

ART COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting March 26, 2014
Beginning at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT OF THE COMMISSION: Indovina, Lockett, Rhor, Slavick

PRESENT OF THE STAFF: Noor Ismail
Morton Brown
Ben Carlise on behalf of Mike Gable

AGENDA ITEMS COVERED IN THESE MINUTES

| ITEM | PAGE |
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| 1. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Beechview | 1 |
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A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dennis Astorino approved the minutes via email. Minutes were approved.

B. Correspondence

Mr. Brown did not present any correspondence but noted that Public Works did provide a letter of support for the Carnegie Library that was added to the Commissioners' packets.

C. Items for Review

1. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Beechview Neighborhood Library Addition and Renovation (Conceptual)
 - *Anne Chen, AIA, Principal, GBBN/EDGE Studio*

Anne Chen presented the plans for the 3000 square foot addition to the library. The library is owned by the City of Pittsburgh and has already been approved by zoning for site development. Chen noted that the support for the project in the Beechview community, gleaned from community meetings, is overwhelmingly positive.

Chen presented the Commission with the plans and layout of the new addition. The entire building is being gutted and renovated. The current building is not currently accessible, but the renovation will make the building accessible including new toilet rooms and adjusted shelf height for bookshelves. The addition includes a meeting room for the community; the teen area will be enlarged; and the entire library is designed to be more open and inviting.

The library's location is surrounded by a fairly dense arrangement of residential and commercial properties. The side elevation is next to an existing residential building and the design plans maintain the current privacy for the residential property. A brick screen on the front facade of the building which will filter light in, but will also provide views outside from inside of the library. Aluminum, brick, and a gray metal panel are being considered for construction materials.

The community has been very vocal about the library showing itself as a presence in the community. At the moment, you can pass right by the library without noticing it. The library is set back and low in comparison to the adjacent structures on the street.

There has been a design change with the metal frame of the existing building. This portion was originally rendered as black in the design plans, but is now a light gray or silver that matches the metal screen that is proposed.

Other improvements to the building include upgrades to the mechanical systems, insulation for the envelope of the building envelope, an electrical systems upgrade to include more plugin opportunities for laptops and wireless capabilities throughout the library.

Parking for the library is on street only. Zoning could not allocate additional space for parking. The library currently has a friendly agreement with the church across the street.

Rhor asked about any additional opportunities for integrated artworks. Chen answered that they spent a lot of time in the patterning of the screen of the building.

Indovina asked if the clear story in the design plan is set back. Chen responded that the profile of the roof allows for light to enter the building, since it is above the current structure (higher than the building). The library will now be more inline with the surrounding buildings. The gabling of the front and side references the gabling throughout the neighborhood.

The project is at the end of Design Development. The only changes the design firm foresees is the material for the metal panel, that could be adapted. Chen requested final approval as well as conceptual. The Commission would like to see the final construction materials, so the project will only be conceptually approved.

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| <u>MOTION:</u> | Concept Approval | | |
| MOVED BY | Slavick | SECONDED BY | Rhor |
| IN FAVOR | All | | |
| OPPOSED | None | | |

CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned