

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Charles Pool <Charles_Pool@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2017 8:42 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Re: Monroe Park projects

Hello Mr. Son,

I hope that you will please convey to the Urban Design Committee members our great disappointment that the Oregon Hill neighborhood did not receive a presentation for the three Monroe Park issues scheduled to be considered by the UDC on Thursday June 8th.

As you know, this is a park that is much used by our neighborhood, and we have been closely involved and concerned with the developments in the park and with the implementation of the Monroe Park Master Plan. I know that it is the UDC's policy to recommend that the applicants present to the neighbors in advance of the meeting.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Charles Pool

From: Charles Pool
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 4:24 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Cc: Jennifer Hancock; Todd Woodson; wmccormick804@gmail.com; Scott Burger; caroline cox; Parker Agelasto; Mark Olinger -- City of Richmond; Matthew Ebinger; donald.summers@richmondgov.com; KIMBERLY.GRAY@RICHMONDGOV.COM
Subject: Monroe Park projects

Hello Mr. Son,

I hope that you are doing well.

I understand that there are three items on the upcoming UDC agenda relating to Monroe Park: Laurel St. Venue; Monroe Park furnishings; and Portland Loo.

The Oregon Hill Neighborhood Assoc. (OHNA) has not received any presentations on these three issues, and, as you know, we have repeatedly requested that the Monroe Park issues be presented to the neighborhood in advance of the UDC hearings. I know that it is the UDC's policy to recommend that the applicants present to the neighbors in advance of the meeting.

I assume that the city is the applicant for these three projects (since I understand that the Conservancy does not take over until after the renovation). Would it be possible for the city to please defer these three issues related to our park so that the neighborhood association can receive a presentation from the city or its architect? OHNA meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month, and I am copying this e-mail to the OHNA officers.

In the meantime, could you please forward any information that you have on these three projects? (For some reason, I am still not getting the distribution, and I appreciate that you have tried to correct this.)

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Charles Pool

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: charles woodson <candylandmusic@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 6:24 AM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Laurel Street Venue, Portland loos

Dear Mr Son, esteemed members of the UDC and Richmond Planning Commission,

On Thursday, June 8, 2017, the UDC will hear the final application for the "Laurel Street Venue" and preliminary applications for the furnishings in Monroe Park as well as the placement of a "Portland Loo" in the general vicinity.

As a 9 year member of the Richmond City Council appointed Monroe Park Advisory Council - the group which crafted the Monroe Park Master Plan with much public input, I can attest to the fact that there were many many compromises involved in settling on a master plan in order to come up with a vision that was, at the same time, historically respectful and relevant to the needs of modern park users. The entire concept of the "Laurel Street Venue" is a profound departure from the approved master plan and contradicts the nature of the period of significance, circa 1904. Only in the last few years have wealthy corporations rented out an area of Monroe Park for massive events held in large tents for around 3 weeks at a time. As you can see by the attached photos, extensive damage occurred from the installation, maintenance and removal of these tents. This type of damage- ruts and deep holes and sprinkler damage, take longer than a season to repair so essentially, the applicant is requesting that the park, even after a 7 million dollar renovation, remain in a constant state of repair from these annual events which exclude the community from enjoying this area for an extended period. For that reason and for the aesthetic incompatibility of the "gazebo" proposed, I respectfully request that you vote against the venue proposal. It is most unfortunate that the applicant has chosen not to update the neighborhood associations regarding any changes in venue design or present in any way the portland loo or furnishings proposals to the community, even though requested.

As an opponent of the current proposals, I respectfully request that the applicant be referred back to the approved master plan and make more concessions toward respecting the period of significance of the park and the rights and interests of the community stakeholders who care very deeply for this, our oldest and most historic park. I also request that no more trees be removed from the park and that tree canopy restoration be taken seriously as was the directive of the Master plan.

The pictures below were taken in May of 2017 and are the result of a corporate event.

Thank you,

Charles Todd Woodson
302 S Cherry St
Richmond Va 23220













