

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

Members Present: José Almiñana, Carmen Febo San Miguel, Matthew Kenyatta, Raed Nasser, Rebecca Segall, James Lowe, and Robert Roesch

# MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ART COMMISSION

Katherine Liss, Art Commission staff member, on behalf of 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/).

Katherine Liss polled the Commission via roll call, 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 and announced a quorum at the minute mark in video (00:02:27).

### **MEETING MINUTES**

July 10, 2024

Chairperson Roesch asked if public had any comment on July minutes (00:03:27).

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the July Minutes (00:03:31).

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

The vote was taken by consensus.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes from July 10th, 2024, with no nays.

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> Alex M. Smith Director



### REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE - JULY 31, 2024

# **Sign Applications**

Second Reviews:

1. 80-24 Enjera Grocery 227 Market Street

134-24
 Community College of Philadelphia
 1700 Spring Garden Street

### First Reviews:

192-24
 PMC Property Group
 2301 John F. Kennedy Boulevard

2. 193-24
Wireworks Condominiums
301 Race Street

3. 195-24 Chase Bank 201 S Broad Street

4. 196-24
Jimmy Johns
1701-05 Chestnut Street

5. 197-24 Vitamin Shoppe 1701-05 Chestnut Street

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streetery Committee from July 31, 2024 (00:03:55).

The vote was taken by consensus.

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

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### **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

1. Huntingdon Station Storage Room 2612-2618 Kensington Avenue

Review Type: Minor Construction on City property

Project Details: Alterations to stairs

Applicant: SEPTA

Katherine Liss presented three Administrative Items to the Commission beginning with the Huntingdon Station Storage Room. All three Administrative Items required a consensus vote (00:04:10).

SEPTA is proposing alterations of portions of the main stair located on the north side of Kensington Ave on the of SEPTA L Line (Market Frankford Line). There is an open area under the existing stair that has proved to be an issue for safety and maintenance. SEPTA is proposing two new glaze masonry walls to enclose the space under the main stair to create a storage room. The walls will reach the underside of the stair and the beam connecting the exterior to the entrance of the stair. The walls will have the brick/block color and accent color in the same hue of the Market Frankford line blue. The existing stairs will remain fully operational, the signage proposed will be reviewed separately as part of future Art Commission processes.

Chairperson Roesch announced that this would be a consensus vote (00:05:20).

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:05:35).

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

The vote was taken by consensus. Motion carried unanimously to approve the administrative item (7-0).

# 2. Indego IKE Smart City Kiosks Various Locations (5)

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

Project Details:

Applicant: Bicycle Transit Systems (BTS); Office of Transportation and

Infrastructure Systems (OTIS)

Five new Smart City Kiosks are proposed at the intersections of 38th and Market, Broad and Passyunk, 10th and Packer, 48th and Spruce, and 36th and Samson. Final approval for the overall kiosk system was received at the February 2024 Art Commission meeting. It was agreed that each location would be reviewed as an administrative item moving forward. Smart City Kiosks are an interactive digital kiosk that would be attached to an Indego bike share station. It provides public service information and neighborhood

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information. The kiosks are also reviewed by the Streets Department for compliance with complete streets and dimensional standards. Ridership information has been provided by the applicant per previous requests from the Art Commissioners.

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:07:30).

Commissioner Almiñana asked in the project had been reviewed with owners of the properties adjacent to the provided locations? (00:07:36).

Question was retracted and rephrased (00:08:12).

Nate Bowman Johnson stated that the property owners will be contacted about the kiosk upgrades (00:09:20).

Commissioner Nasser asked if they reached out to Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) (00:11:32) Mr. Johnson stated, that the RCO and neighborhood will be reached out to, Chairperson Roesch asked if the kiosks were the same that are in New York. Jake responded that they weren't and in New York, they are Links (a different company) (00:13:01).

Commissioner Kenyatta asked if the 48<sup>th</sup> and Spruce location would be an increase in the number of Indego Bikes, or is it just the Kiosk? (00:13:51) Nate responded that the concept is to move the station closer to the corner. It would not increase the bike capacity.

Conversation continued addressing the process on the approval for the bike station.

Questions and comments from the Public (00:18:42).

Alison Wiess stated that she feels that the kiosks are an intrusion to the pedestrian right-of-way. She also questioned who is responsible for graffiti removal from the kiosks. Mr. Johnson stated that there is team locally based that's responsible for graffiti removal. Field teams are out every day servicing the kiosks.

Will Kunkle, Senior Program Manager for Rail Facilities at SEPTA 2commented that at 36<sup>th</sup> and Samson, they are planning to add an elevator for ADA improvements, and asked Mr. Johnson to connect (00:20:21)

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:21:08).

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

The vote was taken by consensus. Motion carried unanimously to approve the administrative item (7-0).

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# 3. Bus Shelter Upgrades Various Locations (5)

Review Type: Encroachment Located within City Right of Way

Project Details: Bus Shelter Upgrades

Applicant: Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS)

OTIS has submitted for five new bus shelters for Chestnut St and 60<sup>th</sup> St, Bustleton Ave and Verre Rd, Cottman Ave and Algon Ave, Cottman Ave and Rising Sun Ave, and Alleghany and 6<sup>th</sup> St. The new shelters are proposed for locations where no shelter currently exists. Streets Department has reviewed all five locations.

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:22:48).

Commissioner Almiñana stated that areas of sidewalk shown are in need of repair (00:22:51). Neil Gary responded that if the area is not in a good state, they will repair and replace where needed.

Chairperson Roesch asked if the public had any comments (00:24:54).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion (00:25:01).

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

The vote was taken by consensus. Motion carried unanimously to approve the administrative item (7-0).

### PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW

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

Review Type: Public Art

**Project Details:** 

Applicant: Creative Philadelphia

Presenter: Frederick Hightower and Creative Philadelphia

Margurite Anglin, Public Art Director for Creative Philadelphia, presented the project. The team is seeking final approval for the Blanche Nixon Memorial Statue by artist Frederick Hightower. Ms. Anglin presented information for the proposed statue lights, site lighting and context from the Rebuild library renovation project previously approved by the Art Commission. The light that is dedicated for statue is recessed, up lighting that has a tilt feature so it can be aimed at the statue (00:26:04).

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:31:23).

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Commissioner Roesch inquired if the lights have lens on the top or would it be collecting debris. Ms. Anglin noted they do have a lens (00:31:28). Commissioner Febo San Miguel inquired about the Commission requesting for a rendering of night images. Ms. Anglin response was that the rendering wasn't in this final presentation just providing the information that was requested. (00:31:48).

Members of the Commission continued discussion about the lighting (00:33:07).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch agreed with Commissioner Almiñana, then asked for a motion to approve as final approval (00:34:29).

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

Katherine Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch

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

# 2. Narrow Bus Shelters Various Locations

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

Project Details: Narrow Designs for Bus Shelters

Applicant: Office Of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS) Presenter: Office Of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS)

Neil Garry from OTIS presented a proposal for narrow bus shelters for tighter sidewalk locations around the city.

OTIS is seeking approval to add narrow design shelters at three locations. There are two narrow shelter options 16ft and 19ft. The preferred option is the 16ft design. The narrow designs will allow 6ft circulation space between building and shelter. Both options provide clearance for current and future ADA compliance. The shelter will be the same material that is currently used on the larger shelter options already design and installed (00:36:18).

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:41:43).

Commissioner Almiñana raised concerns about the panel and the dimensions of the shelters, which was explained by Mr. Garry. Conversation about the size, lighting, and footing area continued until the minute mark in video (00:55:40).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (00:55:51).

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

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Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

Additional comments were made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel about SEPTA following the Commissions suggestions and similar process for other types of shelters, and locations, where staff would be allowed by the Commission for administrative evaluation on future locations and return to the Commission as an administrative approval (00:56:58). Ms. Liss stated that she believed so once the bus shelters are given final approval similar to how other bus shelters were reviewed on the present day.

#### 3. 265-23

34th Street Station ADA Improvements 34th Street & Market Street

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

Applicant: SEPTA

Presenter: Gannett Fleming

The presentation began at the minute mark in video (00:58:51).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:02:03).

Chairperson Roesch verified his understanding for the shape of the stairways. Commissioner Febo San Miguel and Commissioner Almiñana inquired about the roof, and Commissioner Kenyatta asked about the way finding, naming of the stations, and the kiosk, which was addressed.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (01:08:49).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Almiñana and seconded by Commissioner Kenyatta to approve.

Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

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#### 4. 69-24

Hunting Park Station ADA Improvements N Broad Street & Hunting Park Avenue

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

Applicant: SEPTA

Presenter: Michael Baker International

Chantal Frances presented two headhouse stations for final approval beginning with Hunting Park, then Wyoming Station (01:10:13).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:18:08).

Chairperson Roesch inquired about the roof and ceiling, painted surfaces, and lighting.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (01:19:43).

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

Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

Chairperson Roesch complimented the nice detail of the project.

### 5. 93-24

Wyoming Station ADA Improvements N Broad Street & Wyoming Avenue

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

Applicant: SEPTA

Presenter: Michael Baker International

Chantal Frances continued with the second presentation at the minute mark in video (01:20:42).

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (01:26:36).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Lowe and seconded by Commissioner Almiñana to approve as final approval.

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Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

#### 6. 94-24

# Logan Station ADA Improvements N Broad Street & Lindley Avenue

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

Applicant: SEPTA

Presenter: Michael Baker International

Ms. Frances introduced the team architecture for Logan Station to present at the minute mark in video (01:27:31).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:32:42).

Chairperson Roesch asked about the aircraft stainless steel cables and railings.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (01:34:25).

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

Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, 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. 205-24

Happy Hollow Recreation Center 4800 Wayne Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Playground redesign and exterior site improvements

Applicant: Rebuild

Presenter: SMP Architects

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Stephen Rafferty, Jr. began the presentation by introducing Tom Mahone, who would be presenting renovations followed by Heather McClain, and Gilbert Oh, of Rebuild, to present community engagement (01:36:06).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:55:00).

Chairperson Roesch complimented how nice the building was.

Commissioner Lowe wanted to know if the interior of the wall would be finished for final given that the building was for concept approval on the present day, and, Mr. Rafferty, Jr. clarified. Commissioner Febo San Miguel inquired about the youth play area, hours of operation, and the lighting. Ms. McClain and Mr. Rafferty, Jr. responded with an explanation also mentioning, that the playground isn't meant for people to be playing at night. The current lighting is used for security and the recreation center in closed at night.

Commissioner Kenyatta commented on the site furnishing concerning, backing for the seating, and exercise for seniors. Ms. McClain responded adding, that there's a walking loop and a boxing gym inside.

Chairperson Roesch inquired about the safety surface. Commissioner *Almiñana* raised concerns about the trees, stormwater management, new pavement, and alternative safety surfaces. Mr. Rafferty, Jr. responded to the concerns and mentioned that he's trying to work within the budget.

Questions and comments from the public (02:06:07).

Allison Weiss expressed that there were inaccuracies, additional needs that should be addressed, as well as flooding concerns. A member from the public agreed with Ms. Weiss comments and added concerns about an ADA entry.

Ms. McClain and Mr. Oh addressed the comments, and community engagement, the roof, and steep slopes.

Commissioner Lowe inquired about Rebuild engagements efforts, which was explained by Ms. McClain (02:16:08). The discussion continued (02:18:25-02:19:53).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as concept approval (02:20:11).

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

Ms. Liss restated the motion noting requirements needed for future final review: grading plan, additional details on the safety surface, night rendering, additional seating elements, that include backs for care givers, that the team be prepared to speak to how current flooding would be enumerated, and more details on the trees both being removed and those being proposed (02:20:31).

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Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Almiñana, Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

#### 2. 206-24

# **Sharswood Sidewalk Poems** Various Locations

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Permanent installations of poems in sidewalk

Applicant: Mural Arts Philadelphia Presenter: Mural Arts Philadelphia

Todd Bressi began the presentation at the minute mark in video (02:22:50).

Question and comments from the Commission (00:35:51).

Chairperson Roesch commended the project. Commissioner Almiñana made suggestions about the cement, with regard to the visual effects. Commissioner Segall inquired about the sidewalk and replacement. Commissioner Kenyatta inquired about the installation, existing sidewalks, construction, and the available languages of the poems. Mr. Bressi explained the process to the Commission.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (02:52:38).

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

Questions and comments from the public (02:53:14).

A member of the public asked if there had been any thought of working with private developers, as opposed to Philadelphia Housing Authority, which was answered by Mr. Bressi.

Chairperson Roesch suggested for the project to return by way of Administrative like the bus shelter to be reviewed (02:56:02).

Additional questions and comments from the public made at the minute mark (02:56:34).

A member of the public spoke in support of the project.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final approval (02:58:05).

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Ms. Liss restated the motion as the following: final approval of Sharswood Sidewalk Poems Concept, with the intentions that the locations once identified, would be returning as administrative items (02:58:12).

Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve concept for final approval, with the intentions that the locations once identified, would be as administrative items (6-0).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chairperson Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn (02:59:06).

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

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

The next Art Commission was held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

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