary scope of work for the Ellwood Elementary School improvements includes the replacement of all windows in the original building and its additions, including all façades and all floors. Associated exterior masonry repair work ranges from repointing to resealing affected areas.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:07:36).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner McEneaney and seconded by Commissioner Nasser to approve the improvements, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz and Chair Roesch. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the improvements (8-0).

Presentations for Final Review

1. 169-22

Calder Gardens

2100 Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Review Type: Construction project located within Benjamin Franklin Parkway Area Overlay

Project Details: New museum building and associated landscape and exterior site work

Applicant: CP2023

Presenter: Ballinger

Paul Arougheti introduced the presenters and project, and then described the landscape plan updates (00:08:37). Parkway tree plantings are limited due to the PWD relocated pipe. Exterior circulation paths and entry points are updated and increased in number. The visual impact on the sidewalk of the loading area has been reduced. Fence details were provided for the garden areas.

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Final sign designs will be submitted later and reviewed by the Sign Committee. Bike rack locations were clarified. The color and material of the building's rear façade was clarified. Night lighting was detailed as well as confirmation of the use of bird-friendly glazing. Lastly, the perennial meadow plantings will be designed to provide a dynamic palette throughout all four seasons.

Chair Roesch read suggestions from Commissioner Almiñana which he had shared in advance: Please work closely with the on-going efforts for the redesign of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to ensure that the planting and paving palettes at this site match the design intentions for the entire Parkway, and consider wider paths to accommodate benches and circulation.

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:23:31).

Commissioner Cahill agreed with the comments made by Commissioner Almiñana and Chair Roesch, including widening the exterior paths, and added that bike racks might be helpful in the volunteer area.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:25:04).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner Cahill, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Kenyatta, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, Chair Roesch, and Commissioner Nasser. The Commission voted unanimously for final approval (8-0).

2. 4-22

Kingsessing Recreation Center 4901 Kingsessing Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Building renovations and site improvements
Applicant: Rebuild/Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
Presenter: Kelly Maiello Architects

Dori Bova began with an overview of the project which was first reviewed in July 2022 (00:31:43). The landscape site design was presented by Angela Fleegle, followed by Sean Smith, who presented the multi-sport field (00:26:56). The initial Art Commission presentation included both the library and the recreation center. Since then, the proposal split the two buildings into separate projects, with the library presented in July and recreation center being presented currently (00:43:15).

Dori Bova outlined the exterior improvements including entry plaza accessibility, and roof, window, and door replacements.

Angela Fleegle continued with presentation of the landscape design, which keeps many of the existing trees. The proposed picnic area with seating is now an alternative item based on budget.

Commissioner McEneaney asked about the Percent for Art requirement. The applicant stated they have been in contact with the Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy (OACCE). Material clarifications were made to describe Glass Reinforced Concrete (GRFC), walkway widths were confirmed as being six feet, and lastly field lighting was confirmed to remain as it currently exists.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion for final approval (00:49:58).

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

3. 98-22

Blanche A. Nixon Cobbs Creek Library 5800 Cobbs Creek Parkway

Review Type: Construction project located on City Property
Project Details: Building and site improvements
Applicant: Free Library of Philadelphia
Presenter: DIGroup Architecture

Matt Funk began the presentation with an overview of changes made since the project's initial review in May 2022 (00:51:59). Katrina Rogus continued to present the site design, which focuses on circulation improvements and better integration of the entry sequence with the landscape. Mr. Funk highlighted the façade restoration (00:59:34).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:04:33).

Commissioner Cahill commended the improvements, especially the amphitheater space, and Chairman Roesch agreed. Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked about the sun exposure and use of the space during the summer. Canopy trees and the expanse of the space help to mitigate the summer temperatures.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:08:55).

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

4. 190-22

**Murphy Recreation Center
300 W. Shunk Street**

Review Type: Construction project located on City Property

Project Details: Site and building improvements

Applicant: Rebuild/Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Presenter: Kelly Maiello Architects

Troy Leonard provided a brief overview of the project which had a conceptual review in November 2022 (01:09:52). Tree pits and lighting details were described. Sean Smith followed with additional site improvement details.

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:18:04).

Commissioners Febo San Miguel and Cahill expressed appreciation for the additional information and drawings.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion for final approval (01:18:48).

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

Presentations for Concept Review

1. 226-22

**Narrow Bus Shelters
8th and Market Streets, Tasker and Broad Streets**

Review Type: Fixture in the Public right-of-way

Project Details: New street furniture type and two pilot locations

Applicant: Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability

Presenter: Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability

Neil Garry began the presentation requesting approval for the installation of a new narrow shelter design at two pilot locations (01:20:25). The city's challenging sidewalk widths merit a narrow shelter design, and the proposed sites are 8th and Market Streets and Tasker and Broad Streets.

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:27:11).

Chair Roesch clarified that the project was a pilot program. Commissioner Febo San Miguel voiced concern about the lack of seating.

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Commissioner Zacharjasz observed that more space was given to ad display than for sheltering people. Mr. Garry stated that the display was static, the size is a national standard, and ad space was needed for the revenue. Further discussion continued. Some commissioners suggested that the length of the shelter become longer to accommodate more people. Commissioner Osorio observed that bus riders are too exposed to the weather with this design. Commissioner Zacharjasz wondered if the shelter could become two structures, one for the ad space and one for people. Suggestions were made to use different locations that are less busy as pilot installations, to include leaning benches, and a deeper roof overhang.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to continue the review, given the amount of concerns (01:43:32).

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

2. 227-22

Piccoli Playground 1501 E. Bristol Street

Review Type: Construction project on City property

Project Details: Site and building improvements

Applicant: Rebuild / Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Presenter: Converse Winkler Architecture

This presentation began with an overview of the site location, square footage, construction budget, community engagement, and Percent for Art requirement (01:45:00). The timeline for the future Percent for Art project was being determined with OACCE and Rebuild. Peter DiCarlo continued with the concept design which aims to eliminate many of the alterations made over time to restore the original materials and design intent.

Andrea Haynes spoke about the landscape design. The play equipment and spray ground will be refreshed, and the play surface graphics are still placeholder images because the community's input on the theme is still needed.

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:00:19)

Commissioner Cahill was interested in the care and appearance of the spray ground in the winter season. She observed that the spaces feel disjointed and suggested more attention to the graphics is needed. Chair Roesch suggested planting more trees. Commissioner Febo San Miguel inquired about fence and lighting details. Commissioner McEneaney offered that the graphic style of the Piccoli sign might help to inform the graphics throughout the project.



Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion for concept approval (02:07:38).

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

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn the December Art Commission meeting (02:09:11).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner Cahill, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.