

ART COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting Wednesday, October 22, 2014
Beginning at 2:00 p.m.

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

PRESENT OF THE STAFF: Morton Brown
Ben Carlise

AGENDA ITEMS COVERED IN THESE MINUTES

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Audio recording of meeting is inaudible. Summaries below.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

September minutes were up for approval. Slavick moved for the minutes to be approved. Lockett seconded. The September minutes were approved.

B. Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

C. Items for Review

1. *National Aviary Condor Court (Conceptual and Final)*

Cheryl Tracy, CEO, National Aviary and Joe Argabrite, Kurt Hudgren, Weber Group

The National Aviary had presented plans for the Condor Court at the September 24, 2014. Approval was withheld for plans, excluding the holding building, with requests from the Art Commission to spend more time with the plans and rethink building materials. Conceptual approval was moved at that meeting with the following design recommendations for the Aviary to explore:

- 1) Investigate ways to make the overall new exhibit recede—with emphasis on the observation building—into the Aviary building, visually through material and finishes
- 2) Attempt to soften the Aviary (“bird cage”) by matching its finish/color more closely to the extant main building of the Aviary proper, located directly behind the new structure.

- 3) Investigate increasing the height of the “bird cage” (but not a mandate to complete, given your restrictions)
- 4) Complete and submit a landscaping plan (cite species, placement, etc)
- 5) Provide material information for all pieces (can provide actual samples, cutsheets, photo examples, etc) that denotes color, texture, finish, etc.

Joe Argabrite and Kurt Hudgren of the Weber Group presented the Condor Court designs and the adjusted material selection. Revisions included a lightened color of the condor enclosure and fence material. The Group also presented plans for using colors from the existing Aviary buildings in the newly designed observation building.

The Art Commission agreed that the reworked plans were good adjustments and made the overall design more aesthetically sound.

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

CARRIED

2. *Morrow Park City Apartments sidewalk treatment (Final/Update)*
Bill Sittig, Sittig, Cortest & Wratcher LLC on behalf of Village Green

Bill Sittig of Sittig, Cortest & Wratcher presented minor modifications to a streetscape plan previously approved by the Art Commission in June 2013. The requested modification is to provide color upgrades to two sections of sidewalk abutting Morrow Park City Apartments.

Morrow Park City Apartments, developed by Village Green Holding LLC, is located at the southwest intersection of Baum Boulevard and Liberty Avenue, in Bloomfield, is designed to anchor this end of Bloomfield and become the established gateway or marker into the commercial and neighborhood districts of Bloomfield.

The color selected for the sidewalks is different than the standard sidewalk color. Sittig provided examples of the unique hue.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Final Approval		
MOVED BY	Slavick	SECONDED BY	Astorino
IN FAVOR	All		
OPPOSED	None		

CARRIED

3. Riverlife, Mon Wharf Switchback Project (Conceptual and Final)

Addy Smith-Reiman and Lisa Schroeder, Riverlife

Addy Smith-Reiman presented plans for the Mon Wharf Switchback, including material selection.

The Mon Wharf Switchback is a multi-use Pedestrian/Bike Ramp that will permit access from the Smithfield Street Bridge to the Mon Wharf Landing. Current access to the Mon Wharf is extremely limited, with one vehicle-only ramp to the parking area and several staircases (not ADA-compliant) between Stanwix and Wood Streets. Pedestrians and cyclists must detour across busy Fort Pitt Boulevard and Interstate 376 to get to Point State Park.

The structure will consist of a switchback ramp approximately 11.6 m (38.0 ft) high, 115.2 m (378.0 ft) long, and 3.7 m (12.0 ft) wide, with a 3.0 m (10.0 ft) clearance. The structure complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ramp does not exceed 7.5% on any ramp portion with a length of 30 feet. On the ramp section that are more than 30 feet, the slope is 5%. All landings are 2% for 5'. The structure will begin approximately 20.4 m (67.0 ft) to the west of the Smithfield Street Bridge, cross under the bridge's north approach span and its non-historic concrete abutment (Photographs 4 and 5), then switchback approximately 71.0 m (233.0 ft) east of the bridge the ramp before connecting to the sidewalk on the east side of the bridge. The switchback will require the removal of a small section of the bridge's non-historic railing. The switchback will be located within the Monongahela River floodplain.

The railing, panels, railing uprights and masts will be galvanized steel, which will withstand corrosion and require little maintenance over the life of the ramp. As part of the design, a railing mast has been incorporated into the overall railing system at each of the landings. This railing mast is a larger version of the railing uprights and will house the required pedestrian lighting. The light fixtures are aluminum but will be painted grey to match the galvanized steel. The grab bar (hand rail) will be stainless steel.

The ramp will be brushed concrete. There are no treads or stairs. The base of the landing will include design elements that tie in to the 2009 plan, inclusive of blue stone and brushed concrete and will include a kayak launch and an area for a kayak storage facility. Planters along the river's edge will include native species.

The Art Commission congratulated Riverlife on the long planning process for the Switchback and the designs.

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

SECONDED BY Astorino

CARRIED

4. Pittsburgh Zoo Islands Project (Conceptual)

Chuck Coltharp, Indovina Associates and Frank Cartieri, Pittsburgh Zoo

Chuck Coltharp of Indovina Associates and Frank Cartieri of the Pittsburgh Zoo presented an addition to the zoo that is composed of a new set of exhibits that contain habitats for Philippine Crocodiles, Siamangs, Visayan Warty Pigs, and Clouded Leopards. A site plan was presented which had examples of the types of buildings they were seeking to replicate from other projects.

The plans presented had design elements pulled from several cultural references. Lockett inquired if the Zoo will be referencing a specific culture. The Zoo plans to reference multiple cultures, but not include a direct reference. The cultural influences will instead just suggest a region like Asia, Africa, and the like. This was done successfully in the Zoo's polar bear exhibit and Pier Town. They studied a specific city in Alaska and took design cues from the city which then translated into an abstract point of reference.

MOTION: **Conceptual Approval**
MOVED BY Astorino
IN FAVOR All
OPPOSED None

SECONDED BY Lockett

CARRIED

D. Director and Staff Reports

No reports were presented.

Meeting Adjourned