

From: [Jennie Dotts](#)
To: bgreen@comarchs.com; [Onufer, Kathleen M. - PDR](#); [Markham, Lory P. - PDR](#); [Parker, Elyn - PDR](#); sarahdriggs@gmail.com; [Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR](#); pearsalllaw@comcast.net; [Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member](#); rpooledop@aol.com; leah.small@styleweekly.com; eddieslipek@gmail.com; noliver@timesdispatch.com; jeremy@richmondfreepress.com
Subject: UDC meeting
Date: Saturday, April 09, 2016 9:34:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kathleen,

It stuck many of us as disingenuous for HRF's comment letter to be characterized as a "Letter of Support" for the Maggie Walker Plaza proposal. Please see the HRF Director's note below and ensure that it is shared with the Planning Commission, the UDC, PAC, the Mayor, and City Council. As most of those who spoke in opposition to the proposal were cut off before they could finish their statement and extra time allotted to those with a favorable opinion, it is crucial that the Planning Commission understand the extent of opposition to the current statue/ plaza design.

Thank you,
Jennie Dotts

From: Cyane Crump [mailto:ccrump@HistoricRichmond.com]
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2016 12:03 PM
To: Jennie Dotts <jennie@oldhouseauthority.com>; Danielle Worthing <DWorthing@HistoricRichmond.com>; Andrew Clark <andrew.clark@leclairryan.com>
Subject: RE: UDC meeting today

Jennie –

Thank you for your email and for your passionate advocacy for the community issues you care about. I admit to being taken aback by the characterization of the HRF letter as a "Letter of Support". I would more appropriately characterize it simply as a "Comment Letter". The City seems to have divided up a number of "Comment Letters" along the lines of "Support" and "Against" with no rhyme or reason and I will note that there are alternate plans for the same plaza in both categories.

I believe the letter stands for itself and have no modifications to it. The letter was intended to (1) advocate for CAR's authority to review the plans for the memorial and (2) provide comments to the proposed design for the plaza to ensure that the design better reflects the historic street grid and the portion of Brook Road to be closed.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Hope you have a good weekend – can't believe it might snow!

Cyane



Cyane Crump
Executive Director

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From: [Jennie Dotts](#)
To: [Markham, Lory P. - PDR](#); [Parker, Elynn - PDR](#); [Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member](#); [Jones, Dwight C. - Mayor](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member](#); [Onufer, Kathleen M. - PDR](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member](#); [Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member](#)
Cc: [eddieslipek@gmail.com](#); [noliver@timesdispatch.com](#); [leah.small@styleweekly.com](#); [jeremy@richmondfreepress.com](#)
Subject: Jackson Ward/Live Oak/Maggie Walker Memorial
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 1:00:32 PM
Attachments: [Brook Rd Society of the War of 1812.pdf](#)
[Comment Letter from the Commission of Architectural Review-4-2.pdf](#)
[HRF letter.pdf](#)
[Ltr. Dr. Carol Patterson-3.pdf](#)
[UDC Letter re Maggie Walker 04062016.docx](#)
[Screen Shot_small.png](#)
[Maggie_Glory.jpg](#)
[Maggie Walker with the Live Oak.png](#)
[Brian Grogan.pdf](#)

Attached are the following letters objecting to some or all aspects of the current Maggie Walker Memorial Plaza plan (design attached) destined for construction Broad Street and Brook Road (attached Google map) :

- Commission on Architectural Review
- Brian Grogan, National Park Service photographer for Historic American Building and Historic American Landscape Surveys)
- Historic Richmond Foundation (despite UDC 's characterization of this letter as "In support" of the project)
- VA Department of Historic Resources
- Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia
- National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Please see that they are posted to the Planning Commission, UDC and PAC websites and forward to those members. Let them also know that the American Society of Landscape Architects and National Park Service are documenting the site and assisting those of us opposed to the unnecessary destruction of the historic and natural resources that help define Jackson Ward.

At the Public Art Commission meeting on January 12th, a rogue publication attacking the Live Oak read, "Save Maggie Walker from the Tree!" (attached is an iPhone shot) was introduced. From that evening forward, the PAC secretary allowed no public response longer than two minutes to examine the charges against the 60-year-old Live Oak -- ranging from "its shadow diminishes the figure of Walker, obstructs the view, and conjures lynching." (See first phase design with Live Oak, attached.) As a consequence, a revised design emerged in February that eliminated both the Live Oak, the rare and spectacular *Quercus Virginiana*, and historic Brook Road, a roadway harking back to Jefferson, Lafayette, and the War of 1812. (See February design, wherein the cylindrical bronze of Maggie Walker in essence replaces the tree trunk, attached. Despite promises that the public would see designs with and without the tree, only designs WITHOUT the tree were presented to the public. When I, as a member of the Historic Jackson Ward Association, read a letter from an absent HJWA—the only homeowner on the affected block—I was asked by the PAC secretary to leave the meeting. Neither I, nor others at that meeting who wanted PAC to consider other locations were informed of a meeting later that day by the Site Selection Committee. Every effort has been made to limit input from those who oppose the closure of historic Brook Road and the rare Live Oak tree. The decision to show only the design without the tree was made by the PAC Site Selection committee, a group of 4 unelected, unaccountable people, who may or may not be taxpaying

residents of the City. The selection process for this all-important group was not publicly advertised and their qualifications unknown. Please register this objection to an undemocratic process that as allowed to become racially charged. Good decision are impossible under such conditions.

Thank you,
Jennie Dotts



How many of you are business owners?

GLORY4MLW

This elegant lady **DESERVES GLORY** to highlight the heritage of Jackson Ward

A lighted, 360 degree view

Her statue **MUST** be unfettered and without a tree. She must stand proudly centered in the spotlight at the corner of Brook Road, Adams and Broad Streets.

The Maggie Walker statue must personify her strength, character, fortitude, dignity and determination as an African American woman during the Jim Crow era of segregated Richmond.

A tasteful pedestal representing the values & heritage of Jackson Ward

She stood on the shoulders of the "Harlem of the South," the African American community of Jackson Ward. Yet, her sphere of influence and command was nationwide.

A Gateway for Jackson Ward

She symbolically stands North on Broad Street for a reason.



Mrs. Maggie Lena Walker

As the Right Worthy Grand Secretary of the Independent Order of St. Luke for thirty five years, Mrs. Walker is widely known as the nation's first female bank president. But she was much more in the hearts and heritage of black Richmond. She was an ardent activist, community organizer, anti-lynching advocate, and staunch supporter for voting rights for women and blacks. She was a leader, not for herself, but for her people.

