

## ART COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting Wednesday, May 28, 2014  
Beginning at 2:00 p.m.

**PRESENT OF THE COMMISSION:** Lockett, Slavick, Astorino

**PRESENT OF THE STAFF:** Ray Gastil  
Morton Brown  
Marcel Newman on behalf of Mike Gable

### AGENDA ITEMS COVERED IN THESE MINUTES

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#### A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

No minutes were available for approval. Ms. Lockett stated that she was filling role of Chair in the absence of Mr. Indovina.

#### B. Correspondence

Mr. Brown presented a letter from the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership about Primanti Brothers Market Square Canopy. Mr. Brendel with the Engine 26 Commemorative Plaque provided part of the proclamation that was submitted to City Council.

#### C. Items for Review

##### a. **Engine 26 Commemorative Plaque (Conceptual and Final)** **Douglas W. Brendel, Project Coordinator**

Mr. Brendel presented a plaque design for honorary battalion chief, well-loved in the community, and deserving of a plaque. The community is donating funds for the cost of the plaque. The community of Brookline is backing the plaque in full, 80% of the project is already committed.

A question was asked about how the community was involved in the process. Mr. Brendel said that the idea was presented on social media and was immediately embraced.

Is there a process in place for honoring people in the community? Mr. Brendel said there is a process for placing a plaque on the outside of the building, but the inside is not an issue. The Fire Chief would not be comfortable with the plaque being on the outside of the firehouse, but approved the inside of the firehouse.

**MOTION:      Conceptual and Final Approval**

MOVED BY      Astorino  
IN FAVOR      All  
OPPOSED      None

SECONDED BY      Slavick

**CARRIED**

**b. Primanti Bros. Market Square Canopy (Conceptual and Final)  
Michael P. Kratsas, Director of Development & Facilities; Michael Mitchum**

Mr. Kratsas presented the plans for a canopy on the Primanti Bros. restaurant in Market Square and adjusting the openings for the entrance. The building is a historic façade. The building is two separate buildings, which has been combined.

The canopy will go from one side of the building to the other, the full width of the building. The apartments on the second floor requested that the canopy extend the whole width of the building. Primanti's is providing a 6'9" for a public walkway, which is more than the required 5' by the City. If in the future the canopy is enclosed, with the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership approval, the enclosures will be behind the columns. The opportunity to enclose the space extends the season significantly.

Ms. Lockett and Mr. Astorino had concerns over the plastic in the canopy design and the enclosure. There is a visual issue with the plastic. It closes off the space and gives a different flow to the space. The Diamond Market had a similar issue. The HRC approved it as is. Geoff Cummings with the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership spoke in favor of the canopy for several reasons: it addresses the concerns they had with Diamond Market for spacing on the sidewalk; and the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership is most in favor of the canopy in the winter, when it is enclosed. There are very few points of interest in the Square during the winter months and having more people being able to use the Square more of the time is good. The PDP would love to see a rental program for renting city space for outdoor cafes, like what is instituted in Washington DC, in place that would pull funds for maintenance in the square. This project should set the precedent for outdoor cafes in Market Square, as opposed to Diamond Market.

Mr. Astorino wanted to see the transparency of the enclosure increased. He recalled that when the Diamond Market enclosure went to them for review the application did not include the plastic inclosure. A question was posed about the timeline for the canopy being up versus down during the seasons. Primanti Bros. has retractable awnings on the building now, but any threat of wind or rain requires the restaurant to roll up the awning. The canopy would provide an all-weather opportunity.

**MOTION:      Conceptual and Final Approval**

MOVED BY      Slavick, with conditions that the restaurant work within the conditions outlined by the PDP and the canopy envelope—when and if planned-- is seen prior to installation

SECONDED BY      Astorino

IN FAVOR      All  
OPPOSED      None

**CARRIED**

**c. Casa Reyna Sidewalk Café (Conceptual and Final)  
Nicola DiCio, Owner**

The presentation was delivered by Matthew Lang, the General Manager, representing Nicola DiCio. He passed out material samples.

Mr. Lang explained that the sidewalk café has been approved by zoning. They would like to build a wooden canopy with red vinyl roofing to enclose 7 tables with room for 30 people. The restaurant is in a basement so during warmer months people aren't coming downstairs. The goal is to bring Latin culture to this corner of 21<sup>st</sup> and Penn Avenue. A taco stand has been open since October, and the construction for this canopy will be very similar.

Mr. Lang continued that they had worked with the URA to build the taco stand, and the goal of the project is to invigorate the sidewalk at this corner.

Ms. Slavick asked if the wood under the roof is unpainted. It is unpainted. Mr. Brown checked with BBI, and they said that it is compliant with the code because it is treated lumber. Lang noted that the wood goes with the barn aesthetic, more rustic.

Ms. Lockett was not sure about the overall aesthetic authentically conveying Mexican culture in a cohesive way. She felt that there was an overall lack of aesthetic. Ms. Slavick agreed, the painted treatment is a separate style that is different than a barn aesthetic. She suggested staining the untreated wood in order to connect the styles inexpensively. She said that it looked provisional in not a positive, quaint way.

Ms. Lockett suggested that putting a structure on the street might now necessarily connect to the restaurant, but they might want to consider a more wholistic, less disjointed overall aesthetic.

Mr. Brown received an encroachment permit instead of a letter of support from DPW.

Mr. Astorino said that the idea of the canopy is fine, but they would like to see more. He also had an issue with the lattice look of it. He would support a conceptual motion for the idea of a canopy, but not the way that it was constructed. Mr. Lang requested ideas for improving the aesthetic quality.

<b><u>MOTION:</u></b>	Astorino, Conceptual on the notion of the canopy but would like to see more refined materials with reconsideration of elevation and lattice look		
MOVED BY	Astorino	SECONDED BY	Slavick
IN FAVOR	All		
OPPOSED	None		

**CARRIED**

**Meeting Adjourned**