

**ART COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 25, 2008
BEGINNING AT 2:00 P.M.**

PRESENT OF THE COMMISSION: Klavon, Indovina, Cooper, Hall,
Serrao, Costa

PRESENT OF THE STAFF: Baker, Ismail

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Klavon asked for a motion to approve the March 26, 2008 and April 23, 2008 meeting minutes.

MOVED: Hall

SECONDED: Serrao

B. Correspondence

C. Items for Review

a. Market Square Redesign/Reconstruction, Conceptual Review

- **City of Pittsburgh, Mayor's Office and Department of City Planning**
- **Maria Riley, Klavon Design Associates, Inc.**

Commissioner Klavon was recused from the meeting.

The Market Square redesign was initiated by and the design process managed by the Department of City Planning (in cooperation with the Urban Redevelopment Authority and the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership). As part of this project, three conceptual designs were produced for Market Square and the project presented to the Art Commission is a blend of the three designs. The sustainable design addresses circulation, landscape, the piazza and accent lighting on the ground plane.

Ms. Riley presented the design to the Art Commission and stated that materials presented will be similar to the materials presented but that they are not final.

The Commissioners discussed pedestrian and vehicular plaza use, the ground plane and the "marking" of distinct space in the design, the reduction of parking on the site and future use of the plaza. A number of the Commissioners recommended that parking and vehicular traffic be removed from the site entirely. Mr. Cooper recommended the use of

one material on the surface of the square with the hope that cars be prohibited from the site in the future.

Dan Sentz, Department of City Planning clarified the use of a garage adjacent to the site.

During deliberations the Commissioners discussed the need to remove traffic from the square—Ms. Ismail replied that the design was a compromise between those who sought to a pedestrian only space and those who desired parking (local businesses) on the site. Ms. Ismail noted that 20 existing parking spaces will be eliminated with this design. Mr. Astorino and Mr. Serrao noted that the business community will likely be better served with a pedestrian only space—increased pedestrian traffic yields increased visits to local businesses.

Mr. Cooper asked a motion.

MOTION: To grant conceptual approval to the Market Square Redesign Project with the condition that serious consideration be given to the removal of vehicles (with the exception of service vehicles) from the square and paving alternatives that are less supportive of vehicular traffic.

MOVED: Astorino

SECONDED: Serrao

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

CARRIED

b. National City Moving the Lives of Kids Community Mural Project, Conceptual and Final Review

- **Kyle Holbrook, Director**
- **Edward Rawson, Head Designer**
- **Angela Corley, PR Director**
- **Andre Johnson, Site Coordinator**

The applicants presented two mural designs to the Art Commission—one mural is slated for Beechview and another in the West End. Ms. Corley, when asked if the mural design was final, stated that the design would differ somewhat from the proposed project—photographic images for the Beechview project have not been selected and KH Designs will work with the West End Historical Society to finalize the imagery for the second mural.

KH Designs noted that the projects were supported by the district Council Members. When asked about the maintaining the murals Mr. Holbrook replied that a maintenance fund will be set up at the Hill House.

When asked about the community process the applicants stated that they worked with the City of Pittsburgh's Weed and Seed program.

During the neutral public comment portion of the meeting, Renee Piechocki, Office of Public Art, stated an underpass is an unstable environment for a mural and will affect the quality of the mural over time. The applicant replied that an underpass mural created 5 years ago is still fine and that a protective sealant from NASA will be used to safeguard the mural.

Ms. Baker noted that a budget had been submitted for the entire mural program and asked the applicant there was a line-item budget for each mural. Mr. Johnson replied that there was an estimate.

Mr. Cooper noted that the composition of the Beechview mural could read as an accumulation of isolated pieces and that the role of the artist was to understand that the burden is more than the sum of its parts—the artist should strive to have the selected images relate to one another.

MOTION: That KH Designs receives conceptual and final approval of the West End Mural and Beechview Mural with the condition that the artist supplies the final design and the budget to City staff for review and approval prior to painting the mural.

MOVED: Cooper

SECONDED: Serrao

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

CARRIED

The Sprout Fund presented their 2008 mural program to the Art Commission.

Meeting Adjourned