



CITY OF PITTSBURGH  
**Planning Commission**

*Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2025*

**In Attendance**

Chair Lashawn Burton-Faulk  
Vice-Chair Rachel O'Neill  
Secretary Holly Dick

Commissioner Peter Quintanilla  
Commissioner Phillip Wu

**Not Present** Commissioner Monica Ruiz  
Commissioner Dina Blackwell

Commissioner Mel Ngami  
Commissioner Steve Mazza

**City Staff Present**

Corey Layman, Zoning Administrator  
Andrew Dash  
Paul Cancilla  
Megan McElhaney

Kate Rakus, Principal Planner  
Katherine Reed  
Maryam Moradian-Mosleh  
Tiffany Krajewski  
Joseph Fraker

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Chair Lashawn Burton-Faulk

**A. Approval of Planning Commission meeting minutes**

Date: March 11, 2025

Motion: Approve

Moved by: Ms Quintanilla

Seconded by: Ms Dick

In favor: Ms Burton Faulk, Ms Dick, Ms O'Neill, Mr Quintanilla, Mr Wu

Abstained: None

Opposed: None

Recused: None

CARRIED

**B. Correspondence**

**DCP-HN-2024-00641 (Donny's Place Historic Nomination) – 1226 Herron Avenue**

- David Vatz, Pro-Housing Pittsburgh
- Melissa McSwigan, Preservation Pittsburgh

**C. Plan of Lots**

None

**D. Hearing and Action**

**1. DCP-ZDR-2024-01984 - 4527 Winthrop St, Construction of a new single-story restaurant service building, North Oakland Neighborhood**

Staff: Mr Cancilla

Applicant: Ryan Indovina, Principal, Indovina Associates Architects – presentation

Public Comment: None

Commissioners Comments: None

Motion: Approval

Moved by: Mr Wu

Seconded by: Ms Ruiz

In favor: Ms Burton Faulk, Ms Dick, Ms O'Neill, Mr Quintanilla, Ms Ruiz, Mr Wu

Abstained: None

Opposed: None

Recused: None

CARRIED

**2. BDA-2025-01589** - 116 15th St., Install two business identification high wall signs, *Strip District Neighborhood*

Staff: Ms Tandon

Applicant: Bill Kolano, Kolano Design – presentation

Public Comment: None

Commissioners Comments: None

Motion: Approval

Moved by: Mr Quintanilla

Seconded by: Ms O'Neill

In favor: Ms Burton Faulk, Ms Dick, Ms O'Neill, Mr Quintanilla, Ms Ruiz, Mr Wu

Abstained: None

Opposed: None

Recused: None

CARRIED

**3. DCP-HN-2024-00641** - 1226 Herron Ave., Nomination of Donny's Place for historic designation, *Polish Hill Neighborhood*

Staff: Ms Quinn

Applicant: Elizabeth Anderson, Dade Lemanski, and Matt Cotter – presentation. John Kamin, on behalf of the estate of Donny Thinnies – presentation.

Questioned by Mr Kamin: Tom Yargo, Exec Dir of Estate of Donald Thinnies – opposed. Chuck Honse, co-owner of Holiday Bar – nothing occurred at Donny's that also occurred at other bars, gay or straight. Bill Hileman, patron of Donny's Place and creator of Planet Q newspaper – all the bars participated in testing, and connecting to research. The history is in the people that passed through the bar. Marty Healey – Donny wished to develop the property for his heirs. Better ways to commemorate the history. Jerry Morosco, preservation architect – using historic review to

Ms O'Neill – comments about the commission's role in the nomination. None of the options in front of Planning Commission does not prevent the nomination from moving to City Council. The commission has a very limited role, Section 1101.03G.

Public Comment: Nick Rizzio, resident – urged a negative recommendation. Jack Billings, resident – opposed, urged a negative recommendation. Dan Yablansky, Pittsburghers for Public Transit – opposed. Penny Cuda, resident – in support. James Murray, Chief of Staff, Cn Deborah Gross – in support. Melissa McSwigan, Preservation Pittsburgh – in support. Etta Cetera, resident – in support. Catherine Anderson, resident – in support. Jacob Klinger, resident – in support.

Commissioners Comments: Ms Burton-Faulk – questions about the fire, property under agreement, and comments not to make a recommendation. Mr Wu – comments on conditions, building is not wanted by the owners, suggestion for an interpretive landmark, sign, or other designation instead. Ms O'Neill – the history of this site deserves something meaningful on the site, as Mr Wu mentioned.

Motion: Negative recommendation to council, or recommendation against historic designation.

Moved by: Ms Burton-Faulk

Seconded by: Mr Wu

Vice Chair O'Neill took a roll call vote.

In favor: Ms Burton Faulk, Ms Dick, Ms O'Neill, Mr Quintanilla, Ms Ruiz, Mr Wu

Abstained: None

Opposed: None

Recused: None

CARRIED

**E. Director's Report**

None.

**F. Adjournment**

The Planning Commission meeting was adjourned at 4:11 PM.

**Disclaimer**

The official records of the Planning Commission's meetings are the Minutes of the Meetings approved by the Commission's Secretary, Jean Holland Dick. The Minutes are the ONLY official record. Any other notes, recordings, etc. are not official records of the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission cannot verify the accuracy or authenticity of notes, recordings, etc. that are not part of the official minutes.