



Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 - 9:30 AM

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

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Robert Roesch
Chair

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Carmen Febo San Miguel
Matthew Kenyatta
James Lowe
Sarah McEaney
Raed Nasser
Pepón Osorio
Mario Zacharjasz

Alex M. Smith
Director

MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ART COMMISSION

Alex Smith – Director of the Art Commission – introduced the Zoom platform and remote Art Commission meeting 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 after the meeting and the meeting agenda and materials can be found on the website at: (<https://www.phila.gov/departments/philadelphia-art-commission/>).

*Alex Smith welcomed the Commissioners, followed by a poll of 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. If you have any submitted comments through email, staff will add those to the record.*

Chairperson Roesch called the meeting to order at the mark in video (00:02:10).

REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

Sign Applications

Second Reviews:

- 53-23**
Miller Theater
250 S Broad Street
- 229-21**
Pier 5
7 N Columbus Blvd

First Reviews:

- 224-23**
Penn’s Landing Park – Signage and Wayfinding (DRWC)
(Concept Approval)
Various locations

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2. **225-23**
TD Bank
115-121 S Broad Street

3. **226-23**
Puttshack
1625 Chestnut Street

4. **227-23**
Figs
1625 Walnut Street

5. **228-23**
Sam's Fresh Spot
135 S 10th Street

6. **229-23**
Smoke & Mart
814 Chestnut Street

7. **230-23**
Wells Fargo
130 S Independence Mall W (aka 601 Chestnut Street)

8. **231-23**
Tempur-Pedic
1713 Walnut Street

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Streeterly Structure Applications

First Reviews:

1. **232-23**
Blue Corn
940 S 9th 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 and Streeterly Committee from September 27, 2023 (00:03:13).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner Nasser.

The vote was taken by consensus.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streeterly Committee from September 27, 2023 (6-1). Commissioner Lowe was not present for this vote.

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ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. 239-23

Clark Park – Public Restroom 1101 S 45th Street

Review Type: Minor construction on City property

Project Details: Installation of public restroom in Clark Park

Applicant: Managing Director's Office for Health and Human Services

Mr. Smith presented four administrative items beginning with Clark Park – Public Restroom (00:03:43).

Public Property and Managing Director's Office of Health and Human Services proposed the installation of another pilot location for the city's new public restroom facility project currently referred to, as the Philly Flush Program.

The pilot location, the fourth to be reviewed by the Art Commission, will be within Clark Park, a Parks and Recreational maintained facility. In West Philly, the Portland Loo structure, which components color and design were reviewed by the Art Commission earlier in 2023, will be located near the corner of South 40 Third Street and Region Square.

The project team has worked with friends of Clark Park, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, University City District, as well as many other community members to receive input on the location and the operations of this public restroom.

In May 2023, the Art Commission agreed to review the five future pilot areas as Administrative Reviews.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:04:58).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner Nasser.

The vote was taken by consensus.

Motion carried unanimously to approve the Administrative Item Clark Park – Public Restroom (8-0).



2. 240-23

**Winter Street Building – Roof Rehabilitation
2130 Winter Street**

Review Type: Minor construction on City property
Project Details: Routine roof rehabilitation and exterior maintenance
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

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This administrative item proposes to rehabilitate the roof and related masonry drainage system at the Winter Street Building, formerly known as the Boy Scout Building, at 2130 Winter Street. The rehabilitation work will replace in-kind existing clay tiles and update the roofing material, as well as restoration of existing masonry, parapet, and cornice elements, and the replacement of deteriorating, guttering, and drainpipes.

This work will also be reviewed by the Philadelphia Historic Commission, as the building is also within their purview, and is on the local historic register.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:06:20).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner McEneaney and seconded by Commissioner Nasser.

The vote was taken by consensus.

Motion carried unanimously to approve the Administrative Item Winter Street Building – Roof Rehabilitation (8-0).

3. 241-23

**Cecil B. Moore Library – Rehabilitation
2320 Cecil B. Moore Avenue**

Review Type: Minor construction on City property
Project Details: Interior and minor exterior improvements
Applicant: Rebuild

This administrative item proposes select renovations to the libraries building, including replacement of exterior windows, store front and glazing removal of existing security screens and repair and cleaning of existing exterior aggregate cladding panels. Repainting of existing painted elements and replacement of HVAC systems for the building. The interior of the building will also be improved, with accessibility by means of restroom renovations and a new elevator. The window replacement will select materials that are close to the existing transparency and dimensions of the existing windows and new glazing will also include security glass that will look the same as clear glazing but would be more impact resistant.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:07:38).

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Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Zacharjasz.

The vote was taken by consensus.

Motion carried unanimously to approve the Administrative Item Cecil B. Moore Library – Rehabilitation (8-0).

4. 242-23

**Water Tower Recreation Center – Rehabilitation
209 East Hartwell Lane**

Review Type: Minor construction on City property

Project Details: Routine exterior building restoration and maintenance

Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

This Administrative Item proposes the rehabilitation of exterior elements on Water Tower Recreation Center in Chestnut Hill in Northwest Philadelphia. Specifically, the work will look to clean free point and repair masonry, replace or restore windows and provide upgrades to exit systems at the recreation center primarily through restoration.

In certain circumstances depending on the previous deferred maintenance and existing condition, replacement within kind materials and elements are proposed.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:08:46).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Osorio and seconded by Commissioner Nasser.

The vote was taken by consensus.

Motion carried unanimously to approve the Administrative Item Water Tower Recreation Center – Rehabilitation (8-0).

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PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW

1. 99-22

Lawncrest Recreation Center 6000 Rising Sun Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Site and building improvements
Applicant: Rebuild
Presenter: Community Ventures

Andrew Ferrarelli and Katrina Rogus presented this project (00:09:40).

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:19:05).

Commissioner Febo San Miguel wanted to know about the multi-purpose courts and what they would include and mentioned that pickleball had become very popular and suggested that one tennis court could be split into two pickleball courts. Ms. Rogus responded that the multi-purpose court would be used for tennis and volleyball, then addressed additional questions from the Commission. Commissioner Nasser inquired about biking and space for parking. Commissioner McEneaney asked about any new bird safe glazing that was being considered.

Chairperson Roesch inquired about the security screens and expressed compliments about the 153 new trees followed by noting the great presentation and great design presented.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (00:24:37).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner McEneaney.

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve as final approval (8-0).

2. 76-23

Christy Recreation Center 728 S 55th Street

Review Type: Construction project on City property
Project Details: Building and site improvements
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
Presenter: SMP Architects

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Julie Bush, Sam Emory, Todd Woodward began the presentation (00:26:36).

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:37:11).

Members of the Commission commended the project. Commissioner McEneaney asked about the budget and One Percent for Art component. Mr. Woodward responded that they're still working on the One Percent for Art and that it would probably be interior due to the mural on the exterior, which would be done at the end of the second phase. Additionally, the budget was noted as round numbers of approximately \$3 million for Phase I and \$4 million for Phase II.

Questions and comments from the public (00:39:19).

Francesco Cerrai, of Parks & Recreation mentioned that the project team had met with the Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy (OACCE), and provided an overview of the project with One Percent for Art.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (00:40:14).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel.

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve as final approval (8-0).

3. 210-23

Panati Playground

3101-27 N 22nd Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: New building construction and associated site improvements

Applicant: Rebuild

Presenter: CICADA

Christopher Stromberg began the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:42:00).

Questions and Comments from the Commission (00:52:38).

Commissioner McEneaney expressed concerns about darkness in the playground area. Chairperson Roesch asked about One Percent for Art process and Commissioner Zacharjasz wanted to know if there was anything more artistic that could be used, besides the security window screen, which looked very thick/bulky in the available rendering from the manufacturer. Commissioner Lowe wanted to know if color would be introduced so that the building feels more lively and less institutional.

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Mr. Stromberg addressed the Commission questions and comments.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve, with provisions that the presenters share the interior color palette and actual images of the security screens with staff (01:00:21).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Zacharjasz.

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve, with provisions made (8-0).

4. 212-23

The Africa Center 5434-36 Chester Avenue

Review Type: Construction project utilizing City funds

Project Details: Construction of new building and rehabilitation of existing building

Applicant: African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA)

Presenter: Kelly Maiello Architects (KMA)

Michel Saewert began the presentation followed by Ted Agoos (01:02:02).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:11:24).

Chairperson Roesch questioned if the panels were Corten and asked why a lighter material wasn't used for the panels if they were going to be powder coated, followed by Commissioner Osorio inquiry about material of the awnings. Commissioner Febo San Miguel wanted to know what the interior of the building was going to be used for. Mr. Saewert addressed the Commission questions and comments.

Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (01:17:13).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner McEneaney and seconded by Commissioner Nasser.

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve as final approval (8-0).

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5. 211-23

**Wynnefield Library
5325 Overbrook Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Site and landscape improvements
Applicant: Rebuild
Presenter: Ground Reconsidered

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Lindsay High Stanislaw began the presentation (01:18:31).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:25:11).

Chairperson Roesch asked about the screen only being brought out during movie night and how the stone fines relate to the furniture.

Commissioner Zacharjasz wanted to know could the stone be brushed or moved or if it was glued or adhered somehow. Ms. Stanislaw stated that they would be using organic lock to compact it, every time it rains it reactivates.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel inquired about removing one large heritage tree and replacing it with three smaller trees, and was told yes, by Ms. Stanislaw. The large tree was dead. Ms. Stanislaw also added that there wouldn't be any conflicts concerning conflict with the tree canopies and the lights.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (01:28:42).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Zacharjasz and seconded by Commissioner Nasser.

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve as final approval (8-0).

Break at minute mark in video (01:29:30)



PRESENTATIONS FOR CONCEPT REVIEW

1. 245-23

Mifflin Square Park 500 Wolf Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Playground and sprayground improvements

Applicant: Trust for Public Land and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Presenter: Ground Reconsidered

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Julie Bush began with a background of the project followed by Megan Funk (01:36:18).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:46:00).

Commissioner Nasser commended the project followed by additional comments from members of the Commission concerning seating for adults and lighting rendering, fencing around the area for protection, and security cameras.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval, with the proviso to send staff lighting plan, night rendering and answer about security cameras (01:49:43).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner McEaney.

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve as final approval, with proviso to send staff lighting plan, night rendering, and answer the questions concerning security cameras (8-0).

2. 246-23

Emanuel Recreation Center 8500 Pickering Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Playground, site and landscape improvements

Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Presenter: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Evan Wilbert began the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:56:10).

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:07:05).

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Following Chairperson Roesch's clarification of the resin bound aggregate and if it was glued together, Commissioner Febo San Miguel inquired about the public assessing the space and the division between the schoolyard and recreation center. The discussion continued.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (02:13:45).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel.

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEaney, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Zacharjasz, and Chairperson Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve as final approval (8-0).

3. 244-23

Shofuso Japanese House & Garden – Traditional Perimeter Fencing 4301 Lansdowne Drive

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Installation of new perimeter fencing

Applicant: Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia

Presenter: Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia

Alexander "Sandi" Polyakov began the presentation (02:14:57)

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:32:00).

Commissioner Kenyatta commended how thoughtful the presentation was and wanted to know how to reconcile the need for the fence line, while engaging the community with additional views. Additional questions were asked by Commissioner Febo San Miguel about upgrading lighting, marketing, or publicity campaign to give people sense of the complexity or power of this fence tradition. Mr. Polyakov addressed the Commission questions and comments.

Questions and comments from the Public (02:41:15).

Sarah spoke in strong support of the project.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (02:42:49).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner McEaney.

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Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairperson Roesch, who added that the project was a lovely presentation and a sensitive solution to a big problem.

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Motion carried unanimously to approve as final approval (7-0).

**4. 243-23
Academy of Natural Sciences – Cherry Street Mural
1900 Race Street**

Review Type: Public art located in the Benjamin Franklin Parkway Buffer Area
Project Details: Mural located on building façade
Applicant: Mural Arts Philadelphia
Presenter: Mural Arts Philadelphia

Sarah Kolker began the presentation (02:44:15) followed by lead artist of the project Serena Saunders, who continued (02:51:40).

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:56:10).

Chairperson Roesch wanted to know how the digital images, along with analog art would work. Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner McEneaney, and Commissioner Osorio asked about the lighting, information on the plaque regarding the mural and its purpose for those that don't have access to internet, and if the mural was permanent or temporary. Finally it was noted that the trees may block the view of the mural. The Commission's questions and comments were addressed by Ms. Kolker and Ms. Saunders.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (03:01:02).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner McEneaney and seconded by Commissioner Osorio.

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairperson Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve as final approval (6-0).

**5. 247-23
Masonic Temple – Temporary Art
1 N Broad Street**

Review Type: Public art located in the Benjamin Franklin Parkway Buffer Area
Project Details: Freestanding structure-supported mural
Applicant: Global Philadelphia Association
Presenter: Global Philadelphia Association

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Finn Martel began the presentation and presented the project Sustainable Development Goals, (SDG) (03:02:00).

Questions and comments from the Commission (03:11:38).

Commissioner Lowe noted that the Masonic Temple is a historic building which means there are some restrictions on work that can be done on the building and asked if this proposal has been discussed with the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

Alex Smith noted a response document from the Philadelphia Historical Commission (03:13:12).

Additional questions from members of the Commission asked about lighting and signage, materials used, protections against vandalism, languages/multi-lingual access, payment of artist for their work, and insurance, which were addressed by Mr. Martel (03:14:34).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as concept approval and return with a completed plaque, title of the work and where it will be located, and how the entire contraption will be screwed to the ground. Also, night rendering, and plaque needs to be lit (03:34:13).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner McEneaney.

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairperson Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve as concept approval (6-0).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn (03:35:15).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Osorio.

This concluded the October 11, 2023, Philadelphia Art Commission.

The next Art Commission will be held Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

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