



Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 - 9:30 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 Zacharjasz

Alex M. Smith
Director

Members Present: Carmen Febo San Miguel, Matthew Jordan-Miller, Raed Nasser, Pepón Osorio, James Lowe, Rebecca Segall, and Robert Roesch

MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ART COMMISSION

Alex Smith – Director of the Art Commission – began the meeting by introducing, welcoming, and congratulating Rebecca Segall, who will be officially sworn in as the newest member of the Philadelphia Art Commission. Commissioner Segall was recently appointed by the Parker administration as the designated painter position of this nine-person appointed board. Commissioner Segall was sworn in by Lauran Antinucci, Counsel to the Art Commission on the present day (00:02:07).

Mr. Smith also took a moment to sincerely thank Sarah McEneaney for her service to the Philadelphia Art Commission over the last few years. Sarah was appointed as a Commissioner in July 2021. Appreciation was noted for Sarah’s dedication and thoughtful comments for each and every project. Sarah was also a member of the Sign and Streetery Committee, we cannot thank her enough for her participation and abilities to help shape and improve projects for all Philadelphians.

*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.*

Commission Chair Roesch called the meeting to order at the minute mark in video (00:05:25).

MEETING MINUTES

- April 10, 2024

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the April Minutes (00:06:14).

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

Consensus of the vote was carried all in favor to approve the meeting minutes from April, with no nays.

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REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – MAY 29, 2024

Streety Structure Applications

First Reviews:

1. **129-24**
Ambrosia Ristorante
231 S 24th Street
2. **130-24**
Wm. Mulherin's Sons
1355 N Front Street

Sign Applications

Second Reviews:

1. **83-24**
William D. Kelley School
1601-49 N 28th Street

First Reviews:

1. **131-24**
The Keystone
417 Callowhill Street
2. **133-24**
One Thousand One
1001 S Broad Street
3. **138-24**
East Park Booster Pumping Station
3301 W Girard Avenue
4. **134-24**
Community College of Philadelphia
1700 Spring Garden Street
5. **135-24**
Dave's Hot Chicken
1731 Chestnut Street
6. **136-24**
Sura Indian Bistro
1726 Chestnut Street
7. **137-24**
Na Brasa Brazilian Steakhouse
1901 John F. Kennedy Boulevard

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streeery Committee from May 29, 2024 (00:07:05).

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

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streeery Committee from May 29, 2024.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – AUGUST 30, 2023

1. 195-23

CHUBB

2000 Arch Street

Zoning: Building identification signage within CMX-4 District

Mr. Smith introduced one appeal of the Sign and Streeery Committee recommendations, dating back to the August 30, 2023 meeting. The project is located at 2000 Arch Street. The applicant will have an opportunity to present their project to the full commission. At the Sign and Streeery Committee meeting back in 2023, the Committee recommended denial of four building identification signs. At the time the Committee recommended only two building ID signs and noted they could be placed on any two facades of the applicant's choosing.

The applicants presented their updated project at the minute mark in video (00:09:24).

Attorney Ron Patterson began the presentation followed by Corey Kennedy, and John LaProcido (00:09:24).

Commission Chair Roesch asked if anyone had measured the illumination of the sign (00:25:48).

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:26:24).

Commissioner Jordan-Miller and Commissioner Nasser commented on the central positioning of the signs. Commissioner Segall inquired about an evening view, with a rendering that might show the light projections in the area. Mr. LaProcido and Mr. Kennedy responded to the Commission.

Questions and comments from the Public (00:39:55).

Rich Leimbach expressed appreciation for the position of the sign to accommodate the residential uses.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:41:20).

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Jordan-Miller, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch

Motion carried unanimously to approve the applicants appeal and reconsideration of the recommendation of the Sign & Streetery Committee (7-0).

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. 146-24

Bus Shelter Upgrades Various locations

Review Type: Encroachment in the public right-of-way

Project Details: Five new bus shelter installations

Applicant: Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS)

Mr. Smith presented three Administrative Items to the Commission, beginning with Bus Shelter Upgrades. All three Administrative Items required a consensus vote (00:42:56).

The Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS), in partnership with Intersection has submitted a new round of bus shelter upgrades as part of their on-going shelter improvement program. The Art Commission typically reviews a series of either new or replacement bus shelter locations several times a year as administrative items. Today's proposal is for five new bus shelters at various locations around the City. All the locations are proposing new shelters where currently no shelter exists. Art Commission staff has reviewed each location in terms of Complete Street standards. While the recommended Complete Street walking zone dimensions cannot be met at one of the 5 locations, staff recommends approval as the shelters offer improved conditions for public transit riders. A representative from OTIS or Intersection is in attendance to answer any questions you may have.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:45:19).

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

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.



2. 147-24

**Baxter Water Treatment Plant – Roof replacement
9001 State Road**

Review Type: Minor construction on City Property
Project Details: Roof replacement
Applicant: Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)

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The Philadelphia Water Department working with Trans-Pacific Engineering Corporation, is seeking administrative approval to demolish and replace the existing roofing systems in kind with new systems to improve and extend the reliability of each building on the water treatment facility campus. The project involves the removal and replacement of roofs on four buildings at the Baxter Water Treatment Plan. Additional work includes new flashing, new roof drains, new in-kind replacement of existing roof mounted HVAC equipment and associated electrical components. A representative from TPEC or PWD is here to help answer any questions you may have. AC staff can also flip through the following slides which are the full CD set for the proposed scope of work.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:46:43).

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

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.

3. 148-24

**West Mill Creek Playground – Wall and Basketball Court Reconstruction
5049-5069 Funston Street**

Review Type: Minor construction on City Property
Project Details: Wall and Basketball court reconstruction
Applicant: Rebuild
Presenter: KS Engineers

Rebuild working with KS Engineering, is seeking administrative approval for various site improvements at West Mill Creek Playground. The scope of work proposes to remove and replace two sections of a brick retaining wall that have been structurally compromised adjacent to an existing basketball court. The existing foundations of these compromised areas will be evaluated and any additional damaged portions of the wall or fencing above the top of the wall will be replaced in kind. To minimize future damage to the wall several invasive tree species identified by PPR will be removed from the back and top of the wall.

Additionally, Rebuild is proposing to repave and restripe the adjacent basketball court, create an ADA-compatible ramp from the Farson Street elevation to the court and integrate handrails to existing access stairs.

Improvements to the lighting as well as new security cameras, bike racks and seating will also be included. New youth and adult themed games and exercises stations will be

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painted on the south side of the basketball court surface. Finally, trees will be planted in new or existing tree pits along Farson and 51st Streets. A representative from Rebuild and KSE is in attendance to help answer any questions you may have.

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:49:10).

Commissioner Lowe inquired about future artwork for the retaining wall, which was addressed by Erica Sollberger, of Rebuild.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:51:17).

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

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.

PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW

1. 227-22

Piccoli Playground

1501 E Bristol Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Rebuild

Presenter: Community Ventures and Studio Sustena

Andrea Haynes began the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:52:32).

Commission Chair Roesch, Commissioner Nasser and, and Commissioner Jordan-Miller commended the project (01:02:47).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:03:41).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Jordan-Miller.

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Jordan-Miller, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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



PRESENTATIONS FOR CONCEPT REVIEW

1. 149-24

Blanche A. Nixon Cobbs Creek Library – Percent for Art Proposal 5800 Cobbs Creek Parkway

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: New Public Art on City property

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

Presenter: Frederick Hightower and OACCE

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Marguerite Anglin began the presentation followed by Frederick Hightower, who is the artist of the project (01:05:00).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:19:38).

Commissioner Febo San Miguel wanted to know if there were any efforts on having informative text or a bio in multiple languages on or adjacent to the sculpture. Commissioner Osorio inquired about the location of the plaque and seating. Commissioner Segall suggested the library become the place to engage with the statue when it rains. Commissioner Jordan-Miller inquired about the night rendering. Ms. Anglin responded to the inquiries. Members of the Commission asked additional questions and raised concerns about seating and sitting on the base of the sculpture, and the lighting plan, which was addressed by Ms. Anglin.

Commission Chair Roesch suggested returning, with additional details of the lighting specifically asking for lighting coloration and additional context with the work of Rebuild. Commissioner Segall suggested adding another base for seating, to prevent anyone from leaning on the bronze area or the lights, and Commissioner Lowe expressed concerns about parts of the sculpture being broken off by the public (01:34:40). Mr. Hightower responded to the suggestions and concerns.

Mr. Smith added a comment about clarification of the lighting and what was proposed (01:41:26).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:42:16).

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Jordan-Miller, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch

Motion carried unanimously to approve for concept approval (7-0).

Alex M. Smith
Director



2. 150-24

Bartram's Garden Mussel Hatchery and Education Center
2901 S 56th Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: New building and exterior site improvements
Applicant: Bartram's Garden and Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Presenter: WRT Design

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Maitreyi Roy began the presentation (01:43:36) followed by Amelia Lieber, Richard King, and Zuzanna Drozd.

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:59:28).

Commissioner Lowe asked about site lighting, trees, and meeting the code requirements, which were addressed by Ms. Lieber and Ms. Roy.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final (02:02:43).

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

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

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

3. 151-24

Philadelphia Zoo Flamingo Habitat
3400 W Girard Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Renovation of habitat and exterior site improvements
Applicant: Philadelphia Zoo
Presenter: Philadelphia Zoo

Neil Batiancila began the presentation (02:04:39) followed by Eileen Hill and Allison Zuck (02:06:53).

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:17:51).

Commission Chair Roesch inquired about the winter months for the birds, and Commissioner Osorio asked about the size of the habitat, which was addressed by Ms. Hill.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (02:20:41).

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

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

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

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4. 152-24

**Cobbs Creek Golf Club – Clubhouse, Cart Barn and Restroom Buildings
7400 Lansdowne Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: New building construction and associated site improvements
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR)
Presenter: Cobbs Creek Foundation

Alex M. Smith
Director

Donald Dissinger began the presentation at the minute mark in video (02:22:32).

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:40:24).

Commissioner Febo San Miguel mentioned that the landscaping, number of trees and weather drainage have come before the Art Commission previously. Mr. Smith provided clarification (02:41:49).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (02:42:25).

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

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

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

5. 153-24

**Philadelphia Fire Department - Engine 57
5559 Chestnut Street**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Renovation and addition of fire station
Applicant: Philadelphia Department of Public Property (DPP)
Presenter: DesignBlendz

Roy Conard began the presentation (02:44:04), followed by Deputy Chief of the Philadelphia Fire Department Anthony Bompadre (02:46:02) and Mark Coan (02:48:05).

Questions and comments from the Commission (03:04:16).

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Commissioner Lowe asked a few architectural questions regarding the doors, type of street trees, building sprinkler system, basement configuration, and medic room design on the third floor which were addressed by Mr. Coan and Mr. Conard. Discussion continued about the design, project budget, and intersection. Comments regarding emphasis on the civic nature of the building as well as signage were discussed.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (03:21:00).

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

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

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

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn (03:21:56).

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

Motion carried with no nays to adjourn the June 12, 2024, Philadelphia Art Commission.

The next Art Commission will be held Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.