

ART COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting Wednesday, June 25, 2014
Beginning at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT OF THE COMMISSION: Indovina, Lockett, Slavick

PRESENT OF THE STAFF: Ray Gastil
Morton Brown
Ben Carlise on behalf of Mike Gable

AGENDA ITEMS COVERED IN THESE MINUTES

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A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

April and May minutes were submitted, there was a quorum however Ms. Slavick has not had a chance to review them so the approval of these were tabled.

B. Correspondence

Mr. Brown presented a letter from Public Works on behalf of ExteNet, as well as 3 letters on behalf of the Larimer Project

C. Items for Review

- a. ***Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Beechview Neighborhood Library (Final)***
Anne Chen, AIA, Principal, GBBN/EDGE studio

Amanda **Markevick** from GBBN Architects began the presentation, referencing that they had been granted conceptual approval in March. She reviewed the building design, programming, and ADA accessibility. The purpose of final approval was to confirm materials, and Ms. Markevick handed out material samples of the glass to be used.

Astorino asked if the elevations on the roof and the sides are the same, with a standing seam. Markevick agreed. She continued that there will be planting beds as proposed in the images, and that that the glass sample shown would only be on the southfacing façade. The northfacing façade would be clear.

Ms. Markevick added that the project would be done in June or July of 2015.

MOTION: Final Approval
MOVED BY Slavick
IN FAVOR All

SECONDED BY Lockett

OPPOSED

None

CARRIED

b. *ExteNet Proposed Distributive Antenna Systems (Conceptual and Final)*
Michael Bortz

ExteNet is proposing 11 DAS Nodes, which are the little antennae that ExteNet are proposing to put on the light poles, and these nodes would be replacing existing light poles in the city. He continued that ExteNet has been working with the city to not make aesthetic changes to 11 of the existing light pole fixtures, but to update them with the new node technology. He provided a photo stimulation of the poles.

Bortz continued that the base is slightly larger and octagonal. They will be painted the same as the existing light fixtures. He discussed the locations of the poles in detail.

Bortz went on to explain that the project in particular is for Verizon Wireless to provide better coverage, but this is a shared network, and another carrier can eventually use it.

Luckett asked if the base footprint is consistent throughout, and Bortz agreed that they will all be 4' high, consistently.

Bortz continued that the fiber for these poles is existing, and that the equipment is stored in the base. It's the same as having a street light.

Slavick asked what the minimum distance between the poles is.

Bortz responded that this is based on necessity and need, and each carrier has different objectives. The distributive poles take stress off of the macro network. It's impossible to predict what future needs would be.

Bortz went on to explain that there was a lot of consideration going into designing these nodes to blend into the streetscape.

Slavick expressed her concern that there seemed to be one blanket solution that was going to be applied to light poles all over town, regardless of their individual design. She was worried that this might be a prototype that would be reproduced.

An unintroduced colleague responded by saying that in some other neighborhoods where there were more ornamental light fixtures they had gotten community input. There is a basis to go back to in each location that will mirror the existing modern poles. She confirmed that it is possible to have more than one design.

Astorino added that matching the dimensions but without the ornament might fit better in this district.

Slavick stated that she would like to see all of the other designs. She said that she thought that it did not need to be a plain box, but it could be tapered to match the bases.

Brown added that it is important to match the style to the pole, and that modern poles should have a modern base, ornamental poles should match ornamental bases, just as the poles were designed to match the neighborhoods.

Slavick asked if there were any way to put these on rooftops or somewhere else, the applicant responded that no, they had to be in the public right of way.

Gastil added that because of the renderings it looks as though the applicants have not maintained a sufficient clear sidewalk, and that might not pass through DPW's standard. It might be good to additionally have a rendering that shows sidewalk clearance.

Carlise added that they had looked at that at DPW. He added that they also have to come to DPW for construction permits, encroachments, and they have to take it to council. Part of the DPW application is to have an architectural drawing to scale.

Gastil continued that it's a difficult problem to design something this large in a perfect way, but the design can be resolved in a better way. He continued that sometimes having something 'fit in' cannot work. This is a contemporary device being added, and recognizing that as an aesthetic issue is important.

Carlise responded that DPW is really looking to the art commission as this sets a precedent for a standard that will be adopted across the city. We can move along with the encroachment and the licence agreement, but that the group has more time to work on the designs.

Astorino said that some of the renderings are not to scale, and they seem to be much smaller than in others. He said that the group would like to see a unique approach to each instance. Clearly there is a wide range of light poles in the city, and it would be good to have a unique approach to each one. He also recommended making the drawings to scale.

Bortz asked if they needed to come back

Astorino suggested going to Carlise or Brown for advice but the group would like to see changed designs.

Brown suggested submitting a revised application for next month.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Conceptual	
MOVED BY	Slavick	SECONDED BY Lockett
IN FAVOR	All	
OPPOSED	None	

CARRIED

c. Larimer Village Green and Community Garden

Juan Castellanos, Community Outreach Specialist

Juan Castellanos introduced himself and explained his role as community outreach specialist, as well as the role of the Larimer Green Team, and noted that a teammate Ms. Peaks, was also in attendance.

Castellanos explained the project, as well as it's location and stakeholders.

Luckett said that she said that the level of commitment by all parties was commendable.

Carlise asked if this had been in place since July 2012.

Castellanos said that the planting beds had been there since 2008, but some of the larger additions like the gazebo and shipping containers were added later as they had gotten more grants.

Slavick asked if the shipping containers were as-is or patined.

Casstellanos said that one is completely painted over in grey, but the other has it's original painting. They were purchased after the Three Rivers Arts Festival, and they are working with a local architect to repurpose them. He said those proposal will then come to the art commission.

Morton clarified that they do not have purview over URA properties, so they could come to the commission for a courtesy review if they liked.

Castellanos responded that there is a site plan which outlines which properties are URA and which are city.

Slavick responded that this is a great project, and she was trying to juggle something like this, as well as design elements that they would impose on a park. She was curious as to what degree of design council the commission should provide.

Mr. Bob Bingham stated that he had been working on rainwater solutions in Larimer, as well as a liason with the architect who is designing the shipping containers. He stated that he felt that a villiage green has great value.

Ms. Caroline Peaks offered words of support of this green space, and gave examples of how the space has been used for events, workshops, and social gatherings.

Mr. Robert Germany introduced himself as a representative of the faith-based community, and he offered words in support of the project as well.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Conceptual and Final		
MOVED BY	Luckett	SECONDED BY	Slavick
IN FAVOR	All		
OPPOSED	None		

CARRIED

Astorino moved the meeting to staff reports.

Gastil stated that he would like to take a few moments in a future meeting to tell the group about his background, and added that he is a proponent of design. He would like to share some issues that he is passionate about, as well as move on adding new members to the commission.

Meeting Adjourned