



The Philadelphia Art
Commission
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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

Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 - 9:30 AM

Members Present: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Krakauskas, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ART COMMISSION

Alex Smith – Director of the Art Commission – began the meeting by welcoming Commissioner Vincent Krakauskas who is today’s designee representing the Department of Public Property (00:00:54).

*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 (00:02:40). Chair Roesch and Alex Smith spoke to the memory of Beige Berryman, as the former Art Commission Director. She passes November 6, 2024 and will be greatly missed at the Philadelphia Art Commission.

VOTE ON THE 2025 ART COMMISSION MEETING DATES

- 2025 Art Commission Public Meeting Dates
- 2025 Sign and Streeterly Committee Public Meeting Dates

Commission Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve 2025 Art Commission Public Meeting Dates (00:08:36).

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

Consensus of the vote was carried all in favor to approve the 2025 Art Commission Public Meeting Dates, with no nays.

Commission Chair Roesch then asked for a motion to approve 2025 Sign and Streeterly Committee Public Meeting Dates (00:09:04).

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

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Consensus of the vote was carried all in favor to approve the 2025 Sign and Streetery Committee Public Meeting Dates, with no nays.

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REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – OCTOBER 30, 2024

Streetery Applications

First Reviews:

- 1. 297-24**
Johnny Brenda's
1201 Frankford Avenue

Sign Applications

Second Reviews:

- 1. 225-24**
Taco Bell Cantina
1614 Chestnut Street
- 2. 83-24**
William D. Kelley School
1601-49 N 28th Street

First Reviews:

- 1. 298-24**
Starbucks
1000-32 Chestnut Street
- 2. 300-24**
Curtis Institute of Music
233-35 S 18th Street (aka 1726 Locust Street)
- 3. 301-24**
Equinox
1911 Walnut Street
- 4. 302-24**
Wells Fargo
1501 Chestnut Street
- 5. 303-24**
F1 Arcade
1330 Chestnut Street

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6. **304-24**
Five Iron Golf
1717 Arch Street
7. **305-24**
Yummy Picks
1122 Walnut Street
8. **306-24**
Weckerly's
1600 Spruce Street
9. **307-24**
JD
1530 Chestnut Street

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Public or Commission Chair, Roesch asked for a motion to approve the Sign Committee and Streetery Committee from October 30, 2024 (00:09:54).

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 recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streetery Committee from October 30, 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. **313-24**
Indego IKE Smart City Kiosks
Various Locations (5)
Review Type: Encroachments located within City Right-of-Way
Project Details: Five 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 three administrative agenda items to the Commission, beginning with Indego IKE Smart City Kiosks. All three administrative items required a consensus vote (00:10:27).

Bicycle Transit Systems (BTS) on behalf of the Indego and the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems is seeking administrative approval for five new IKE Smart City kiosks at the intersections of:

- Filbert & Juniper
- Christian & Passyunk
- 7th & Sansom
- Frankford & Crease
- Broad & Christian

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:12:15).

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Commissioner Nasser asked if the RCO had been informed about the Kiosks, Jake Dellavalle stated that they will be in touch with all community organizations through their community engagement team (00:12:46).

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Conversation was continued by Commissioner Febo San Miguel, stating that she would like to have better sense of how communication is being given to the community for opportunities to utilize the kiosks for events or other neighborhood information. Jake Dellavalle confirmed that the engagement team will contact neighborhood groups once they have their network solidified and they know where the installations are going to be. It was noted that installation will start in the first quarter of 2025.

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Chair Roesch and Commission Pepon inquired about the outreach process and asked if a report or summary sheet for community outreach be provided to the Art Commission. Jake Dellavalle agreed to provide a report.

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Director

Comment from public (00:18:10) Allison Weiss expressed her concern with approving these items before the community is notified. The Commission informed her that the applicant team is providing information for educational purposes on how the process works.

Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:20:30).

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. 314-24

Bus Shelter Upgrades

Various Locations (8)

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

Project Details: Eight new bus shelter installations

Applicant: Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS)

Mr. Smith introduced the second administrative item.

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 eight new bus shelters at various locations around the City. These are the original bus shelter series, not the recently approved narrow shelters. All the locations are proposing new shelters where currently no shelter exists. For each location, the shelter's location is also being reviewed by the Streets Department for compliance with Complete Street and dimensional standards.

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- Hunting Park Ave & Broad St SE
- Allegheny Ave & 2nd St NE
- Chestnut St & 55th St SW
- Stenton Ave & Haines St SE
- Old York Rd & Grange Ave FS NE
- Allegheny Ave & 5th St NE
- Bustleton Ave & Robbins Ave SE
- Bustleton Ave & Longshore Ave SW

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:33:00).

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

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

3. 315-24

Pine Road Bridge Rehabilitation Bridge at Pine Road over SEPTA

Review Type: Construction repair project on City Right-of-Way

Project Details: Bridge rehabilitation

Applicant: Philadelphia Streets Department

Mr. Smith introduced and presented the third administrative item.

The Streets Department, working with Gannet Fleming, is requesting administrative approval of the rehabilitation of Pine Road bridge over SEPTA right-of-way between Stanwood Street and Solly Avenue in the Fox Chase neighborhood of the city. The bridge was constructed in 1964, and past inspections have noted concrete spalls, corrosion and the need to impose a weight limit to the bridge. The proposal is to replace the bridges' superstructure including the deck, sidewalks, barriers and beams. The new design will allow for both vehicle and pedestrian traffic with modernized metal railings to meet current standards.

The bridge had originally crossed over the Philadelphia Newtown and New York railroad, which required a railroad barrier for protection, the rail bed is now the new Fox Chase Lorimer Trail, which eliminates the need for the barrier.

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:35:00).

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked why this item up for administrative approval. Most admin approval are minor updates. Mr. Smith explained that the updates to the bridge had minor visual impact compared to the existing bridge, many of the materials and the dimensions are 1x1 replacements with only minor design adjustments, limiting the Commission's need for a full presentation.

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Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:43:45).

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.

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PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW

1. 65-24

Cherashore Playground 850 W Olney Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Interior building and exterior site improvements
Applicant: Mt. Airy CDC (on behalf of Rebuild)
Presenter: Studio Sustena and LAYER Architecture

Phillp Dawson began the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:44:49).
Britany Scherer from Studio Sustena continued the presentation (00:46:23).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:55:24).

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

Comments from the public - Allison Weiss raised the question about how the community was engaged as part of this proposal. Philip Dawson answered that they worked with the local Recreation Advisory Council. Flyers were disturbed and multiple events were held in person at the site to involve residents (00:56:03).

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

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

2. 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 introduced Heather McClain from Rebuild to begin the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:58:44). Julie Bush continued the presentation (01:05:07).

Questions and comments from the public (01:14:55).

Allison Weiss expressed that she is very happy to see that something is being done to address some of the needs, however, she is extremely concerned. There is no mention of Happy Hollow being on the local city and national register for Historical Places. She also expressed that as a neighbor and registered community organization that she feels left out of the engagement process for the planned updates to Happy Hollow Rec Center.

Stephin Rafferty answered that they are aware that it is a historic building. They have been in contact with PHC (Philadelphia Historical Commission) and continuing to discuss when it comes to the design of the replacement front door. As far as coordinating with PWD (Philadelphia Water Department) it was noted that meetings are set up to discuss the work out in front of the rec center and any new work adjacent to the site.

Commission Chair Roesch asked what fair condition means regarding the trees as described in the presentation. Julie Bush explained that that is in regard to the life expectancy and current condition. That the tree is not in great shape, but also not in terrible shape either (01:21:54)

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:23:24).

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

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

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

1. 263-24

**SEPTA 40th Street Substation
3940 Baltimore Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: New one-story substation building and associated site improvements

Applicant: SEPTA

Presenter: STV inc.

Brandon Swartley From STV began presentation at the minute mark in video (01:25:18).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:31:58).

Commissioner Nasser said that the presentation looked good, and he appreciated the changes that were made.

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Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:32:21).

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

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

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

PRESENTATIONS FOR CONCEPT REVIEW

Alex M. Smith
Director

1. 316-24

West Mill Creek Playground 5100 Parrish Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Playground redesign and associated exterior site improvements
Applicant: Rebuild
Presenter: OLIN

Marni Burns from OLIN began the presentation at the minute mark (01:33:30).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:49:44).

Commission Chair Roesch asked the applicant team to confirm if they were removing one tree and planting almost a dozen new trees. Mani Burnes responded yes.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:50:45).

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

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

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

1. 317-24

Xfinity Live! Entertainment Plaza 1300 Pattison Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: New entertainment venues and associated site improvements
Applicant: Comcast Spectator
Presenter: Saul Ewing LLP and Perkins Eastman

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Dan Bedesem began the presentation (01:53:12) Followed by Caitilin Bucari.

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:21:37).

Commissioner Osorio asked for the size of the Xfinity Live! Complex and outdoor area. Dan Bedesem states that it is approximately 46,000 Sq Ft.

Commissioner Krakauskas asked about accessibility due the fact there is a lot of stairs in the renderings and site plans. Dan provided additional information about an elevator being present. The proposed areas are fully accessible.

Commissioner Chair Roesch asked how many citizens can be in the open area by the theater. Dan responded that the complex holds an estimated 2,000 people.

Commissioner Osorio asked if events at Xfinity Live! would be concurrent with games at the adjacent facilities? Dan responded that the operations will be much the same as current hours of operations - thus there is more outdoor programming beyond games or other events (02:26:21).

Commissioner Nasser said that this looks really good.

Commissioner Osorio asked how crowds are managed if weather suddenly changes. Dan responded that they would have to go inside, run to their cars or seek shelter under overhangs.

Mr. Smith stated that this will come back to the Sign and Streetery Committee for the signage proposed.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final (02:29:33).

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

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

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

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn (02:31:08).

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

Motion carried with no nays to adjourn the November 13, 2024, Philadelphia Art Commission.

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The next Art Commission will be held December 11, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

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