

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Building and Planning Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Friends of Schaufefe Plaza Tactical Improvements Request

Prepared By: Christopher Leswing, Director, Department of Building & Planning

Date: September 5, 2025

I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:

Approve a request from Friends of Schaufefe Plaza for public space enhancements to Schaufefe Plaza including additional bistro seating, planters and public art with future maintenance of the improvements to be the responsibility of the Friends of Schaufefe Plaza.

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:

The Board must approve physical improvements on Township property.

III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):

The FOSP are an established Lower Merion Township parks Friends group. The Township customarily works with parks Friends groups to provide supplemental amenities, programming and maintenance of public spaces throughout the Township.

IV. Other Relevant Background Information:

The Friends of Schaufefe Plaza (FOSP) are requesting that the Board of Commissioners approve public space enhancements to Schaufefe Plaza, including additional bistro seating, planters and public art. Staff notes the improvements are proposed for the existing boundaries of Schaufefe Plaza which encompasses the small area between Lancaster Avenue and the Schaufefe Plaza parking lot between Bella Italia Pizza and the Main Line Coin & Stamp shop.

The attached proposal by FOSP summarizes and illustrates the purpose, extent and location of the proposed improvements. FOSP is coordinating with the Ardmore Initiative on the improvements. Staff has reviewed the proposal and has no issue with the design or program. If this proposal is authorized, staff will provide technical notes to assist with relocation of existing benches and amenities.

V. Impact On Township Finances:

FOSP and the Ardmore Initiative are covering all costs relating to materials, installation and maintenance. There is no impact on township finances.

VI.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board approve the request to allow the public space improvements with the condition that they are maintained by FOSP and Ardmore Initiative.