

## ART COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting Wednesday, August 24, 2016  
Beginning at 2:08 p.m.

**PRESENT OF THE COMMISSION:** Indovina, Astorino, Heidemann, Lockett,  
Moss, Ex-Officio Gastil, Ex-Officio Gable

**PRESENT OF THE STAFF:** Susan Tymoczko  
Anne Kramer  
Anthony Cavalline  
Lisa Ray

### AGENDA ITEMS COVERED IN THESE MINUTES

ITEM	PAGE
1. Aquaponics Temporary Greenhouse Project, Penn Ave. & Stanwix St. ("Liberty Ave. Park") (Final Review)	1
2. Grant Street Crossing (Conceptual Review)	3
3. Pedestrian Wayfinding System (Conceptual Review)	4
4. Westinghouse Park Historical Marker	6
5. August Wilson Park Public Art Project (Conceptual and Final Review)	7
6. Public Plaza and Art Piece, Penn Ave. & Centre Ave. (Courtesy Review)	8

**A. Approval of Commission Minutes**

On motion by Moss and seconded by Astorino, the meeting minutes of July 27, 2016 were approved with corrections. Roll call, all ayes. Motion carried. Heidemann abstained.

**B. Correspondence**

Indovina stated that the commission is in receipt of one letter of support of the Aquaponics Project.

**C. Items for Review**

1. ***Aquaponics Temporary Greenhouse Project, Penn Ave. & Stanwix St. ("Liberty Ave. Park") (Final Review)***  
*Vinh Luong*

Brian Kurtz of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership gave a brief overview of the betaburg project. The project is fully funded and was adapted by similar projects throughout the country. This project will promote the technology in Downtown Pittsburgh.

There were four awardees and Aquaponics was one of them.

Luong presented plans for a portable temporary greenhouse facility to display an example of sustainable urban agriculture; measuring 20'x8'x20'x10 tall. It will be located in the green space to the rear (westerly side) of the Gateway Station downtown. Access is to be provided by crosswalks and it will be visible from surrounding streets and sidewalks.

Moss asked about more information on the top of the structure.

Eric Crabel the Construction Manager for the project gave more in-depth information about structure.

Moss asked if they had to have a building permit.

Luong stated no because it is a greenhouse.

Moss asked if they had a Structural Engineer.

Luong stated yes.

Luckett asked how long the structure would be in place.

Luong stated September 1 through October 31<sup>st</sup> (60 days).

Moss asked if they had electricity.

Luong stated yes, Duquesne Light will set up temporary electricity.

Astorino expressed concerns with the location but said that he was ok with it since it will only be there for 30 days. He also stated that the structure should be removed right away.

Gastil stated that the beta project and the Department of City Planning would benefit from future discussion.

**MOTION:      Final Review**

MOVED BY      Moss

SECONDED BY      Heidemann

IN FAVOR              All

OPPOSED              None

**CARRIED**

**2. Grant Street Crossing (Conceptual Review)**

*Nina Chase, Riverlife*

*Fred Bonci and Jeremy Brown, LaQuatra Bonci Associates*

Chase and Bonci gave overview of plans of the project to provide a direct connection between the end of the Great Allegheny Passage at the intersection of Grant Street and Fort Pitt Boulevard and the Mon Wharf Switchback. It is intended to provide a safe and welcoming gateway to downtown while delineating the bicycle/pedestrian route. Bonci showed existing conditions and reviewed safety issues and shared renderings of the proposed renovations.

The design was simplified to provide less clutter at the intersection. Solution #3 was chosen, the idea of painting the sidewalk was selected, which will extend down the ramp. PennDot was very concerned about the color at the intersection so it was decided to use a grey color.

Luckett asked about the colors.

Bonci stated the colors are white and laced in blue so it will stand out to reinforce the pedestrian connection.

Luckett asked if there were any other locations in mind.

Bonci stated that they are still discussing it.

Gastil stated that while looking at the sign on the left he wondered if the walkway is being narrowed.

Bonci stated that they are narrowing it to 10 feet on the right.

**MOTION: Conceptual Review**

MOVED BY Luckett

SECONDED BY Astorino

IN FAVOR All

OPPOSED None

**CARRIED**

**3. Pedestrian Wayfinding System (Conceptual Review)**

*Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association  
Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.  
Justin Miller, Department of City Planning*

Beattie gave a definition of Wayfinding and their purpose to develop a pedestrian system to be able to navigate through four of our neighborhoods. Since 2013, a committee of six organizations including the Department of City Planning. There are currently three phases in the design process; vision for each neighborhood, developing a draft of tier 1, 2 and 3 destinations, and sign location. The next step is to raise funding they are looking to raise \$350 thousand dollars and they have \$100 thousand. Some of the kiosk will require custom preparation. They hope to complete the project by late winter. After incorporating additional comments they will return with a final proposal at a later date.

Heidemann asked how will the signs be affixed to the ground.

Miller stated that they are not at that point yet.

Luckett asked what is the standard.

Miller stated 7 feet is the minimum.

Gastil asked if 7 feet would go over the street.

Beattie stated no.

Luckett asked about the number of signs.

Beattie stated about 450 signs. They are still in the design process so that number will more than likely change.

Luckett asked if the signs will give any history.

Beattie stated that, depending on the type of kiosk, it will.

Miller stated that there is a app that will do that.

Indovina stated that he would like to see the pedestrian wayfinding system combined with one for motorists.

Beattie stated it is just for pedestrians.

Beattie stated that signage clutter will be addressed.

Moss asked if additional signs will be removed.

Beattie stated she hopes they will.

Astorino wanted to know when this comes back for final review will it be only once concept.

Beattie stated yes they will be back by late winter.

Astorino prefers one choice.

Rainey stated that they will give feedback from the general public.

Indovina would like an interim presentation prior to final approval.

**MOTION: Conceptual Review with interim presentations prior to the final approval**

MOVED BY	Lockett	SECONDED BY	Astorino
IN FAVOR	All		
OPPOSED	None		

**CARRIED**

**4. Westinghouse Park Historical Marker (Conceptual and Final Review)**

*Seth Huffard, Point Breeze North Development Corporation*

*Russell Ottalini, Nominator*

*Richard Eckstrom, Nominator*

Ottalini gave presentation on their application seeking approval for the installation of a Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission historical marker commemorating George Washington's discover of natural gas well at this location; located within Westinghouse Park. Their hope is to educate the community about the park and have it installed by early November of this year.

Moss asked if they could be specific about the type of plaque.

Gable stated that it is the standard type of plaque.

**MOTION: Conceptual and Final**

MOVED BY Moss

SECONDED BY Heidemann

IN FAVOR All

OPPOSED None

Luckett ABSTAINED.

**CARRIED**

**5. August Wilson Park Public Art Project (Conceptual and Final Review)**

*Susan Rademacher, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy*

*Sallyann Kluz, Office of Public Art*

*Alisha Wormsley, Artist*

Rademacher gave background of the park which opened on August 6. It's a small park with great neighborhood aspirations. The Office of Public Art was solicited to help with an Artist Selection Process.

Kluz gave background on the artist that was selected and submitted support letters for the record. Alicia Wormsley was the selected artist. We had a earlier proposal but that artist was unable to perform the work so Alicia was next in line.

Wormsley gave a presentation about the artwork stating that she held a workshop with a Hill District Organization called ACH Clear Pathways summer program that had about 15-20 children ages 5-11 for a summer program. They did artwork that represented the past, present and future. She was able to obtain a donated telescope, a view master and binoculars to create a space for stargazing that includes sites for the binoculars and a telescope and a new fence with a windscreen mural. The equipment will be donated and the City of Pittsburgh will be responsible for the maintenance of the artwork.

Indovina, Lockett and Heidmann offered congratulations to Alicia on a great job.

Kluz spoke about the budget which is \$21,000 which includes the artist fee.

Gastil asked about the viewmaster.

Wormsley stated it will have images of the Hill District past, present, and future.

Terri Baltimore of the Hill House Association spoke in support of the project.

**MOTION: Conceptual and Final with staff level review of the construction drawings.**

MOVED BY Lockett

SECONDED BY Astorino

IN FAVOR All

OPPOSED None

**CARRIED**

**6. Public Plaza and Art Piece, Penn Ave. & Centre Ave. (Courtesy Review)**  
*Chris Minnerly, Mossites Company*

Minnerly gave a presentation of plans to erect an art piece with water element located in a new plaza space and on private property. The plaza will front Penn Ave. and be located between two residential buildings (Buildings B and C) in the Eastside development known as the Eastside Bond project. The plaza will function as a public space connecting the newly renovated East Liberty busway to the core of East Liberty.

Minnerly worked with the Kingsley Association and Port Authority for ideas for a artn piece. Last year they put out an RFP to locate an artist and also indicated that it should relate to Spirit of King Memorial proposed for a nearby site.

The vision for the piece is a large stainless steel wall. The intention is to erect a wall 26X10.9 tall and with panels the water will hit the panels and make a sound resembling Morse Code sounding out the I Have A Dream Speech. There will be a grainy image of Dr. King giving the speech on the panels.

Gastil stated that while this is not technically in the commission's purview he had recommended a courtesy review.

Luckett asked who was part of the team and how diverse were they.

Minnerly stated that this was not part of a community process and it was just their private development team.

Luckett stated that the water hitting the wall was deeply offensive: "it is a reminder of hosing which was done to people of color during the King era. Mossites should have known better."

Minnerly stated that they have not had those comments from anyone and the development team was not diverse.

Luckett stated that there is too much loaded information in that area and to have something like this erected in that space is alarming.

Astorino noted the importance of Ms. Luckett's comments and recommended that the applicant go back and rethink this concept.

Luckett emphasized that they not use the video of King's photo or use Morse Code to sound out the speech.

**Director's Report**

Susan Tymoczko reported that today is her last Art Commission meeting she is retiring on 9/2/2016.

Gastil thanked Ms. Tymoczko for her work and long service to the City. The position has been posted including the specialist position so we will have two people working for the Public Art and Civic Design Division. Anne Kramer and Tony Cavalline will fill in to collect the applications keep the process running and Anne Kramer coordinates the CDAP projects for the Zoning

Department. Anne and Tony have the commission members a brief background of there current duties and education.

**Meeting Adjourned**