



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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Meeting Minutes - Draft Urban Design Committee

Thursday, December 4, 2014

10:00 AM

5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall

Call to Order

Ms. Nolt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: 9 - Andrea Almond, Chris Arias, Doug Cole, Vaughn Garland, Vice Chair Bryan Green, Giles Harnsberger, Andrea Levine, Chair Jill Nolt and Robert Smith

Absent: 1 - Claire Shirley

Staff Present

*Mr. Jeff Eastman, PDR
Ms. Tara Ross, PDR*

Others Present

*Mr. Jakob Helmboldt, City Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Coordinator
Mr. David Krzemien, Dept. of Emergency Communications
Ms. Clare Novak, Network Building & Construction
Ms. Jennifer Mullen, Roth Doner Jackson LLC
Mr. Stephen McNally, GRTC*

Approval of Minutes

ID 14-045 Regular Meeting of November 6, 2014

Attachments: [Regular Meeting of November 6, 2014](#)

A motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Green, that the minutes from the November 6, 2014 meeting be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Almond, Cole, Garland, Green, Harnsberger and Smith

Abstain: 3 - Arias, Levine and Nolt

Secretary's Report

Mr. Eastman stated that at their November 17th meeting, the Planning Commission approved the conceptual Fire Station #25 telecommunications tower, the final Idlewood roundabout and the final RPD K-9 facility on the consent agenda with UDC recommendations. Mr. Eastman stated that he had already approved some permits for the RPD K-9 facility. Mr. Eastman also made the Committee members aware that new officers would be voted in at the January meeting. The only member whose second

term is expiring in the upcoming year is Ms. Shirley. All other members will be eligible to serve in either the Chair or Vice-Chair position for the entire year.

Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda

There were no continuances or deletions.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Green, seconded by Ms. Levine, that Item #1 [UDC No. 2014-37(2)] be moved to the Regular Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Green, seconded by Ms. Harnsberger, that the remaining Consent Agenda item be recommended for approval to the Planning Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

2. **UDC No. 2014-39(2)** Final Location, Character and Extent Review of a telecommunications monopole at Fire Station #25, 8800 Huguenot Road

Attachments: [UDC Report to CPC](#)
[Staff Report to UDC](#)
[Location Map](#)
[Application & Plans](#)

This Location, Character and Extent item was recommended for approval as submitted. The item was forwarded to the City Planning Commission for their meeting on January 5, 2015.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **UDC No. 2014-37(2)** Final Section 17.05 Review of an addition to the set of City-standard bike racks

Attachments: [Staff Report to UDC](#)
[Location Map](#)
[Application & Plans](#)

Ms. Nolt stated that she loves the idea of trying to personalize the bike racks that are going up all over the city and she has been pleased to see some consistency in the bike racks. Ms. Nolt inquired why they are going off that model and why they aren't doing a retrofit or adding a RVA brand or some kind of logo to the ones that are already in place and keep that consistency throughout the City.

Mr. Jake Helmboldt, City of Richmond Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trails Coordinator, stated that this design originated from the Workforce Development Program welding class that are now producing the post and ring racks. They came up with the concept of the rack and incorporating some kind of RVA logo. Mr. Helmboldt stated that the rack provides a larger surface area so it provides better support for bikes than the post and ring racks.

Ms. Nolt inquired if they were going to be eliminating the post and ring throughout the City and Mr. Helmboldt stated that they will be transitioning to other racks once they're done producing the post and ring racks.

Ms. Nolt stated that the design seems a little unresolved how the RVA logo gets welded to the bent horseshoe shape and inquired if that is still being. Mr. Helmboldt stated that it will be laser cut steel and welded down into the two legs like a gusset. Ms. Nolt stated that it doesn't seem like a substantial construction being that they are placing bicycles up against it and that over time it seems like it will break off or flop down. Mr. Helmboldt stated that the rendering was simplistic to give an idea but it would be something that the welding crew at Strickland Machine would figure out how to have a substantial weld.

Ms. Nolt stated that if you look at the examples in the application they are showing multiple points of attachments but she doesn't think the design is resolved. Mr. Helmboldt stated that he anticipates that it will mostly be at the lowered edge of the two letters and the welds wouldn't have to be overly substantial to fit that in there. Ms. Nolt inquired if they could die cut it into a plate of metal and Mr. Helmboldt stated that it could certainly be a negative cut out. Ms. Nolt stated that what she is hearing is that it is still in the works although they are reviewing something for final approval. Ms. Nolt stated that she would be interested in the final design and what it looks like before reviewing it.

Mr. Garland inquired if Ms. Nolt would be more comfortable if the RVA ran up inside on one of the legs. Ms. Nolt stated that it could be but there are some functional and maintenance issues that needs to get resolved. Mr. Garland stated that even little tacks can take on water and then you have corroding and rust and it will fall apart pretty quickly. Mr. Garland stated that running up the side of one of the legs might work better.

Mr. Arias inquired if they were approving one addition to the standard bike racks because when this first came to the UDC they were looking at corrals and multiple bike racks. Mr. Eastman stated that those bike racks and corrals were all granted final approval back in October.

Ms. Nolt inquired if they had plans to design a multi bike rack that is unique to RVA and Mr. Helmboldt stated not one in particular other than their bike corral which consists of inverted U's mounted onto rails. Ms. Nolt inquired how quickly are they trying to get this into fabrication. Mr. Helmboldt stated that it is not that urgent and stated that right now the workforce has procured 200 of the post and rings through the workforce development and stated that they are on their 3rd batch of 50 and stated that they have another batch of 50 to produce in next couple of months. Ms. Nolt inquired if they would put a halt on that if they approved this as they transition to a new design and Mr. Helmboldt stated yes.

Mr. Cole stated that he loves the RVA and getting it customized to the city and thinks it's a great idea. The only hesitation he has is that it looks like a custom bike rack that they attached RVA to and if you look at the other ones that were submitted they look like they were designed as one. Mr. Helmboldt stated that this was done to give a conceptual idea of what it would look like. Mr. Cole stated that maybe if it was reversed and it was a plate instead of a cut out it might make it feel more substantial.

Ms. Nolt asked Mr. Helmboldt if it was possible for them to address the design of how they retrofit the multi bike rack corals with the RVA logos if that is the future intent. Mr. Helmboldt stated that they aren't necessarily doing a custom multi bike rack and stated that they could use this design once finalized in lue of those U's. Ms. Nolt inquired if they could develop a design of what that would look like with the upside down U-form and Mr. Helmboldt stated that it would essentially be the same racks affixed to those rails.

Mr. Green inquired if Mr. Eastman could administratively approve the design change

and Mr. Eastman stated that he thinks Mr. Helmboldt is saying that it's the same rack it's just mounted in a group other than being individual. Mr. Green stated that he was talking about mounting the logos to the previously-approved bike racks and Mr. Helmboldt stated that they are not doing that.

A subcommittee composed of Ms. Levine and Mr. Arias was formed to work with Mr. Helmboldt on the final design of the bike rack and logo.

With the consent of the applicant, a motion was made by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the item be continued to the January 8, 2015 Urban Design Committee meeting to allow for additional time to finalize the design of the bike rack and logo.

Aye: 9 - Almond, Arias, Cole, Garland, Green, Harnsberger, Levine, Nolt and Smith

OTHER BUSINESS

ID 14-047 Informal presentation on the plans for Bus Rapid Transit given by Stephen McNally of the Greater Richmond Transit Company

Attachments: [GRTC Bus Rapid Transit Presentation](#)

Mr. Stephen McNally of the Greater Richmond Transit Company gave an informal presentation on the plans for Bus Rapid Transit.

Mr. Green asked what the impact of the stations might be on nearby historic resources and Mr. McNally stated that they currently don't know. Mr. McNally stated that he is not showing designs right now but the stations themselves will be programmed for a 40' bus instead of articulated buses which are 60' with a 100' platform requirement. Mr. McNally stated that the station will be in the median of the right-of-way or along curbsides.

Ms. Harnsberger inquired if they were going to phase out the current buses to the compressed natural gas buses. Mr. McNally stated yes but those cost about \$425,000 per bus and it is going to take them about 15 years to exchange them all.

Ms. Nolt inquired about an estimated time line to go from Willow Lawn and Mr. McNally stated that they are working on that now but the study said 21 minutes.

Mr. Arias inquired about how fast by car and Mr. McNally stated that he doesn't know because they haven't done a study on it yet. Mr. Arias inquired if the stations have parking and Mr. McNally stated no and that riders will have to walk or take another the bus to the station but they are working on a park and ride with Anthem at Staples Mill Road.

Mr. Garland inquired if there was a plan for Main Street Station and how they can work the buses around that and Mr. McNally stated that is a great concept idea but stated that it has nothing to do this project. Mr. McNally stated that they met with the City and People from Main Street Station and stated that on the west side where there is currently a GRTC shuttle there and a bike rack they are planning to place a station there. Mr. McNally stated that the east bound station is going to be a little more difficult because of existing utilities and stated that they are looking at a location by the wall on the eastside of Main Street Station and stated that on that eastside there is very little utilities and it looks like it could be a good place to accommodate a station. Mr. McNally stated that they looked at potentially putting a station at the Market.

Mr. Garland inquired if there were plans for a north-south rapid bus route and Mr. McNally stated that there is a lot of talk about that but there has to be some analysis

done on that.

Mr. Arias stated that he would like to see it on the Boulevard and Mr. McNally stated that it is difficult now because of parking.

Mr. Green asked if the stations will be enclosed structures with restrooms and Mr. McNally stated that they don't have restrooms and the enclosures will be for weather only. They must maintain zero tolerance for security and maintenance reasons. Mr. Green inquired when they will be able to see a conceptual sense of what the stations will look like and Mr. McNally stated in February or earlier and they will come back to the Committee to submit the components.

Mr. Green stated that 3 of the stations are in Old and Historic Districts and inquired if they would go to the Commission of Architectural Review and Mr. Eastman stated no because it is the public right of way but states that the Commission could provide advice. Mr. Eastman informed Mr. McNally that the CAR Secretary might be want to see a presentation.

Ms. Almond stated that there could be potentially trees removed.

Mr. Garland stated that he is worried how bikers is going to get around through the downtown and stated that there is no consideration for sharrows and bike paths.

Ms. Levine stated that this will have an impact on the Arts District and taking away of parking there.

This was an informal presentation. No action was taken on this item.

ID 14-048 Revisions to the UDC Operating Procedures

Attachments: [Revised Operating Procedures without notes](#)

[Revised Operating Procedures with notes](#)

[Current Operating Procedures](#)

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Arias, that the revisions to the Operating Procedures be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Almond, Arias, Cole, Garland, Green, Harnsberger, Levine, Nolt and Smith

Adjournment

Ms. Nolt adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.