

Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR

From: Robert Lauterberg <rlauterberg@valocalfinance.org>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 6:37 PM
To: Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR; pdrlanduseadmin@richmond.gov
Subject: Ordinance No. 2020-100 - Please provide to Planning Commission members

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Members, City of Richmond Planning Commission:

Good afternoon. My name is Robert Lauterberg. I am a City resident and an owner of a business in Monroe Ward. I am writing in regard to the notice I received last week from the City about a proposed ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020-100) to close a portion of a public alley adjoining our property.

I have looked into the issue and was surprised to find that the description in the public notice has no mention of a very large historic stone retaining wall and large cluster of trees that will be destroyed if the ordinance is approved. The wall and the trees are located on city property that is identified in the notice as a public alley.

For reference, the granite wall is directly behind Triple Crossing Brewery on Foushee Street in the Monroe Ward Historic District. The wall appears to be about 75 feet long and 15 feet tall at its highest point. According to City maps, it was most likely built between 1895 and 1905. Along the edge of wall, also within the public alley, is a line of mature trees which is one of the largest clusters of trees in downtown Richmond.

The proposed ordinance calls for about half of the public alley to be sold to the owner of a new apartment building going up in the block. As a neighbor to the future apartment complex, I am delighted to see the vacant properties in the block being developed.

I also understand and appreciate that the new apartment building will require a public alley to provide access for public safety vehicles and others. There is already a public alley located adjacent to the property – roughly half of it is level and open; the other half contains the historic wall and trees. My concern is that, if the portion of the public alley that is level is sold as proposed, the remaining portion of public land, on which the wall and trees are located, will have to be razed to make room for a traversable alley.

I believe more due diligence is needed so that an informed decision can be made in regard to carving up and selling a portion of the public alley. Specifically, the Planning Commission should ask:

1. If the public land remains intact, what is the feasibility of constructing a traversable alley *without having to destroy the large historic wall*?
2. Have City or other local preservation experts been consulted regarding the history of the granite wall that will be destroyed if Ordinance No. 2020-100 is approved?

This is not a private property rights issue. Rather, this is an issue of how the City chooses to use the historical assets it already owns to preserve its beauty and unique character.

Thank you for fully exploring these issues before making a decision on the proposed ordinance.

Best regards,

Robert W. Lauterberg
Managing Member

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Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR

From: Adam Worcester <adam@triplecrossing.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2020 7:59 AM
To: PDR Land Use Admin
Subject: [spam] Foushee St Historic Wall

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Hello,

I'm writing you today regarding our business, Triple Crossing Brewing Co, located at 113 S Foushee St. I understand there are plans to develop more of the parcels around our building. The historic wall and trees that are in question to be destroyed, beautify the neighborhood and are appreciated by Triple Crossing patrons, especially those who use our outdoor patio. We went through a very rigorous process to open our business and still maintain the historic landmark status of our building. I should hope that destroying the history around it isn't such an easy process to complete. That all said, I'm asking that you please consider alternatives to tearing down this unique wall and the large trees.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,
Adam

Adam Worcester, Co-Founder
Triple Crossing Brewing Co.
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