

Allegheny County Council

*436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490
Fax (412) 350-6499*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 5, 2018

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Public Works

Bob Macey, Chair; Sam DeMarco, Cindy Kirk, Paul Klein, Robert Palmosina, Denise Ranalli-Russell and DeWitt Walton, Members

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:07.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager or designee(s)
Stephen Shanley, Director, Allegheny County Department of Public Works

Ms. Liptak was present from the Office of the Chief Executive.

Mr. Shanley was present from the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Kaulen was present.

Mr. Barker was present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 1 - Bob Macey

Members Absent: 4 - Paul Klein, Robert Palmosina, Denise Ranalli-Russell and DeWitt Walton

Members Phone: 2 - Sam DeMarco and Cindy Kirk

Members 1 - Nick Futules

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[10699-18](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2018 meeting of the Committee on Public Works.

A motion was made by Macey, seconded by Kirk, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[10698-18](#)

An Ordinance authorizing Tim Kaulen, artist, to replace an existing public art display located on the north face of the south tower of the South Tenth Street (Philip Murray) Bridge after the bridge repainting by the County's contractor is completed.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Kaulen briefly discussed his background. Ms. Liptak thanked the Committee for meeting to discuss the bill and noted that the 10th Street Bridge rehabilitation project is ongoing, but that the administration had been made aware of the painting in question through a petition that had been forwarded to the County. Ms. Liptak indicated that Council's permission would be required to authorize the artist's access to the bridge for the purpose of replacing the painting once the bridge is sandblasted and repainted.

Mr. Shanley discussed the rehabilitation process, noting that the bridge towers need to

be sandblasted to fully remove existing paint and any rust or corrosion to the extent possible.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Kaulen discussed the basis for his desire to replace the painting, expressed a desire to respect the rehabilitation process, public safety considerations, and the like, and suggested that the painting had become something of a cultural asset as the region's arts community becomes more vibrant. Mr. Kaulen noted that he would be volunteering his time for the replacement of the painting.

In response to questions from the Chair, Mr. Kaulen noted that he had talked with the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council and other entities, and indicated that he believes that preservation of the painting indicates a commitment to the concept of art arising from unexpected and perhaps unconventional sources. Mr. Kaulen expressed a desire to replace the painting essentially as it is today, albeit with a more professional approach that is intended to be permanent.

The Chair noted that he had some concerns regarding Mr. Kaulen's safety, and Mr. Shanley and Ms. Liptak noted that the County would have to be indemnified from liability, that Mr. Kaulen would have to carry adequate insurance, and that permission would have to be obtained from other entities such as PennDOT.

In response to a question from Ms. Kirk, Mr. Kaulen noted that there are currently 900 signatures on the petition that he submitted to the County, which he believes is indicative of wide acceptance of the painting.

In response to a question from Ms. Kirk, Mr. Shanley indicated that he is uncertain when the painting would be restored, and Ms. Liptak noted that the desire is to incorporate the restoration into the existing project while the scaffolding is up, and that there should be no additional time during which traffic is restricted on the bridge.

In response to questions from Mr. DeMarco, Mr. Kaulen noted that the painting had been present on the bridge for approximately 23 years, and that the original artwork was not authorized by the County. Mr. Kaulen indicated that the painting in his view is representative of the City's period of renewal.

Mr. DeMarco expressed gratitude for Mr. Kaulen's willingness to restore the painting in the fashion contemplated, but suggested that there may be merit in replacing artwork from time to time in order to give opportunities to other artists, and expressed some degree of wariness in relation to retroactively authorizing a painting that was not authorized when it was created. Mr. Kaulen noted that he is not aware of any negative feelings regarding the contemplated restoration.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. Shanley noted that the bridge rehabilitation project will cost approximately \$25 million when all is said and done, and that Mr. Kaulen would be using the existing scaffolding if an agreement can be reached between Mr. Kaulen, the County, and the contractor undertaking the bridge rehabilitation.

Ms. Means expressed reservations about encouraging other artists who might be encouraged to create other unauthorized paintings on County property. Ms. Liptak noted that the point of the legislation is to remove the painting from the domain of unauthorized painting.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Kaulen indicated that he would be raising the funding necessary for the restoration, and noted that he is entirely willing to indemnify the County should he be injured.

A motion was made by DeMarco , seconded by Kirk, that this matter be Returned Without Recommendation. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:33.