



Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 10, 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: José Almiñana, Carmen Febo San Miguel, James Lowe, Raed Nasser, Rebecca Segall, 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.*

Commission Chairperson Roesch called the meeting to order at the minute mark in video (00:02:29).

MEETING MINUTES

- May 8, 2024
- June 12, 2024

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the April Minutes (00:03:13).

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

Consensus of the vote was carried all in favor to approve the meeting minutes from May 8th and June 12th, 2024, with no nays.



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REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – JUNE 26, 2024

Streeter Structure Applications

First Reviews:

1. **161-24**
Café La Maude
816 N 4th Street

Sign Applications

Second Reviews:

1. **110-24**
SoSuite
1704 Walnut Street

First Reviews:

1. **132-24**
AKA Rittenhouse Square Hotel
135 S 18th Street
2. **162-24**
Penn Medicine
3600 Civic Center Boulevard
3. **163-24**
The Mark
3615 Chestnut Street
4. **164-24**
Skin Laundry
123 S 16th Street
5. **165-24**
Beat the Bomb
1218 Chestnut Street
6. **166-24**
7111 Germantown Avenue Condominiums
7111 Germantown Avenue

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

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7. **167-24**
Levain Bakery
1516-18 Walnut Street
8. **168-24**
Sweetgreen
924 Walnut Street
9. **169-24**
Schlesinger's Delicatessen
1521 Locust Street
10. **170-24**
Five Below
810 S Broad Street
11. **171-24**
The Dermatology Specialists
223-25 Market Street
12. **172-24**
H&R Block
1201-05 Chestnut Street
13. **173-24**
Center City Mini Market
735 Walnut Street

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streeery Committee from June 26, 2024 (00:04:04).

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

The vote was taken by consensus.

The Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streeery Committee from June 26, 2024.



ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. 180-24

Bus Shelter Upgrades Various Locations

Review Type: Encroachment located within City Right-of-Way

Project Details: Five new bus shelter installations

Applicant: Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS)

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Alex Smith presented three Administrative Items to the Commission beginning with the Bus Shelter Upgrades. All three Administrative Items required a consensus vote (00:04:37).

The Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS), in partnership with Intersection, has submitted a series of bus shelter upgrades as part of their on-going shelter improvement program. The Art Commission typically reviews 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. Streets Dept has also reviewed all 5 locations. A representative from OTIS or Intersection is in attendance to answer any questions you may have.

Alex M. Smith
Director

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:06:10).

Commissioner Febo San Miguel wanted to know if the damaged sidewalk would be repaired and replaced, which Mr. Smith confirmed.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:06:52).

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

The vote was taken by consensus.

Additional questions and comments from the Commission (00:07:17).

For security purposes, Commissioner Lowe wanted to know about the powerlines and if the bus shelters are lit at night. Members of the Commission and Mr. Smith continued the discussion about the lighting, electrical lines, and electrical needs of the bus shelter (00:10:47 – 00:11:21).



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Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, upon Mr. Smith request to restate the motion, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:11:26).

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

The vote was taken by consensus.

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

2. 181-24

Connell Park – Playground Replacement 6401 Elmwood Avenue

Review Type: Exterior site improvements

Project Details: Playground equipment replacement

Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR)

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation is seeking administrative approval for a series of playground equipment replacements in lower southwest Philadelphia. The project's scope includes the removal of existing playground equipment and the installation of new playground equipment, including swings, safety surface, tables and benches all proposed within the same location as the previous playground area. The project preserves all existing trees and will maintain existing pavement in good condition.

The picnic tables are proposed around a large heritage tree but are located outside of the critical root zone area. The project budget was funded by the Council President's Office as part of the 2nd Council District. A representative from PPR is here to speak to this project and answer any questions you may have.

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:13:03).

Commissioner Almiñana wanted to know if the picnic seating was going to be placed on top of mulch around the tree or if the project team would be digging into the area to bolt them in, which Nobuki Iijima, Landscape Architecture for Parks and Recreation responded, that the picnic seating will be placed on the existing concrete around the tree pit.



Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:14:29).

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

Robert Roesch
Chair

The vote was taken by consensus.

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Rebecca Segall
Mario Zacharjusz

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

3. 182-24

Parkway Central Library – Rare Books HVAC Upgrades 1901 Vine Street

Review Type: Minor construction on City property
Project Details: Replacement of HVAC system
Applicant: Free Library of Philadelphia

Alex M. Smith
Director

Lastly, The Free Library of Philadelphia, Parkway Central Branch is requesting administrative approval for renovations and replacement to the third-floor rare book department's HVAC unit, located at 1901 Vine Street in Center City. The rare book department requires HVAC upgrades to provide a conservation quality interior environment to support the longevity of their collection materials housed on the third floor of the building. The current HVAC system will be replaced, and exterior equipment be located on the roof.

The height of the new equipment does not exceed the height of the existing balustrade and from the sidewalk, all equipment will be hidden from view. The Philadelphia Historical Commission has also reviewed and approved this work as the Central Library is on the local historic register. A representative is here from the design team to speak to this project and answer any questions you may have.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:16:01).

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

The vote was taken by consensus.

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



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PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW

1. 95-24

Lombard-South Station ADA Improvements S Broad Street & Lombard/South Streets

Review Type: Encroachment located within City Right-of-Way

Project Details: New ADA elevator and headhouse improvements

Applicant: SEPTA

Presenter: Jacobs

Matt Morong from Jacobs presented two (2) presentations for final approval and one (1) presentation for concept review, Chinatown Station beginning with, Lombard-South Station and provided an overview of the project at the minute mark in video (00:17:01).

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:27:58).

Commissioner Lowe inquired about the planter on the Broad Street Line and if they were on the property of the building owner, or if they were on the right-of-way, which would be partially city owned land. To Mr. Morong's understanding, the planter is on the building owner's property, which is part of the reason why they are working to coordinate with the building owners.

Members of the Commission and Mr. Morong continued the discussion about the planters, elevator, space on the sidewalk, overall dimensions, ADA clearances, planting areas, and the entrances to the building (00:29:34 – 00:39:32).

Chairperson Roesch stated that the consensus is to have an open space and requested that the SEPTA team continue to work with the building owner.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (00:39:54).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Almiñana and seconded by Commissioner Nasser to approve, with the recommendation.

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

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



2. 96-24

**Ellsworth-Federal Station ADA Improvements
S Broad Street & Ellsworth/Federal Streets**

Review Type: Encroachment located within City Right-of-Way

Project Details: New ADA elevator and headhouse improvements

Applicant: SEPTA

Presenter: Jacobs

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Mr. Morong began the second presentation Ellsworth-Federal Station for final approval, with an overview of the project at the minute mark in video (00:41:13).

Chairperson Roesch asked about the Percent for Art and requested that communication regarding purview be provided to staff (00:49:33). Additionally, there were questions about the aircraft cable, where two support columns were eliminated. Mr. Morong said that there wouldn't be an aircraft cable running under this portion of the canopy. The Chair also mentioned the unpleasant headhouse, with white grout located at Broad and Race and suggested using either grey, or a similar toned grout, which Mr. Morong agreed.

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:52:30).

Commissioner Almiñana inquired about the night view and wanted to make sure that the lighting fixtures were bi-directional that illuminate the canopy and floor; and Commissioner Osorio expressed concerns about the dimensions and exiting the elevator for commuters and ADA accessibility, particularly during rush hour, which Mr. Morong addressed and clarified.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:57:30).

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, 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

Pursuant to the Commission's Regulations, projects listed on this agenda for Concept Review may receive Final Approval at this meeting if the Commission, at its discretion, deems it sufficiently developed.

1. 183-24

Snyder Station ADA Improvements S Broad Street & Snyder Avenue

Review Type: Encroachment located within City Right-of-Way

Project Details: New ADA elevator and headhouse improvements

Applicant: SEPTA

Presenter: Kelly Maiello Architects (KMA)

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Victor Guarino began the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:59:07).

Chairperson Roesch asked about Percent for Art obligation, which Mr. Guarino wasn't aware of (01:06:10); however, Alex Smith stated that staff would put the applicant team from SEPTA in contact with Creative Philadelphia, because it could be based off a funding requirement and that they need to have a broader conversation (01:06:23).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:06:51).

Commissioner Lowe recommended a before and after plan before returning for final review and asked why this location had a roll down gate, as opposed to the other two stations, then inquired about the jurisdiction and funding between the city and SEPTA regarding, One Percent for Art.

SEPTA Project Manager Sean McMahon addressed why the swing gates weren't at the street level due to the size of the canopy and how it would encroach into the street. Thus, SEPTA had to place the gate near mid-stair landing, for this station (01:09:52).

Commissioner Febo San Miguel requested a night rendering. Commissioner Nasser inquired about the stair entrances and Commissioner Lowe requested drawings of existing conditions.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for conceptual approval (01:13:19).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel to approve for concept approval.

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

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

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2. 184-24
Chinatown Station ADA Improvements
800 Race Street

Review Type: Encroachment located within City Right-of-Way
Project Details: New ADA elevator and headhouse improvements
Applicant: SEPTA
Presenter: Jacobs

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Matt Morong began the presentation for concept approval at the minute mark in video (01:15:02).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:29:27).

Chairperson Roesch complimented the building and green roof and questioned the use of the original building. Mr. Morong addressed the inquiries and added that the street level will retain the headhouse.

Commissioner Lowe suggested an interior elevation going through the turnstiles from the stairs (01:31:00). Commissioner Lowe and Chairperson Roesch asked about the lighting and for a night rendering. Commissioner Almiñana asked if there would be new paving along the street, as he didn't see the need and asked to consider using pervious paving systems, then mentioned the significant shade or spaces for seating (01:37:00). In addition, he suggested that planters would be a nice addition to the plaza space and asked about parking for bikes, considering the Indego bike station in the rendering.

Questions and comments from the Public (01:44:17).

A member of the public wanted to know how much space was between the stairs and elevator door opening. Mr. Morong said that space was at least 10 feet.

Mr. Morong addressed all comments and inquiries from the Commission and the Public.

Commissioner Lowe expressed his agreement with the public comment regarding door access for the elevator.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for conceptual approval (01:47:27).

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

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

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

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3. 185-24

**Vogt Recreation Center
4131 Unruh Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Playground redesign and exterior site improvements
Applicant: Community Ventures (on behalf of Rebuild)
Presenter: Community Ventures and OZ Collaborative

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Linda To began the presentation (01:50:24) followed by Kathy Lent, who presented the building renovations (01:54:01), and Zachary Baier, who presented the site design and playground improvements (01:55:47).

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:03:54).

Commissioner Almiñana wanted to know if the lighting was going to be monitored and turned off at night and reduce the number of fixtures. Additionally, he asked if the fence was artistic or chain link and if plans could be shown of the existing and new trees and the caliper of those trees. Commissioner Segall raised concerns about the pergola, specifically about shade and the seating area and asked if there was enough room for a picnic table or other activities.

Chairperson Roesch asked if the two gates were enough to move people in and out and mentioned that the Commission hadn't really seen the project improvements for the building. Commissioner Lowe asked about the mechanical units on the roof and if there were any security grills or screens being added. Ms. To and Mr. Baier responded to the Commission.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for concept approval (02:11:25).

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

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

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

4. 186-24

**Philadelphia Zoo – Bear Country
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

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Kristen Waldron began the presentation (02:13:48) followed by Eileen Hill, who presented the project site plan (02:16:39), and Neil Batiancila.

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:26:52).

Chairperson Roesch expressed appreciation for the continued improvements for the animals and complimented how beautiful the plan and presentation were. Members of the Commission agreed. Commissioner Lowe wanted to know what kind of discussion took place regarding the design and security for the 360-trail flow of space, which was explained by Ms. Hill. Commissioner Segall inquired about what happens to the bears when their exhibit is under construction and was told that they would be moved to another zoo.

Neil Batiancila addressed comments and inquiries from the Commission (02:32:41).

Commissioner Almiñana inquired about the ribbon-cutting and suggested to embed less carbon in the design and reduce the operating carbon in the project, and perhaps look at some offsetting and amplify sequestration (02:33:49). Ms. Waldron and Mr. Batiancila responded and the groundbreaking/construction, is slated for December, of 2024 and ribbon-cutting in March, of 2026. Based on approvals, announcements will be made later in the summer (02:32:14).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion for final approval (02:35:00).

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 Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

At the minute mark in video (02:35:48), Mr. Smith provided the Commission with an update that he was able to speak with someone from the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS), who experienced technical issues in joining the meeting. Regarding the electric comments from the first administrative item: Bus Shelter Upgrades. They have two means of electric and all new stations do have lights, both for the canopy shelter itself, as well as the add boxes and that is done in one of two ways through solar, which is not as prevalent as running electric through the nearest street poll.



Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Nasser (02:36:23).

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

The next Art Commission will be held Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

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