



Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - 9:30 AM

The Philadelphia Art
Commission
Established 1911

Robert Roesch
Chair

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

Alex M. Smith
Director

Members Present: José Almiñana, Matthew Kenyatta, Raed Nasser, James Lowe, Sarah McEaney, Pepón Osorio, and Robert Roesch

MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ART COMMISSION

*Alex Smith – Director 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/>).*

*Mr. Smith 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.*

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

Chairperson Roesch expressed gratitude to the Art Commission staff for their tireless and professional efforts in putting the Art Commission Public Meeting together.

REPORT OF THE SIGN AND STREETERY COMMITTEE – JANUARY 31, 2024

Sign Applications

(From April 26, 2023, SSC meeting)

- 89-23**
Fountain View
2 Franklin Town Boulevard

(From November 29, 2023, SSC meeting)

- 280-23**
The Philadelphian Sign Package
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue

One Parkway Building
1515 Arch St., 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

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First Reviews:

1. **16-24**
Kwench
1500 Market Street
2. **17-24**
Philadelphia E&T Charter School
1709 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
3. **18-24**
Taco Bell
1035 Chestnut Street
4. **19-24**
Sunglass Hut
1705 Chestnut Street
5. **21-24**
Giant
1001 S Broad Street
6. **20-24**
Starbucks
1901-39 Callowhill Street
7. **22-24**
Center for Architecture and Design
1218-1220 Arch Street
8. **23-24**
SEPTA Metro Signage – 8th Street
8th & Market Streets
9. **24-24**
SEPTA Metro Signage – 11th Street
11th & Market Streets
10. **25-24**
SEPTA Metro Signage – 13th Street
13th & Market Streets
11. **26-24**
SEPTA Metro Signage – 15th Street / City Hall
15th & Market Streets

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- 12. 27-24**
SEPTA Metro Signage – 19th Street
19th & Market Streets
- 13. 28-24**
SEPTA Metro Signage – 22nd Street
22nd & Market Streets
- 14. 29-24**
SEPTA Metro Signage – Broad & Spring Garden
N Broad and Spring Garden Streets
- 15. 30-24**
SEPTA Metro Signage – Race & Vine
N Broad & Race/Vine Streets
- 16. 31-24**
SEPTA Metro Signage – Lombard & South
S Broad & Lombard/South Streets
- 17. 32-24**
SEPTA Metro Signage – Walnut & Locust
S Broad & Walnut/Locust Streets

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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 Streetery Committee from January 31, 2024.

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

The vote was taken by consensus.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streetery Committee from January 31, 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

- 1. 38-24**
Cliveden Park Playground
6415 Musgrave Street
Review Type: Minor construction on City property
Project Details: Playground and site improvements
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR)

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Philadelphia Parks and Recreation is seeking administrative approval for site and playground improvements at Cliveden Park in Northwest Philadelphia. The scope of work includes installing new safety surface, replacement of several pieces of play equipment, new concrete pathways, new seating options and a new trash receptacle. No trees or vegetation, other than a small portion of turf grass is being removed or disrupted as part of this work. Outreach and community engagement occurred via a public meeting as well as an online survey – helping to decide on an initial design and the overall color scheme of the project.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:05:22).

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

The vote was taken by consensus.

The Commission voted unanimously approval for site and playground improvements at Cliveden Park Playground.

2. 39-24

Harriet Tubman Statue – Plaque 1400 John F. Kennedy Boulevard

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Plaque for new Public Art on City property

Applicant: Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy (OACCE)

The Office of Arts Culture and the Creative Economy (also known as OACCE) is seeking administrative approval for the Harriet Tubman Statue Plaque at today's meeting. At the January 10, 2024, Art Commission meeting, the Harriet Tubman statue proposed by Alvin Pettit received final Art Commission approval. At the January meeting, the Commission requested to see the finalized location and language of the associated plaque at a future date.

The proposed plaque will consist of the artwork's title, artist's name, installation date, the artwork materials, and a description of the statue. The plaque will be 18 inches by 24 inches, fabricated in bronze and will be recessed into the pavers next to the statue. The plaque will be visually consistent with other plaques at City Hall. Finally, the plaque will include a QR code and website address which OACCE will use to further engage the public throughout the year and provide an opportunity for the text to be translated into other languages.

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:08:20).

Judith Robinson, and Jacqueline Wiggins expressed support for the project.

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:12:39).

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

The vote was taken by consensus.

The Commission voted unanimously for administrative approval of the Harriet Tubman Statue – Plaque.

**3. 40-24
Public Art Conservation
Various Locations**

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Conservation of City-owned Public Art sculptures

Applicant: Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy (OACCE)

The Office of Arts Culture and the Creative Economy (also known as OACCE) is seeking administrative approval of conservation work for 9 (nine) City of Philadelphia owned public art sculptures to take place during 2024. The work will be performed by professional conservators who have annual on-call contracts with the City. Four of the pieces required emergency or time-sensitive conservation work that is either in process or already completed. This list of projects was provided and posted online, with a description of each piece.

Chairperson Roesch made a brief comment on how impressed he was with Philadelphia Public Art conservation efforts (00:13:47).

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:14:10).

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

The vote was taken by consensus.

The Commission voted unanimously for administrative approval of conservation work for nine (9) City of Philadelphia owned public art sculptures to take place during 2024.

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PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW

1. 69-20

North Central Public Safety Building 2100 Diamond Street

Review Type: Construction project of new City facility

Project Details: New building construction and associated site improvements

Applicant: Philadelphia Department of Public Property (DPP)

Presenter: Ballinger

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Steve Bartlett began the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:16:22).

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:28:57).

Chairperson Roesch and members of the Commission commended the project and the clarification that was provided as part of the resubmission.

Questions and comments from the Public (00:31:22).

Judith Robinson spoke about the lack of community engagement and wasn't in favor of the project and requested a traffic and parking study.

Oscar Beisert commented on the proposed mural.

Pedro Pinto, of the Department of Public Property, spoke about the engagement process and how the building has changed based on feedback.

Ruth Birchett, of Heritage Community Development Corporation, noted support for the project.

Mr. Smith read a comment into the record from Donell Deans, 32nd Ward Leader and Vice President of St. Elizabeth RCO who was in support of the project and did a survey of the community (00:40:14).

Block Captain Gail Loney expressed concerns about the project, highlighting negative encounters with staff of the 22nd District and suggested more conversations occur before approval.

Pastor Turner stated that he had never been advised of any meetings that has taken place, his church and congregation were noted as being across the street from the proposed location.

Jacqueline Wiggins spoke about community engagement. Mr. Pinto responded about outreach and meeting with members of the community.

Commissioner Nasser asked what the position of City Councilmember was, and Mr. Pinto replied, that both Council and the Mayor supports this project (00:52:08).

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Mr. Smith read a comment into the record from Allison Weiss, who requested to please take an opportunity to unite and not divide and allow the community to all be heard (00:52:39).

Commissioner Kenyatta provided clarification to the charge of the Art Commission and purview in detail specifically the task to review the design and location of any project on City land (00:53:22). Additional comments were made by Commissioner McEneaney, who agreed with Commissioner Kenyatta and Commissioner Lowe, who pointed out other areas for opportunities for artists to be engaged with the community on the project from slide 16 of the presentation.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:58:29).

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairperson Roesch.

Motion carried to approve the North Central Public Safety Building for final approval (7-0).

2. 160-23

Thomas Paine Plaza 1401 John F Kennedy Boulevard

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Philadelphia Department of Public Property (DPP)

Presenter: Ground Reconsidered

Karen Skafté began the presentation at the minute mark in the video (01:00:12). Erin Kindt and Pedro Pinto addressed the Commission inquiries about the structure and design (01:17:14). Discussion continued on the subject (01:18:42).

Commissioner Lowe asked about the slope for ADA ramps, the plaza being a point of refuge, and depth of space for the tree root systems, which were addressed by Ms. Skafté (01:20:00). The slopes don't exceed ADA requirements, and the site is ADA compliant. Further discussion continued about the planting structures and soil volumes.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (01:25:17).

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

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Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairperson Roesch.

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

3. 290-23

**Belmont Grove Playground
1800 Belmont Mansion Drive**

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

Tyler Silvestro began the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:26:32).

Chairperson Roesch wanted to know who maintains the park (01:39:08).

Commissioner Almiñana, spoke about the trees and subbase, then suggested to explore integrating pervious pavement for the walks instead of concrete. Commissioner Osorio and Commissioner Lowe commended the project and design.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (01:43:41).

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairperson Roesch.

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

4. 263-23

**Hawthorne Cultural Center
1200 Carpenter Street**

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

Darby Mann began the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:44:52). Corey Wilson continued with additional information about the tree plans, community engagement, signage, and material plans (01:48:23).

Commissioner Almiñana expressed appreciation for preserving and maintaining trees (01:53:18).

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Questions and comments from the Public (01:53:46).

Tonnetta Gram, of Parks & Recreation Community Engagement Department spoke about the extensive community engagement, particularly with youth and parents.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (01:54:34).

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairperson Roesch.

Commissioner Nasser recused himself from this item. Motion carried to approve as final approval (6-1).

5. 261-23

Vare Recreation Center - Percent for Art 2600 Morris Street

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: New outdoor sculpture for City's Percent for Art program

Applicant: Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy (OACCE)

Presenter: OACCE, Dymond Whipper-Young and Michael Coppage

Marguerite Anglin began the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:56:27) followed by Michael Coppage and Dymond Whipper-Young, who continued with presentation of the sculpture rendering (01:59:34).

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:02:22).

Members of the Commission commended the project and inquired about additional language options, suggested incorporating a QR code, and asked about the material of the base, which is limestone.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (01:43:41).

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairperson Roesch.

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

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**6. 291-23
Queen Lane Pump Station
4540 Ridge Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Exterior site improvements
Applicant: Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)
Presenter: HDR

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Judy Arnobit began the presentation at the minute mark in video (02:08:33).

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:20:47).

Commissioner Almiñana asked about the equipment and chain link fence and suggested making the fence more opaque. Chairperson Roesch made a comment about the equipment.

Questions and comments from the Public (02:25:13).

Timothy Reimer spoke on the tree count and removal, the landscaping plan, and sound levels.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (02:28:24).

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairperson Roesch.

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

**7. 265-23
34th Street Station ADA Improvements
34th and Market Streets**

Review Type: Construction project located within City right-of-way
Project Details: New ADA elevator and headhouse improvements
Applicant: SEPTA
Presenter: Gannett Fleming

Tim Yiu began the presentation at the minute mark in video (02:30:08).

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:36:15).

Commissioner Almiñana clarified if the base would be the same granite clad and expressed appreciation for the improvement.

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Commissioner Lowe inquired about design and the northwest corner existing conditions.

Commissioner McEneaney asked about the guard rail and if the entrance would still be open when the historic ones are removed for refurbishing. Mr. Yiu stated yes, temporary barriers would be installed.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (02:40:57).

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner McEneaney, Commissioner Osorio, and Chairperson Roesch.

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

Commissioner Almiñana left the meeting after the roll call vote.

PRESENTATIONS FOR CONCEPT REVIEW

1. 41-24

Indego Bikeshare Station Smart City Kiosks Various Locations

Review Type: Fixtures located within City right-of-way

Project Details: Digital kiosks to be added to Indego bikeshare stations

Applicant: Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability (OTIS)

Presenter: Indego Bike Share, Bicycle Transit Systems

Waffiyyah Murray began the presentation at the minute mark in video (02:42:15) followed by Jibrán Shermohammed (02:45:09). Jake Della Valle presented the pilot location criteria, along with the construction plans and drawings (02:54:16).

Mr. Smith explained the way that the Art Commission was intended to review the project as the overall concept review today and moving forward specific locations would come through the Commission as administrative items (02:55:35).

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:56:31).

Commissioner Lowe wanted to know if retailers of commercial stores had to subscribe to a program and pay for updating their information and who would be responsible. Additional inquiries from the Commission included emergency call button, multilanguage options, how art was integrated, community activities and advertising, Indego rider data, and images. Mr. Shermohammed addressed the Commission.

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Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (03:08:20).

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

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

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

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn (03:09:08).

Alex M. Smith
Director

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

Motion carried with no nays to adjourn the February 14, 2024, Philadelphia Art Commission

The next Art Commission will be held Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.