

ART COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting Wednesday, April 22, 2015
Beginning at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT OF THE COMMISSION: Astorino, Indovina, Gray, Heidemann,
Moss, Slavick

PRESENT OF THE STAFF: Ray Gastil
Morton Brown
Ben Carlise

AGENDA ITEMS COVERED IN THESE MINUTES

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A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

There was not a quorum to approve the minutes, since Lockett was not in attendance.

B. Correspondence

Two letters of support were presented for the Veterans plaque, one from the landlord of the City County building (Paul Leger) and one from Mayor Peduto.

C. Items for Review

1. ***Shiloh Street Signage (Final Approval)***

Ilyssa Manspeizer, Mount Washington Community Development Corporation; Sarah Thomas, Pajeck Associates

Thomas presented the design concept that was presented during the Art Commission meeting in February 2015. Questions were asked about the existing structure. The new structure will be painted along with the existing structure, and both powder coated, although the applicant stated that the existing structure might not be painted, if and when the budget wanes. Mr. Moss stated that he would ask that it be required for both to be painted as proposed, and as a condition of approval.

It was asked whether the Shiloh Street Shops lettering would be seen from both sides. It will only be seen from one side, and there will be perforated metal covering the back

Moss moved for approval with conditions that the existing structure is repainted along with the addition.

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

CARRIED

2. Middle East Veterans Plaque (Conceptual and Final)
Jim Ferlo, convener for 2015 Memorial Honor Role Committee

Ferlo presented the design of a bronze plaque to be placed in the City County building that would honor the fallen soldiers of the Middle East wars that have been happening for the past decade plus. The materials will be consistent with the other bronze plaques that are currently in the lobby. There is another soldiers' memorial in the lobby hallway. The committee will raise money for a maintenance fund for the memorial.

The plaque will include the names of soldiers from the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County who have been killed in service during the wars in Iraq and Afganistan. There will be no political statement on the bronze plaque, but rather an appreciation statement.

Heidemann asked about what the plan is for adding additional names, if more soldiers are lost in the war. Ferlo answered that there would be sister plaques that could be altered and added. The names of the soldiers are removable and can be added over time. The idea would be to have sister plates and the committee would raise money to have that happen.

The names are still being fine tuned, the committee is working with the Federal Government for accurate information. They will be continuing to work this out over the next few weeks.

Slavick asked if the other plaques recognize the broader group of soldiers, to honor all who served, not just the soldiers who died. Ferlo answered that there are other soldier and veteran organizations that could take care of that request, that it is not the goal of this project. Slavick suggested that the text could just be a line that honors those who served and those who were injured. Slavick said that we should think more broadly about how we memorialize wars. Ferlo thinks there will be other opportunities to do that in the future.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Conceptual and Final Approval		
MOVED BY	Astorino	SECONDED BY	Hiedemann
IN FAVOR	All		
OPPOSED			

CARRIED

3. Tree Bench (Conceptual and Final Approval)

Nikita Beniaminov, designer

Beniaminov presented his designs for the tree bench, which would be by the Blue Slide Park in Frick Park. The artist and his co-designer will remove the fallen tree in the area and use those materials to create a bench. He has preliminary designs, but the ultimate design will depend on what is salvaged. The question was presented about how long the bench will last? Will it continue to rot? Beniaminov responded that they will remove the rot and work to waterproof and cover the tree.

Slavick asked about the liability of the project? Brown noted that the project team would need an insurance certificate. Gable is in favor of the bench, as Public Works leaves natural materials in the park and allow the public to use it.

The Commission advised that if the design changes and becomes something more than a bench, the project team will have to come back for approval. Final approval was granted with the condition that the project team returns if making major design changes.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Conceptual and Final Approval with considerations		
MOVED BY	Slavick	SECONDED BY	Astorino
IN FAVOR	All		
OPPOSED			

CARRIED

4. MLK Community Garden (Conceptual and Final Approval)

Marisa Manheim, Grow Pittsburgh

Manheim presented the plans for the Community Garden in MLK field. The field, which was a sports field at one time, has been disused for many years. Grow Pittsburgh’s planning process started with OpenSpace planning with the City of Pittsburgh’s Department of City Planning. They initiated discussions with urban farming organizations and proposed that the field could be a food growing space.

Hill House Association has stepped forward to be the partner organization, the fiscal sponsor and the insurance provider for the gardening activities. The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and the Department of Public Works have been supportive of the project through the planning process. The City of Pittsburgh put up fencing to prevent deer from entering. The field has been tilled and boxes and picnic tables have begun to be fabricated. The design preserves the idea of the baseball field itself, preserving the history of the space. With Commission approval, the beds will be placed in the coming weeks.

Signage designs were presented. There are two signs: one at the entrance and one on the fence. A storage shed, which is the same as the shed on the Bandisham field in the Southsie. The beds will be free to use for the first year, and after the first year, there will be a fee associated with usage. The question was asked about the Kids Play area. What is it? Manheim answered that the area will use things that kids like, it is to be determined what it will be. It is really important for the parents involved that there is a place contained within the fence for their children to play. The ball field farm in the Northside has very similar area, very lowfi, like a tee pee and caterpillar tubes.

6. GTECH Allegheny Mountains Lot (Conceptual and Final Approval)
Lydia Yoder, GTECH; Matthew Yurkovich, ReClaim Northside Ambassador

Yoder presented the concept of the Allegheny Mountains Lot. The lot will primarily be a garden and is focusing on native plants and perennial plants. It is meant to be a space where people can come and learn about the plants and also a seed bank for people to come and get seeds. The lot will also be a habitat for Monarch butterflies. There will be a small path through the lot and a bird feeder and an insect box will be present on the site.

Heidemann asked if there are plans to repaint the crosswalk to enhance the safety of the area. Yoder did not know.

MOTION: Conceptual and Final Approval
MOVED BY Moss SECONDED BY Slavick
IN FAVOR All
OPPOSED

CARRIED

7. GTECH Biggs Hillside Garden (Conceptual and Final Approval)
Nicole Flaherty, ReClaim Northside Ambassador

Flaherty presented the Biggs Hillside Garden. Through engaging with the community, she discovered that the community wanted a place to gather and stairs are a big part of the neighborhood. The concept of the garden is mostly perennials, maintenance to the existing trees, a crushed limestone path, and a small fence. The site gets both shade and sun, and the soil has been tested and is good for growing. The community wants a free library, so they will be putting a small free library. The pebbles on the path will be treated with glow in the dark paint. The benches will be made with wood on cinder blocks.

Slavick asked if the paint was actually strong enough to illuminate the pathway and when the paint wears off will it run into the groundwater and be toxic. Flaherty answered that it is not toxic and neighbors are very excited about it.

MOTION: Conceptual and Final Approval
MOVED BY Heidemann SECONDED BY Slavick
IN FAVOR All
OPPOSED

CARRIED

8. Riverlife Fort Duquesne Bridge (Courtesy Review)
Addy Smith-Reiman, Riverlife

Riverlife will be creating an temporary exhibition structure underneath the Fort Duquesne Bridge. The structure is currently aluminum, created by ClearStory, but may be completed in steel. The exhibition panels will be vinyl and graffiti proofed. The intent is to have the exhibit

go up the weekend of the Three Rivers Arts Festival and then be up through the summer. The exhibit will feature design plans by the AIA Youth Architects. The title of the project is called "To Be Determined."

This is an experiment, knowing there are risks like vandalism and theft. Riverlife met with the Office of Public Art and using the Pittsburgh Artist Registry invited three artists to design a temporary mural with stencils that volunteers can paint. The mural will be up for one year and then it will revolve after the first year. Riverlife is going to develop a 3 to 5 year plan with PennDOT. The artists will be responsible for a one year maintenance. Riverlife will cover the insurance.

There is no sun exposure. Brown noted that groups have come to him about using that space for a mural, but he pushed back, as it is prime real estate. The idea of a temporary mural is a better idea. Smith-Reiman said it is the pilot year, so it can change and be more bold in the future. Lighting is also a big determination. The Commission collectively congratulated the applicant on a very positive project and process, and stated that they were excited to see the product.

<u>MOTION:</u>	NONE/Courtesy		
MOVED BY	Heidemann	SECONDED BY	Slavick
IN FAVOR	All		
OPPOSED			

CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned