



Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 8, 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, Carmen Febo San Miguel, Matthew Jordan-Miller, Angelina Castro, Raed Nasser, 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 welcomed representative for the Department of Public Property Angelina Castro to the May meeting (00:0043). Castro is filling in for Commissioner Lowe this month. Mr. Smith then 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.*

Commission Chair Roesch called the meeting to order at the mark in video (00:02:23).

MEETING MINUTES

□ March 13, 2024

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Commission Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the March Minutes, with a consensus vote (00:03:07).

A consensus of the vote was carried all in favor to approve the meeting minute from March, with no nays.



REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – APRIL 24, 2024

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Sign Applications

Second Reviews:

- 1. 44-24**
Pure Green
1124 Walnut Street
- 2. 83-24**
William D. Kelley School
1601-49 N 28th Street
- 3. 106-24**
The Hannah
1306 Callowhill Street
- 4. 84-24**
The Good Vibes Vault
650 South Street

First Reviews:

- 1. 77-24**
AKA Rittenhouse Square Hotel
135 S 18th Street
- 2. 107-24**
Avita Pharmacy
1226 Chestnut Street
- 3. 108-24**
JC Glow Nails & Spa
2135 Walnut Street
- 4. 109-24**
Rittenhouse Deli & Juice Bar
1510-12 Sansom Street
- 5. 110-24**
Sosuite
1704 Walnut Street
- 6. 111-24**
Center City Mosque
1328 Walnut Street

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7. **112-24**
Reformation
1723 Walnut Street
8. **113-24**
The Jiu Jitsu Company
33 S 2nd Street
9. **114-24**
Jefferson Campus Store
1000-32 Chestnut Street

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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 Streetery Committee from April 24, 2024 (00:03:53).

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

The vote was taken by consensus (00:04:04).

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streetery Committee from April 24, 2024.

APPEAL OF RECCOMENATION OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – APRIL 24, 2024

1. **106-24**
The Hannah
1306 Callowhill Street

Mr. Smith introduced one appeal of the Sign and Streetery Committee recommendations, from the April 24, 2024 meeting. The project is located at 1306 Callowhill Street. The applicant will have an opportunity to present their project to the full commission. At the Sign and Streetery Committee meeting on April 24, the Committee recommended disapproval of the blade sign (00:04:53).

The applicants, Adam Laver, who presented on behalf of Blank Rome LLP followed by the owner of the subject property at 1306 Callowhill Street, began the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:05:23).

Mr. Laver provided a background of the project, with a statement of support from the Callowhill Neighbors Association, the applicable RCO. The subject property comprises a nearly completed seven story multi-family apartment building, with 181 residential units, ground floor retail commercial along Callowhill Street, interior loading, and 55 off-street interior accessory parking spaces also, off Callowhill Street. Callowhill Neighbors Association, the applicable RCO, weighed in on the project, including the signage

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proposal before the Commission noting in a position statement (00:06:29) “the CNA Board supports the project unanimously and we appreciate the development at the vacant lot in our neighborhood.”

The subject application was filed nearly two years ago; however, on September 28, 2022, the Sign and Streetery Committee held a recorded virtual public meeting to review the application. Since that initial meeting, the members of the committee, who participated in the meeting, are no longer on the committee.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark in video (00:19:18).

Commissioner José Almiñana inquired about the size of the sign and how did it compare to the current adjacent projecting sign, which was addressed by Mr. Laver and the owner of the building. Discussion continued with the presenters and Commissioner Almiñana about the height, presence and dimension of the sign and safety issues (00:22:43-00:27:06).

Commissioner Nasser stated that he was part of the Sign Committee, who approved the previous sign package for the other signs years before and had concerns with a projecting sign in this location. Commissioner Febo San Miguel suggested reconsideration of the sign to resize it.

Chair Roesch expressed concerns about projected signs (00:30:32) and Commissioner Almiñana made a recommendation about the sign, with further discussion (00:31:00).

Mr. Smith confirmed from staff that projecting signs are allowed within this corridor and that the current projecting sign was only sent to the ZBA due to the location on the building and the overall dimensions of it (00:33:32).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:34:16).

Lauran Antinucci, Counsel to the Art Commission stated that the approval was up to the Commission and asked if Commission Chair wanted a continuance to satisfy the Commission or deny/approve (00:34:33).

The discussion continued about the sign, dimensions, support and previous approvals. Commissioner Febo San Miguel suggested a slight reduction in size. Commissioner Jordan-Miller mentioned that he didn't have a problem with the sign and Commissioner Almiñana expressed the need to understand the background.

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

Mr. Smith clarified the motion for the record, this is a motion to approve the sign as-is in the currently proposed condition that was presented on the present day (00:44:51).

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Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Jordan-Miller, and Commissioner Castro approved.

Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, and Chair Roesch opposed.

Motion carried to approve the applicants' appeal of the recommendation of the Sign & Streetery Committee (4-3).

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. 117-24

Indego IKE Smart City Kiosks Various Locations (5)

Review Type: Encroachment located within City Right-of-Way
Project Details: New Indego IKE Smart City Kiosk installations
Applicant: Bicycle Transit Systems (BTS) (on behalf of the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS))

Mr. Smith presented one Administrative Item to the Commission that required a consensus vote (00:46:13). Bicycle Transit Systems on behalf of Indego and the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems is seeking administrative approval for five IKE Smart Kiosk locations at the intersections of 27th and Clearfield, Moyamensing & Tasker, York and Trenton, 17th and Green, and 12th and Filbert. All of which have provided documentation. As a reminder, in February 2024, the Art Commission approved the overall IKE Smart kiosk system, and it was agreed by Commissioners that specific locations would be moved forward and reviewed as administrative items at preceding meetings.

Questions and comments from the Public at the minute mark in video (00:47:54).

Allyson Weiss was not in support of IKE Smart kiosk and spoke of it as being an intrusion.

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark in video

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:48:30).

Questions and comments from the Commission continued (00:49:02).

Commissioner Almiñana addressed the public comments stating, while the kiosk may be an intrusion to the public right-of-way, that it's important to increase modes of transportation that we can have in the city and the right-of-way, is widely outweighed by the benefits that the kiosk could bring as a whole. Chair Roesch added that it's also full of information, which Commissioner Jordan-Miller agreed, then expressed appreciation for including the community arts/information submission.

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With regards to the public accessing information to increase availability, Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked if each kiosk could have a phone number that directs people, who to call for questions or concerns. Commissioner Osorio wanted to know who edits the information and if it's a pilot program. The Commission comments and questions about communication, which is through IKE Smart City communications team were answered by Jake Della Valle, of Ike Systems (00:52:27).

Chair Roesch clarified the process of picking art for advertising and wayfinding (00:54:00) and Commissioner Jordan-Miller inquired about events and community engagement (00:55:34).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:56:30).

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

The vote was taken by consensus.

Motion carried unanimously to approve the administrative item (7-0).

PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW

1. 209-22

East Park Booster Pump Station 33rd Street and Girard Avenue

Review Type: Construction project on City property

Project Details: New construction to replace existing pump house

Applicant: Philadelphia Water Department

Presenter: JMT

Dennis Gentilin introduced the project team: Steve Britt, Deputy Project Manager, Brian Lee, Contract Manager, and Tobi Kester, Registered Landscape Architect, then provided an overview of the project, which entailed the proposed pump station, tree removal information, background of the historic Hatfield House, and what they've done since the January 2023 Art Commission continuance (00:58:22).

Questions and comments from the Public at the minute mark in video (01:05:50).

Allyson Weiss expressed concerns about the removal of the trees, which was addressed by Mr. Gentilin.

Mr. Britt and Ms. Kester responded to Commissioner Almiñana inquiries about the fee-in-lieu process and who is approving the planting of the trees (01:09:15). Discussion continued about the fee-in-lieu calculations, L&I requirements, and public concerns of tree removal and open spaces in Philadelphia (01:09:50 - 01:17:07).

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Mr. Smith noted for the record, that the money was not provided to the general fund, the fees collected go into an existing specific tree fund that is held by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR), (01:17:08).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:17:30).

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

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

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

PRESENTATIONS FOR CONCEPT REVIEW

1. 118-24

Market Street Plaza at 30th Street Station 30th & Market Streets

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Amtrak

Presenter: Plenary Infrastructure Philadelphia

The presentation began at the minute mark in video (01:19:32), with Abigail Barman, who presented an update of the project regarding renovations, and overall district plan, scope of review, and approvals followed by presenter(s) John Bonck, Dana Edwards, Ryan Johnson (01:23:39), David Ostrich (01:25:55), and Greg Riestenberg (01:36:51).

Questions and comments from the Commission at the minute mark in video (01:39:36).

Chair Roesch expressed that the signs would need to go before the sign committee at some point, then inquired about the bright light inside the existing train station.

With regards to cometary of maintenance, Commissioner Almiñana wanted to know if all the plans had been discussed with University City District (01:41:25). Mr. Ostrich responded, and the discussion continued, with Commissioner Almiñana, Mr. Ostrich, and John Bonck about bike lanes around the station, lighting, sidewalk proposal, and planting plans (01:41:52 - 01:48:55).

Commissioner Osorio wanted to know how improving the use of public space was determined and what the ultimate goal is, which was answered by Mr. Lee. The discussion ended at the minute mark in video (02:56:02).

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Chair Roesch asked the team to take a look at lighting, improve shading, shade trees, and materials (1:56:17).

Mr. Smith announced that there was one public comment (01:57:43

Questions and comments from the Public at the minute mark in video 01:57:56).

Lili Razi would like to see more shade, with shading opportunities besides the umbrellas that are there. Mr. Ostrich and Ms. Barman responded to Ms. Razi comment.

Commissioner Osorio spoke on Philadelphia not having a culture for public space (02:00:55). Commissioner Jordan-Miller inquired about tree expectancy and canopy. Mr. Lee, Ms. Barman and Mr. Ostrich responded. The project team continued the discussion.

Allyson Weiss wanted to know if a water feature was considered.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion (02:12:12).

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

Mr. Smith requested for the Commission Chair to reiterate what would be expected of the applicant team during final review, which are lighting and shade clarifications, details on the proposed lighting conditions and any light pollution and refine the plant species proposed (02:13:17).

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

The Commission voted unanimously to approve for conceptual approval (7-0).

2. 120-24

Newfound Forms - Public Art Bonus

210 S 12th Street

Review Type: Public Art provided pursuant to Philadelphia Zoning Code Bonus
Project Details: Outdoor sculptures on private property utilizing Public Art Bonus
Applicant: 200 S 12th Street LLC (Midwood Investment and Development)
Presenter: Urban Art Projects (UAP) and Odili Donald Odita

Devon Beverly began the presentation at the minute mark (02:15:18). Christopher Testa presented the project context and development project (02:17:57) before introducing the artist, Odili Donald Odita, who continued (02:24:08).

Chair Roesch wanted to know more about the details of construction (02:36:41). Christopher Testa addressed the inquiry.

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Questions and comments from the Public (02:39:08).

Commissioner Jordan-Miller expressed how vibrant the art was, along with appreciation of the back story, that was explained by Mr. Odita.

Commissioner Osorio wanted to know how the public has a full view of the work.

Chair Roesch suggested final approval for the project to the Commission (02:51:31).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Jordan-Miller and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel

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

The Commission voted unanimously to approve for final approval (6-0).

3. 66-24

Germantown Avenue Mural

6616 Germantown Avenue

Review Type: Public Art using City Funds

Project Details: Mural on private property

Applicant: Mt. Airy CDC

Presenter: Mt. Airy CDC

Of the project team: Danielle Jowdy, Paul Carpenter, and Phillip Dawson, Mr. Carpenter began with an art component of the presentation (02:54:50) followed by Mr. Dawson, who continued with the background of the project (02:58:02).

Questions and comments from the Commission at minute mark in video (03:00:11).

Chair Roesch wanted to know if the two buildings at the site were connected, which Mr. Carpenter clarified that they were.

Commissioner Osorio asked for clarification on which side the mural was located on, which is the side and rear.

Questions and comments from the public at minute mark in video (03:02:47).

Allyson Weiss expressed that there should be more put into restoration into buildings than murals and paintings.

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Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion (03:02:22).

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

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

The Commission voted unanimously to approve for final approval (6-0).

4. 119-24

Venice Island – Vehicular and Pedestrian Bridges 4432, 4436-42, 4400R and 4436R Main Street

Review Type: Encroachment project located in City Right-of-Way

Project Details: Construction of two new bridges over public waterway

Applicant: Rock Venice LLC

Presenter: JKRP Architects

Stephanie Magagna began with an overview of the project (03:04:22) followed by Marissa McMurtrie Howard, of JKRP Architects, who continued the presentation (03:06:44).

Mr. Smith mentioned purview for the Art Commission was only for the two proposed bridges spanning over waterways (03:15:25) and clarified for the Commission Chair that the Art Commission has purview over any structure or fixture over a waterway (03:16:10).

Questions and comments from the Commission (03:17:30).

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked about the new structure and lighting pattern on the pedestrian bridge. Commissioner Osorio wanted to get a concept of the bridge, whether it would be used for the public or limited use for residents only. Ms. Howard addressed the inquiries and clarified.

Chair Roesch suggested returning with night renderings of how both bridges are lit, the entrances into the building, and more detailed drawings (03:22:32).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion (03:23:58).

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

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

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The Commission voted unanimously to approve for conceptual approval (6-0).

5. 121-24

**Sidestream Deammonification Treatment Facility
7901 Pennrose Ferry Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: New building construction and associated site improvements
Applicant: Philadelphia Water Department
Presenter: Hazen and Sawyer

Mark Bottin mentioned his colleague Jennifer Wojcieski, lead architect for the building and the structure, then began the presentation at the minute mark in video (03:25:30).

Questions and comments from the Public (03:41:40).

Allison Weiss said that there should be more effort to make this project, one that others could follow. Mr. Bottin responded.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion (03:44:50).

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

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

The Commission voted unanimously to approve for final approval (5-0).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn (03:45:42).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Jordan-Miller.

Motion carried with no nays to adjourn the May 8, 2024, the Philadelphia Art Commission.

The next Art Commission will be held Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

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