In Attendance
Moss
Goulatia
Leach
Loftness
Parsakian
Quintanilla
Young
Lucas (DOMI)

Staff Present
Dash
Minnaert
Cavalline

Agenda Items Covered in These Minutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Art in Parks: The Urban Conga in Highland Park</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Medic 4 Station Public Art Project</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Lower Hill PDD Streetscape and Public Space Improvements</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Strawberry Way Mural</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Three Sisters Bridges Interpretive Signage</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Approval of Minutes

Moss asks Commissioners to review and comment on minutes from January 2022. Loftness motions to approve the minutes, seconded by Young. All ayes. Motion carries.

B. Items for Review

1. Art in Parks: The Urban Conga in Highland Park – Public Art & Civic Design Division Final Review

Ryan Swanson of the Urban Conga presents the proposal for the installation of a sculptural artwork in Highland Park as part of the City’s Art in Parks program.

Parsakian says he is concerned for child safety and the distance between the pipes. Swanson says that they use the code standard of 4” between elements. Parsakian says the seating seems limited and asks about its usability as a table based on the surface texture and the pipes coming down underneath.
Swanson gives the dimensions to explain the usability and says there is about 19 ft of seating and 18 ft of tabletop components. He says that they are trying to limit the effects of the perforation on the use of the tabletop. Parsakian asks about children running and jumping on it and whether this was a community concern. Swanson says it was not a concern, and the perforation and powder coating will provide more grip for safety in case it is climbed on.

Goulatia asks what made them choose the color yellow and if the edges are sharp and could cause an injury. Swanson says the edges will be rounded and the powder coating softens the sharpness as well. He explains their reasoning behind the color choice including Pittsburgh references, an adaptive quality throughout the seasons, and its representation of positive emotions.

Loftness asks if undulating the horizontal forms was considered to allow more space to sit. He says that they explored various options of form. He explains the reasoning behind the final choice and that it allows for more open-ended use. Goulatia says the undulating is nice but she wishes there was more variation in height. Swanson says that was part on an initial design but they chose to keep it at one height based on community feedback. Moss clarifies that the comment was in reference to the horizontal areas being perfectly flat instead of having a curvature to them. Swanson says that they were concentrating on finding the right bridge between horizontal and vertical lines.

Quintanilla says that he is concerned that litter could be captured within the pockets made by the vertical bars. Swanson says this is what led them away from using a mesh. He says that they played with a lot of different ideas, including leaving more space open beneath, and they felt this design allowed for issues like litter to be managed while maintaining the flow of the design.

Goulatia says it looks like a musical instrument and asks if they considered adding elements that could be played with or were less static. Swanson says they did but they focused on creating a space for open-ended activity and play, and that this was in line with community feedback which pointed to a desire for spaces for socialization and connectivity.

Moss notes that the Highland Park Community Council provided a letter that expressed support but with the concern that maintenance issues should be addressed.

Leach says that in this case the community feedback has reduced the playful elements that she saw in their other works. Swanson discusses the open-ended activity that they saw as providing the playfulness in this piece. Parsakian says he sees it as a climbing structure and so sees it as playful and not static.

**MOTION: Final Approval**

MOVED BY: Loftness  
SECONDED BY: Parsakian  
IN FAVOR: Moss, Goulatia, Quintanilla, Young  
OPPOSED: Leach

2. Medic 4 Station – Department of Public Works  
   **Final Review** &  
3. Medic 4 Station Public Art Project – Department of Public Works  
   **Conceptual Review**

Claire Mastroberardino of DPW presents the final design for a new station to support the City’s EMS program, as well as the proposal for the location of the Percent For Art project associated with this new building construction.

Moss clarifies that no specific artwork is being proposed, just the location of the artwork. Mastroberardino says yes. Moss asks about the artist selection process. Mastroberardino says that it will be the same as for other City public art projects, and that it has not begun yet because they do not have a final budget. She says the community will be involved.
Goulatia urges them to think about something like a light installation, rather than a flat mural. Mastroberardino says they have to be careful how much they light the buildings with the City’s Dark Sky ordinance, but they can look into the possibilities.

Loftness says the building design is very elegant, and says it is great that it uses passive house strategies and has a lot of window areas. She says that the artwork is critical for the aesthetics of the building and the white wall shown in the presentation shouldn’t be what is implemented if the artwork is delayed. Mastroberardino says that the white in the rendering is simply an indicator of where the artwork is intended to be, there will not be any actual white space.

Quintanilla says he is concerned about the rock stone. Mastroberardino says that Zoning asked them to include some type of landscaping, and they are unclear what that will be, because public safety buildings must maintain their own landscaping. Quintanilla says they should not put landscaping there, and suggests paving it and adding a bench.

Young asks Mastroberardino to explain more about the community engagement for the art project. Mastroberardino says that she has not gone through this process before but will be working with the Public Art & Civic Design Division and the selected artist will work with the community. Young asks who in the community they will be working with. Mastroberardino says she has been working with the Perry Hilltop and Fineview RCOs, and community members have reached out through those organizations. Young says that as a community artist she appreciates that connections will exist for the selected artist to utilize and encourages Mastroberardino to continue thinking about how different community voices can be involved.

Moss compliments the building design and says it will be a great addition to this corner. He encourages Mastroberardino to explore all possibilities in regards to the medium of the art.

MOTION: Final Approval – Medic 4 Station (Building)

MOVED BY: Parsakian
SECONDED BY: Leach
IN FAVOR: All
OPPOSED: None

MOTION: Conceptual Approval – Medic 4 Station Public Art Project

MOVED BY: Parsakian
SECONDED BY: Goulatia
IN FAVOR: All
OPPOSED: None


Chris Kingsland of Gordon US, LLC, representing GSA, presents the proposal for security improvements in the right-of-way in compliance with regulations for federal buildings.

Moss asks if the Liberty Avenue bollards are being proposed with the white bands as shown. Kingsland says yes. Moss asks if they are reflective. Kingsland says yes. Moss asks if these are necessary. Kingsland says no.

Loftness says that safety barriers send a ‘keep out’ message, so it is better if they can be incorporated into the vocabulary of the urban landscape. She notes that the Grant St bollards do not have a white stripe and are more crafted, so maybe this style should be continued all around the building. She says she would like to see something more integrated. Kingsland says the stripes can be removed.
Charles Enos, of Onyx Group, agrees. Gabrielle Trout, of GSA, says that they are flexible on the bollards from a stylistic perspective, so they can remove the white stripe.

Quintanilla clarifies whether they are suggesting one style of bollard around the whole building. Trout says the newer-style bollards are taller, but they are trying to match the color. She notes that the post and beam will be different as well. Kingsland says the custom post and crash beam barrier and the swing gate will have the straight extruded tube-type bollards. The single standalone bollards are proposed to have architectural shrouds on top of them, which he says they can also do with the rest of the bollards.

Goulatia asks if the bollards will be different heights. Kingsland says yes, because the bollards on Grant St were installed according to a previous standard of 32”. The increased current standard is 48” which does not allow a vehicle at impact speed to get over the barrier. Goulatia asks if they would replace the existing bollards. Kingsland says no. Goulatia asks if that is a possibility, as the height differences will be visually cluttered.

Loftness asks if 48” is a federal standard, as that is huge. Trout says the rating of the building classification mandates the crash rating of the bollards, which is why they are proposing the 48” bollards. Loftness says she spends a lot of time around federal buildings in Washington DC and she does not know of any that have 48” bollards at that density. Loftness says that the height and diameter of the bollards should be scaled back as far as they legally can while maintaining the security of the facility. Enos says that this federal standard is newer and so is greater than what is seen in a lot of buildings. He says that he agrees the visual impact should be minimized as much as possible, and that they can check the numbers again, but he is pretty sure this is what is required for this facility.

Quintanilla says he is concerned at the size and density of the bollards, and that they will not match the existing ones. He says that he is also concerned about the post and beam, as it will basically go over the sidewalk. Kingsland says the intent is to funnel people along the brick paver sidewalk closer to the road. Quintanilla says that people will take the shortest route so the swing gate will go over where they are walking. Moss says there is other sidewalk area and they would have to go around the swing gate. Loftness asks if the alternative would be a bollard that drops into the ground for occasional vehicle access. Kingsland says the strength of these bollards comes from the shallow foundation, and they cannot do one that would retract into the ground due to the existing utilities, or a removable bollard due to the amount of protection necessary by the federal standards.

Goulatia asks if the gate is black or white. Kingsland says black.

Goulatia asks if the bollards are equidistant. Kingsland says they are, unless they have to span site obstructions such as the fire hydrant. Moss asks what the dimensions of the bollards are. Kingsland says 4 ft high and 10 inches wide. He says they will be slightly wider if they add a shroud.

Loftness says she is reading the standards and it says they can be five feet apart, depending on the building height, and she says they could be thinner. She says that she didn’t realize that a shroud would be put on top of the cylinder. She asks if the shrouded ones will be thicker than the Grant St bollards. Kingsland says yes, if the shroud is needed to match them aesthetically.

Loftness says the standards allow for a number of variations. Trout clarifies that there is not one universal federal safety standard, rather it is calculated based on the building classification, the kinds of tenants in the building, the site conditions, and the topography. She says that GSA had hired Onyx to do a study to determine what bollard rating was required. She says that the study also addresses the speed and size of vehicles able to approach the building, and since there is a large amount of space at Grant and Liberty, this increases the force that the bollards must withstand. Based on the results of this study, they are required to use a bollard with a K12 rating, and she does not know if there is a smaller bollard that can meet this rating. Kingsland further explains that the rating system mandates that these bollards must withstand a 15,000 lb vehicle at 50 mph, which must stop within ten feet of interacting with the barrier. Whatever vendor they find to provide this must be certified, and the bollards must be able to have a shallow foundation.

Goulatia asks why the ones on Grant St wouldn’t change if that’s the requirement for the building. Kingsland says they were installed earlier and do not meet the current standards, but they provide more
protection than the current Liberty Ave bollards. He says the government is limited in how much they can do at this time based on budget.

Parsakian asks if the planters will remain. Kingsland say they will be removed.

Leach asks why there is so much space in front of the building. Kingsland says so that the anti-ram perimeter can be placed as far from the building as possible.

Loftness says that she acknowledges everything that has to be considered, but says she believes there are other, less bulky bollards that would meet this standard. Moss says the height is the main concern. Quintanilla says he doesn’t understand why the swing gate needs to go over the sidewalk. Kingsland asks if there is a preferred alternative for the swing gate access. Enos asks if the gate can be moved further to the left. Kingsland says yes.

Goulatia says that it may be better to do bollards on Liberty that look completely different than the Grant St ones, rather than trying to match them but not matching them identically.

Loftness says they should double check other federal facilities to make sure they are using the smallest bollard possible so as not to clutter the streets. Trout says she has concerns about trying to match another facility. She says that the information that can be found through an internet search can be misleading, as the sizing of the bollards is site specific to each building, and include soil conditions, which are very poor at this building. She says the same building with the same traffic pattern may have a different required bollard rating due to the soil quality. She says they have looked at many alternatives to meet this requirement.

Goulatia asks if the color has to be black. Trout says the shroud can be flexible in its aesthetic.

Moss summarizes that they have concerns about the scale, and that the Commission is asking whether this is the absolute minimum size that can meet the requirements. Loftness says she would like to see the report that says the 4 ft bollard is required.

Quintanilla says the swing gate is a concern for him.

Goulatia says that they should remove the old planters and bollards in their renderings.

Moss summarizes that the Commission would like to know more about the report that has been discussed, the relocation of the swing gate, and would like to see modifications to the renderings.

**MOTION: Table**

MOVED BY: Quintanilla
SECONDED BY: Goulatia
IN FAVOR: All
OPPOSED: None

5. **Lower Hill PDD Streetscape and Public Space Improvements Conceptual/Final Review**

Cavalline gives a brief explanation of this project, which is for the design of a public plaza and right-of-way extension to be gifted to the City, along with streetscape standards for the greater area of development.

Craig Dunham of Dunham Regroup, Boris Kaplan of Buccini/Pollin Group, and Carolyn Sponza of Gensler Architects give the presentation.

Moss asks for clarification on the sizing of the areas, which Sponza gives.
Loftness says she appreciates the commitment to the streetscape standards, especially the increase of absorbent green spaces and tree canopy. Dunham gives more details on the stormwater strategies. Loftness says that it seems the green space could be expanded.

Moss asks if there are light fixtures in this zone. Sponza says there are two poles and small landscape lighting mounted in the planters.

Quintanilla asks if there are any seating areas. Sponza describes an accessible bench in the plaza. Quintanilla says it would be nice to have more benches. Sponza says there are other integrated benches within close proximity.

Loftness asks if there are steps leading up to the ramp. Sponza says yes, it is a low-grade ramp that does not require handrails and the steps act as a transition. Loftness says it may be better to have the ramp surrounded by landscaping rather than more concrete.

Parsakian asks if the plaza is meant to be the main entrance to the building. Sponza says yes, this is the main street-facing building entry.

Parsakian says more green space would be more welcoming. Moss points out the aerial rendering which has more landscape possibility than the site plan seems to. Quintanilla says the ramp shown would be great for kids, and adding more landscaping may provide unsafe areas.

Moss says it looks like a great addition overall and he would be fine with the project as-is or with more landscaping.

**MOTION: Conceptual/Final Approval, with the recommendation that the applicant give consideration to more landscaping**

MOVED BY: Parsakian
SECONDED BY: Young
IN FAVOR: All
OPPOSED: None

6. **Strawberry Way Mural – Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership Conceptual Review**

Morton Brown, consultant for PDP, presents the proposal for the limited-term installation of a hardscape mural.

Moss says this has been a great City project in the past. He asks why the mural won’t be taken the whole way down to Liberty Ave. Morton says there were a lot of delivery trucks in that stretch of street and it was very difficult to keep the mural clean. He says that they have utilized the budget funds left from shortening the mural space in order to add the residency program.

Parsakian asks if the donated paint will be limited in color. Morton says they are not sure whether the paint will be donated or purchased, but the color choice will not be limited. Parsakian says that he understands the removal of the Smithfield to Liberty section, as it has less life and pedestrian usage than the other areas.

Goulatia asks if there is a way to extend the mural into the intersections. Morton says they can revisit that, but that in the past it was too difficult to maintain due to the car traffic. Goulatia asks if the nearby wall mural is part of this project. Morton says that it is not part of the project.

Young says there may be a way to use traffic paint to create something in the intersections. Morton says he will revisit that point with PDP. Goulatia asks if color can be added to the traffic paint. Young says it comes in several colors.

**MOTION: Conceptual Approval**
MOVED BY: Loftness
SECONDED BY: Young
RECUSED: Quintanilla
IN FAVOR: Moss, Goulatia, Leach, Parsakian
OPPOSED: None

7. Three Sisters Bridges Interpretive Signage – Allegheny County Bridge Operations and Technical Services
   Conceptual Review

   Jesse Belfast of Michael Baker International presents this proposal for the location, size, and mounting of three informational signs to be placed along the railing near the Seventh Street Bridge.

   Parsakian asks if there will be QR codes or Braille. Belfast says they do not plan to use QR codes as PennDOT has had problems with vandalism and people linking in and redirecting the user to different sites. He says the life of the sign is probably 10-15 years and there is also concern about maintaining the web links for that long. He says they have not discussed Braille but will talk about that with the consulting parties.

   Parsakian asks about ADA accessibility. Belfast says they are within the upper limit of the ADA guidelines for readability. He says that when they have their public outreach meeting they will ask whether anyone has had any issues with the existing sign.

   Loftness says the signage is informative and subtle. Belfast says they will return for approval of the final designs, and they are still working through what information themes will be incorporated.

   MOTION: Conceptual Approval

   MOVED BY: Loftness
   SECONDED BY: Leach
   RECUSED: Quintanilla
   IN FAVOR: Moss, Goulatia, Parsakian, Young

C. Correspondence

   Minnaert says there was one item received that did not relate to today’s agenda, which was forwarded to the Commission.

D. Public Comment

   None.

E. Director & Staff Report

   Young announces that she will be stepping down from the Commission at the end of March, due to no longer residing in Pittsburgh.

   Minnaert says they have three Percent For Art projects that are currently in the artist selection phase.

   Minnaert says that the Reconceptualization project for the Cantini Mosaic is expected to come before the Commission in the next few months.
Minnaert says that there will potentially be quite a few Art in Parks projects coming to Art Commission for review in the next few months.

Minnaert notes that they processed one Over-The-Counter review in the past month.

Dash thanks Young for her service and says that they do not yet have any updates on new Commissioner appointments but expects that information soon.

F. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 P.M.