



Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 - 11:00 AM

The Philadelphia Art
Commission
Established 1911

Robert Roesch
Chair

José Almiñana
Carmen Febo San Miguel
Matthew Kenyatta
James Lowe
Raed Nasser
Pepón Osorio
Rebecca Segall
Mario Zacharjusz

Alex M. Smith
Director

Members Present: Carmen Febo San Miguel, Raed Nasser, Pepón Osorio, Rebecca Segall, James Lowe

MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ART COMMISSION

Alex Smith – Director of the Philadelphia Art Commission – began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the April 9, 2025 Art Commission Meeting.

Alex Smith polled the commission via roll call, then stated a few instructions for the public. Alex Smith provided information on the hybrid meeting format, how to participate as a member of the public and explained several building safety notes. Alex Smith then introduced Acting Chair Raed Nasser.

Commission Acting Chair Nasser called the meeting to order and announced a quorum at the minute mark in video (00:05:42).

MEETING MINUTES

- ☐ January 8, 2025
- ☐ February 12, 2025

Acting Chair Nasser asked for a motion to approve Commission Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2025 and February 12, 2025 (00:05:53).

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

Consensus vote was carried all in favor to approve the January 8, 2025, and February 12, 2025, Art Commission Meeting Minutes, with no nays.

REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – March 26, 2025

Streeter Structure Applications

First Reviews:

1. **56-25**
New Wave Cafe
784 S 3rd Street
2. **57-25**
The International Bar
1624 N Front Street

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

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Sign Applications

Second Reviews:

1. **53-25**
SEPTA Metro Signage - Chinatown
8th & Race Streets
Zoning: CMX-4
2. **54-25**
Calder Gardens
2100 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Zoning: SP-PO-A within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Parkway Buffer

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Zoning: SP-PO-A within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Parkway Buffer
3. **58-25**
JD
1530 Chestnut Street
Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area
4. **59-25**
Dunkin
1001 Chestnut Street
Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area
5. **60-25**
Philly Watch & Jewelry
1535 Chestnut Street
Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area, City Hall Area

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6. **61-25**
H&R Block
1201 Chestnut Street
Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area
7. **62-25**
Wonder
1600 Chestnut Street
Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area
8. **63-25**
Wonder
1001 S Broad Street
Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area
9. **69-25**
Leo Restaurant & Bar (at the Kimmel Center)
300 S Broad Street
Zoning: CMX-4 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area
10. **64-25**
Rockwell (at the Curtis)
601 Walnut Street
Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area, Independence Hall Area, Washington Square
11. **65-25**
Amma's South Indian Cuisine
1500 Walnut Street
Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area
12. **66-25**
Bullseye
1509 Walnut Street
Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area

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13. 70-25

Veronica Beard

1709 Walnut Street

Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area, Rittenhouse Square

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14. 71-25

Catbird

1734-46 Chestnut Street

Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area

Alex M. Smith
Director

15. 72-25

7th Avenue

1421 Walnut Street

Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area

Seeing no questions or comments from the Public or Commission, Acting Chair Nasser asked for a motion to approve the Sign Committee and Streetery Committee Report of March 26, 2025 (00:06:38).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Osorio.

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streetery Committee of March 26, 2025, with no nays.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. 77-25

Waterview Recreation Center – Playground Improvements

5826 McMahon Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR)

Director Alex Smith presented two Administrative Items to the Commission, beginning with Waterview Recreation Center playground improvements. All Administrative Items required a consensus vote (00:07:25).

Question and comments from Commission (00:08:45).

Acting Chair Nasser asked how many trees would be added as part of this proposed work. The answer is that one diseased tree would be removed, and five new trees would be planted.

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Commissioner Lowe asked how the tree was deemed as diseased. The representative from Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) stated that an arborist was consulted, and they recommended removal.

Commissioner Osorio asked if pavement would be replaced as part of this project. The representative from PPR stated that the pavement in good condition will remain and is expected to support the life span of the structures that are being added.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Acting Chair Nasser asked for a motion to approve (00:14:38).

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

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Waterview Recreation Center playground improvements, with no nays.

2. 78-25

Malcom X Memorial Park – Playground Improvements 5100 Pine Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR)

Question and comments from Commission (00:17:25).

Commissioner Lowe expressed concern towards the amount of play surface being replaced, as it looks to be only 50% of the overall area of the playground. A PPR representative stated that all the safety surfaces will be replaced as part of this scope of work, however the overall footprint of the existing playground is being reduced due to budget and the new equipment proposed does not require as much safety surface.

Comment from Public (00:21:17) asked about lighting plans. A PPR representative stated that there are no changes or additions to existing lighting on site.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Acting Chair Nasser asked for a motion to approve (00:21:59).

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

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Malcom X Memorial Park playground improvements, with no nays.

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PRESENTATIONS FOR CONCEPT REVIEW

1. 79-25

Granahan Recreation Center 6500 Callowhill Street

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

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Antonio Fiol-Silva from SITIO started the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:22:42).

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:38:55).

Commissioner Osorio asked about lighting plans, seating options and bike racks. The applicant team stated that there are no bike racks proposed at this time but can be incorporated if PPR would like. There are benches already existing throughout the park. There will be pin lights incorporated into the building to light the building and adjacent site features. The team is also looking into the option of soft illumination on the back of the seat walls to light the north building façade entrance.

Commissioner Lowe said that this was a great project. He noted a few concerns that included an identifiable entrance, widow protection/screening, stormwater management and planting around the seating/retaining wall to provide shade while people are sitting. Commissioner Lowe also asked about policing and security.

The applicant explained the reason for using glass throughout the building design which allows for views across the entire building from the entrance to the end of the main corridor. He also explained the decision to use other transparent building materials for security reasons. Finally it was stated that there will be four new trees added for shade.

The Commission carried out a conversation about the ADA accessibility design and about gate access (01:08:25).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Acting Chair Nasser asked for a motion for concept approval (01:14:00).

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Lowe (conditional), Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Acting Chair Nasser.

Motion carried unanimously to approve for concept approval (5-0).

2. 81-25

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**Olney Recreation Center – Percent for Art
100 E Godfrey Avenue**

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Art installation on exterior retaining wall

Applicant: Creative Philadelphia

Presenter: Mama Carla Wiley & Carolina Gomez

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Marguerite Anglin, the Public Art Director for Creative Philadelphia, started the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:17:49). Artist Mama Carla Wiley continued presentation (01:22:20).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:33:42).

Commissioner Febo San Miguel stated that this is a beautiful proposal and shows thought and a grand vision. She had comments about the lighting and asked for more information regarding lighting be presented.

Commissioner Osorio asked about the connection and relationship of the street to the site, if the mural was visible to cars who may add lighting to the mural. Marguerite Anglin described the mural location and how visible it would be to many due to the new entrance to the rec center.

Commissioner Segall asked if the construction at the rec center would conflict with the installation of this mural. She also expressed how the mural was a wonderful melody of the environment, people and neighborhood. Anglin went over the timeline of the rec center construction and art installation, noting no foreseeable conflicts between schedules.

Commissioner Lowe stated that this was a beautiful piece of art. He wanted to know if an engineer surveyed the stability of the retaining wall as it is the base of the mural. Commissioner Lowe asked how the artwork would be attached to the wall or if there is a proposed substructure intended to be used. Marguerite Anglin stated that the City's Rebuild team had the wall surveyed and inspected and it is in good shape. Areas that need to be addressed will take place prior to the installation of the mural. It was noted there are some divots that need to be repaired. The wall itself is self-draining.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Acting Chair Nasser asked for a motion to approve as final upon additional information being provided to AC staff regarding lighting (01:49:12).

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Acting Chair Nasser.

Motion carried unanimously to approve for final approval (5-0).

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3. 82-25

Logan Elementary Schoolyard Improvements 1700 Lindley Avenue

Review Type: Construction project utilizing City funding

Project Details: Schoolyard and exterior site improvements

Applicant: Trust for Public Land

Presenter: AKRF

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The AKRF team and Trust for Public Land started the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:51:38)

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:02:53)

Commissioner Segall asked what the existing fence looked like. Segall also asked if the playground is accessible to the community. The presenter answered that the fences are four feet tall with existing brick pillar breaks. The playground is intended for the community outside of school hours.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked about lighting, requested more information regarding a maintenance plan and the overall security of the park. The presenter stated that the Philadelphia School District would maintain the vegetated areas as part of a Water Department grant. Trust for Public Land will remain involved in ensuring that maintenance needs are met. The team noted there will also be a monthly maintenance check for the new work. It was noted that lighting is not a part of this scope of work. As the playground is not intended to be used after hours, current lighting levels were deemed sufficient by the applicant team.

Commissioner Osorio wanted to know how the paly courts transitioned for different sporting activities. He also expressed concerns about security and court impacts due to the height of the fence. The presenter stated that one court will be striped for basketball. Other courts will have more striping for various sports.

Commissioner Lowe stated that the Commission would like to see a lighting plan. He also asked if security cameras exist or intended to be placed onsite, and if not strongly suggested that they be budgeted due to the increase of activity in this area. He also wanted to know if seating would be near the basketball courts.

Commissioner Nasser and Commissioner Febo San Miguel continued the conversation noting concerns of safety during school operating hours and after hours. The presenters were asked to review all safety concerns from the Commission and provide information on previous similar projects to see what solutions can be used, giving the budget for this project.

Public Comment, Allison Weiss asked if lighting would be catered to pedestrians rather than larger car-oriented lighting (02:39:45).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Acting Chair Nasser asked for a motion to approve (02:40:19).

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Acting Chair Nasser.

Motion carried unanimously to approve for concept approval (5-0).

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded by the entire commission. Acting Chair Nasser adjourn the April 9, 2025 Philadelphia Art Commission. (02:44:30)

The next Art Commission will be held May 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. on the One Parkway Building 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor, Room 18-029 Philadelphia, PA 19102 and via Zoom

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