



## Minutes

### The Philadelphia Art Commission

March 8, 2023 - 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 McEneaney, Pepón Osorio, Mario Zacharjasz, and Robert Roesch

#### Meeting of the Philadelphia Art Commission

Robert Roesch

Chair

*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/>).*

José Almiñana

Deborah Cahill

Carmen Febo San Miguel

Matthew Kenyatta

Sarah McEneaney

Raed Nasser

Pepón Osorio

Mario Zacharjasz

*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 mark (00:02:08).*

#### Minutes

C. Beige Berryman

Staff

- December 14, 2022 meeting minutes
- January 11, 2023 meeting minutes

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the December and January minutes (00:02:53).

*The consensus vote carried with all in favor to approve the meeting minutes from December and January.*

One Parkway Building

1515 Arch St.

13<sup>th</sup> Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

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## Report of the Sign and Streeterly Committee – February 22, 2023

### Sign Applications

Previously reviewed on January 25, 2023:

1. **10-23**  
**Hangry Joe's**  
300 Market Street

First reviews:

1. **31-23**  
**Magoola**  
134 Chestnut Street
2. **34-23**  
**Mejuri**  
1525 Walnut Street
3. **33-23**  
**Museum for Art in Wood**  
141-45 N 3rd Street
4. **36-23**  
**Roman Catholic High School**  
324 N 13th Street
5. **32-23**  
**Insomnia Cookies**  
135 S 13th Street
6. **35-23**  
**Barnes and Noble**  
1708 Chestnut Street
7. **37-23**  
**Sherwin Williams**  
700 S Broad Street

### Streeterly Structure Applications

1. **38-23**  
**Taqueria Amor**  
4410-14 Main Street

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the Sign and Streeterly Committee report from February 22, 2023 (00:03:37).

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*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner McEneaney, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chair Roesch.*

*The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Sign and Streetery Committee from February 22, 2023 (8-0).*

## **Administrative Agenda**

### **1. 42-23**

#### **Asphalt Art at Trolley and Bus Stops 49<sup>th</sup> Street and Woodland Avenue**

Review Type: Artwork placed in City right-of-way

Project Details: Three temporary asphalt murals at transit stops

Applicant: SEPTA

Ms. Berryman presented the administrative item (00:04:22). The goals of this project include making roadways safer, providing high quality transit stops, and beautifying the corridor. SEPTA has been working with Philadelphia Mural Arts to design asphalt murals at three transit stops all located at 49<sup>th</sup> and Woodland. The Streets Department has approved the project. Each mural will measure approximately 40 feet by 7 feet and matches the dimensions of the existing marked transit zones. All stops are in the public right-of-way. In approximately 3 to 4 years, permanent improvements including concrete platforms and stations for bus and trolley services are expected to be complete at these locations. The permanent platform infrastructure will cover the temporary asphalt murals.

*Questions and comments from the Commission (00:07:43).*

Commissioner Almiñana confirmed that there are three locations and Commissioner Osorio inquired about the legibility of the space when it is occupied by a bus.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion (00:08:29).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Nasser, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chair Roesch.*

*Motion carried unanimously to approve the asphalt art murals (8-0).*

## **Presentations for Final Review**

### **1. 208-22**

#### **McVeigh Recreation Center 400 E. Ontario Street**

Review Type: Construction project on City property

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Project Details: Site and building improvements  
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation  
Presenter: Impact Services

Nestor Torres introduced the project team before presenting at the minute mark (00:09:59). Mr. Torres provided background information on the project before Ms. Pevaroff Schuh continued with additional planting details, surface materials, and installation spacing. Cappy Sabir continued with presenting the solar studies on the front elevation along with the bird-friendly glass material.

*Questions and comments from the Commission.*

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion (00:25:01).

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

## **2. 18-23**

### **Pelbano Recreation Center 8101 Bustleton Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property  
Project Details: Exterior site improvements  
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation  
Presenter: Olin

Richard Roark began the presentation with details about the lighting at the request of the Commission from the previous review (00:26:08).

*Questions and comments from the Commission (00:37:42).*

Commissioner Cahill commented on the multi-use court bench and seating, followed by Commissioner Almiñana's concern about lights remaining on through the night and the need for temporary fencing around trees during construction. Chair Roesch commended the project considering the limited budget.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion (00:41:09).

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

## **Presentations for Concept Review**

### **1. 44-23**

#### **SEPTA Metro Wayfinding Program Various locations citywide**

Review Type: Encroachment in City right-of-way  
Project Details: New graphic and signage system  
Applicant: SEPTA  
Presenter: Michael Baker International

Lex Powers introduced the project team before presenting the project (00:42:14). Ms. Frances continued the presentation (00:54:02). SEPTA's goal for the project is to unify the Broad Street Line, the Market-Frankford Line, Norristown, and Trolleys into one system. Letters, numbers, colors, pylons and other sign structures will now be parts of the same wayfinding system. Ms. Frances gave an overview of implementation, occurring in multiple phases.

*Questions and comments from the Commission (01:02:20).*

Chair Roesch raised concerns about flat wall signs often not looking as thoughtful or deliberate as the freestanding sign structures. Ms. Crider and Mr. Powers responded. Commissioner McEneaney requested clarification about what the "M" on the Norristown Line stood for (Montgomery) and ways to work with New Jersey Transit (01:04:37). Discussion continued with the presenters and Commission regarding plans for integration and QR codes and phasing of the plan (01:06:47).

Ms. Berryman stated that staff are working with Ms. Frances and SEPTA on the detailed installation packages (01:15:52). Commissioner Osorio asked about how the roll out would be communicated. Ambassadors will assist transit users.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion (01:17:13).

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

### **2. 45-23**

#### **Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park 1538 Belmont Avenue**

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Review Type: Construction project located on City property  
Project Details: Exterior site improvements  
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation  
Presenter: Digsau

Jeff Goldstein from Digsau began the presentation at the minute mark (01:18:32). He gave an overview of the Philadelphia Stars Negro League and their historic facilities. The current memorial park consists of a small pocket park with an historic marker, mural, sculpture, and plaza. He reviewed the components of the entire proposal which will be constructed in phases. A proper outfield wall will be constructed first. Future phases include a new mural, new sculptural art, a redesigned plaza, and new tree plantings. The timeline is to complete the entire space by 2026.

*Questions and comments from the Commission (01:34:31).*

Commissioner Almiñana expressed concerns about the scale of the future civic-scaled sculpture that's proposed for the last phase and how it will be reconciled with the small scale of the park. This will need additional study. Commissioner Cahill agreed with Commissioner Almiñana's comments and inquired about the material for the "baseball field" or plaza area and curved seating area (01:39:11). At the request of Chair Roesch, Mr. Goldstein explained the contrast between the geometric pavers and curvilinear concrete plinths. Commissioner Osorio spoke about how the future two spaces – the civic art sculpture and the park – might communicate with each other across the intersection. There were additional comments and discussion from members of the Commission about the outfield wall and existing school building behind it, the wall needs to be double-sided and divide the space logically. The leftover open space should introduce the park in a welcoming manner from the sidewalk.

Chair Roesch summarized that the outfield fence footprint and geometry needs more thought and more details on its height and appearance need to be presented at a future review. Additionally, details about the sustainability of all construction materials, planting details, and more information about how all the parts work together would be helpful.

*Questions and comments from the public (02:06:40).*

Dennis Lee, President of the Business Association of West Parkside commented on the mural and importance of the wall and its significance. Mr. Lee stated that the community had been working together successfully with the designers and they had a critical timeline to show progress on the wall's construction by Jackie Robinson day.

*Questions and comments from the Commission continued (02:11:10).*

Commissioner Osorio asked for clarification regarding the existing statue and mural and how the spatial relationship would shift once the proposed wall was in place. Also, he asked about the team's commitment to hiring an artist for activating the sections of the cedar wall. Currently that is the vision, but successful fundraising is needed.

Chair Roesch asked the project to return with construction drawings for the wall. He was comfortable with a conceptual approval only (02:16:24). Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion (01:17:12).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner McEneaney and seconded by Commissioner Nasser, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairman Roesch. Motion carried unanimously for concept approval (7-0).*

### 3. 43-23

#### **Bartram's Garden Picnic Pavilion 5400 Lindbergh Boulevard**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: New pavilion construction

Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Presenter: Bartram's Garden

Tom Reber, Director of Landscapes and Facilities at Bartram's Garden began the presentation at the minute mark (02:20:40). He described the historical significance of the original pavilion, showing an historic map of the property with an octagonal picnic pavilion in the center. He gave an overview of the pavilion structure, floor slab, and tree removal using additional images.

Chair Roesch clarified if the tree would be removed. Commissioner Almiñana commented that with the removal of existing trees, replacement in kind is required.

Additional questions concerning the ADA pathway, distance and materials were made by Commissioners Cahill and Febo San Miguel (02:34:33).

Chair Roesch summarized the recommendations, the proposal should return with details about the tree replacement plan, and the ADA pathway to the structure's concrete slab from the existing path (02:37:09). Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, he asked for a motion (02:38:21).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Osorio for concept approval, Ms. Berryman polled the Commission: Commissioner Cahill, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chair Roesch. Motion carried unanimously for concept approval (5-0).*

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairman Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn the March Art Commission meeting.

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Cahill, the consensus motion carried. This concluded the March 8, 2023, Philadelphia Art Commission meeting.*

**The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.**

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