

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Allie Rosenbluth <atrosenbluth@email.wm.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 2:51 AM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: # UDC 2018-25 Monroe Park Way Finding Signage proposal

I am writing to express my opposition to case # UDC 2018-25 Monroe Park Way Finding Signage proposal. The proposed freestanding corporate donor billboard is inappropriate in our historic Monroe Park, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and I ask that the biggest donor, the tax payers, be memorialized over corporate donors. Please remember that city taxpayers have OVER 4 MILLION DOLLARS invested in this "renovation." Which was to have been completed some time ago, had already destroyed many trees they vowed to preserve and barred Richmond residents from the use of a vital public square.

Thank you,

Allie Rosenbluth

Sent from my iPhone

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Bill McCormick <wmccormick804@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 12:06 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: I'm opposed to # UDC 2018-25 Monroe Park Way Finding Signage

Dear Mr. Son,

I want to express my extreme opposition to case # UDC 2018-25, Monroe Park Way Finding Signage proposal. The proposed freestanding corporate donor billboard is inappropriate in our historic Monroe Park, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The donors must be memorialized in some way other than signage, such as engraved pavers, which are much less invasive and have less of an adverse effect on the natural sight lines within the historic park.

Mr. Son, please remember, city taxpayers have OVER 4 MILLION DOLLARS invested in this "renovation".

--

Bill McCormick

804-338-7180

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Charles Pool <Charles_Pool@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 11:53 AM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Cc: Todd Woodson
Subject: # UDC 2018-25: Please do not allow Monroe Park to be festooned with signage or corporate branding

Dear Mr. Son,

The Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association recently voted to ask the Monroe Park Conservancy to limit the amount of signage in Monroe Park. We specifically requested that any recognition of donors to the park be acknowledged with small, tasteful plaques attached to park benches, as found in other city parks throughout Richmond.

I understand that the UDC members have also expressed an interest in limiting the signage in the park.

Unfortunately, the Conservancy has again disregarded the recommendations of the UDC and neighboring community by again proposing a large permanent 3-1/2 foot sign in the park to recognize donors.

Such large permanent signs recognizing donors are not found in our other city parks and amount to "corporate branding" of Monroe Park.

I would encourage the UDC to again recommend limiting signage recognizing donors to Monroe Park. Small plaques on the park benches or on paving stones would be much more appropriate for this purpose and in keeping with what is found in other city parks.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to limit signage recognizing donors in Monroe Park.

Sincerely,

Charles Pool
421-1/2 S. Laurel Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Claire Tuite <tuitehc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 5:07 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: UDC 2018-25

I am writing to express my opposition to case # UDC 2018-25 Monroe Park Way Finding Signage proposal. The proposed freestanding corporate donor billboard is inappropriate in our historic Monroe Park, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and I ask that the biggest donor, the tax payers, be memorialized over corporate donors. Please remember that city taxpayers have OVER 4 MILLION DOLLARS invested in this "renovation." Which was to have been completed some time ago, had already destroyed many trees they vowed to preserve and barred Richmond residents from the use of a vital public square.

Thank you,
Claire

Sent from my iPhone

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: DONALD TRASER <drtraser@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 4:59 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Monroe Park signage

I have just been advised of the Monroe Park Conservancy's plan to erect large signs honoring corporate donors. As a city resident, taxpayer, and neighbor, I hereby express my total opposition to this plan. Such signs would be totally out of place in this historic setting, not to mention unsightly. Someone has suggested an alternative such as engraved pavers, an option I could support since it would be less of a visual distraction. Too much damage and inappropriate change have already been inflicted on the park and its surroundings. I appreciate your attention in this matter.

Donald R. Traser
128 South Laurel Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220
804-644-0888

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: D E.C. <theatre4me@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 2:37 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Monroe Park Signage

It seems that the Monroe Park Conservancy is trying, once again, to have inappropriate signage placed permanently in the park. The park is an historic landmark and this sign couldn't be more inappropriate. I am very much opposed to a freestanding donor sign in historic Monroe Park. It would adversely affect the natural sight lines in the park, in addition to being completely inappropriate to the historic nature of this wonderful city landmark.

This is case number UDC 2018-25.

Best regards,
Donna E. Coghill
City of Richmond Resident 1986-1990; 1991-present

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Heather Price <hpriveryde@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 2:40 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: UDC 2018-25

Dear Joshua,

This is my second email to you.

As a long time user and lover of Monroe Park, I plead with you to do the right thing and say NO to putting up any type of corporate signage there.

I have been concerned and disturbed about this supposed re-vamping of our park, the oldest in our area since its inception.

So far, the homeless have been displaced, many old and beloved trees have been cut down, and now I understand that private Altria events are being held there.

This park is not owned by Altria or Dominion. It is owned by the people of RVA. Do not lose sight of this.

What you are supporting is not the will of the people, but the will of corporate greed.

Heather Price
335 South Laurel St
Richmond, VA 23220
540-817-7955

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Joe Enroughty <jenroughty@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 2:57 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Free Standing Corporate Donor Sign In Monroe Park

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with a concern about the proposed free standing corporate donor sign that is being considered for Monroe Park.

Monroe Park is a historic park and the proposed sign would adversely affect the natural sight lines in the park and is highly inappropriate. Please reconsider placing this sign in Monroe Park.

This e-mail is to indicate my opposition to such a sign.

This is case number UDC 2018-25.

Thank you for taking the time to read my e-mail and consider my request.

Regards,

Joe Enroughty
Fan Resident
(804)-864-1040

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: June Hill <juneh5083@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 2:53 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Monroe Park Massacre

Mr. Son,

I am writing to express my opposition to case # UDC 2018-25 Monroe Park Way Finding Signage proposal. The proposed freestanding corporate donor billboard is inappropriate in our historic Monroe Park, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and I ask that the biggest donor, the tax payers, be memorialized over corporate donors. Please remember that city taxpayers have OVER 4 MILLION DOLLARS invested in this "renovation." Which was to have been completed some time ago, had already destroyed many trees they vowed to preserve and barred Richmond residents from the use of a vital public square.

Thank you,
June Hill, Richmond City Resident

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Jessica Sims <jessicaleesims@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 12:07 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Opposition to case #UDC 2018-25 Monroe Park Way Finding Signage Proposal

Good afternoon Mr. Son,

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to case # UDC 2018-25 Monroe Park Way Finding Signage proposal. Richmond-City taxpayers have already been forced to invest \$4M+ in this renovation project, which has prohibited access to a public square and destroyed many of the trees included in the original purpose of this greenspace. No corporate donor should be rewarded with signage thanking them, most especially Dominion Energy, who seems to want their name emblazoned on every corner.

This is a public space and the public, who depended on this greenspace and fund its renovation, should be heralded over a corporate donor.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue,

Jessica Sims
Richmond, VA

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: June Vranian <junebug5@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 11:43 AM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Signage

The proposed signage to be erected at Monroe Park is inappropriate, detrimental to the bucolic atmosphere of our beloved park, and just another example of succumbing to Corporate Greed of those who do NOT have Richmond's best interests at heart.

Shame on everyone on the "Conservancy" committee who think it's okay to cram this idiotic idea down the throats of we citizens who love Monroe Park.

June Vranian

Sent from my iPad

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Laura Pharis <lpharis@sbc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 3:22 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: ugly sign at Monroe Park

Dear Sir:

I am very opposed to any freestanding donor sign in historic Monroe Park!
it would adversely affect the natural sight lines in the park and is highly inappropriate!

This is case number UDC 2018-25.

Thank you,
Laura Pharis

p.s. And please ban those hideous tents. What the hell ?!

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Mikie Conner <connermikie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 1:37 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Monroe park

For a year and a half, I've watched the destruction of old growth trees, disrespect to a war monument and now they want to praise Dominion? Do not put a sign up so Dominion can pay themselves on the pack! I think the conservancy has already ruined the park enough.

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Matt Hammond <m.hammond666@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 7:34 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: NO Dominion Sign

I am writing to express my opposition to case # UDC 2018-25 Monroe Park Way Finding Signage proposal. The proposed freestanding corporate donor billboard is inappropriate in our historic Monroe Park, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and I ask that the biggest donor, the tax payers, be memorialized over corporate donors. Please remember that city taxpayers have OVER 4 MILLION DOLLARS invested in this "renovation." Which was to have been completed some time ago, had already destroyed many trees they vowed to preserve and barred Richmond residents from the use of a vital public square.

Thank you,
Matt Hammond

Sent from my iPhone

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Michael James-Deramo <mjdishere00@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 5:52 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Case # UDC 2018-25

I am writing to express my opposition to case # UDC 2018-25

It is inappropriate and disgusting to honor this corporate entity in historic Monroe Park. With so many Richmond residents continuing to be underserved and forgotten while the area continued to gentrify and become corporatized this is simply one more example of the city prioritizing big donors over the people it is meant to serve. Dominion does not need any more giant portrayals of its name. If they truly care about the city this money can go to support the homeless and low income population that used Monroe Park as a place to meet and socialize before the land was barred off from them.

Thank you,

Michael James-Deramo

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Madeline <mroberts-2@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 12:30 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Monroe Park. Case # UDC2018-25

As a long time user and lover of Monroe Park, I plead with you to do the right thing and say NO to putting up any type of corporate signage there.

I have been concerned and disturbed about this supposed re-vamping of our park, the oldest in our area since its inception.

So far, the homeless have been displaced, many old and beloved trees have been cut down, and now I understand that private Altria events are being held there.

This park is not owned by Altria or Dominion. It is owned by the people of RVA. Do not lose sight of this.

What you are supporting is not the will of the people, but the will of corporate greed.

Madeline Roberts

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Pamela Hill <pamatrlpc@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 10:18 AM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: No dominion sign

I am against#DC 2018-25 Monroe Park Way Finding Signage proposal. The park belongs to the people, not dominion.

Sincerely, Pamela Hill

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Phaedra Hise <phaedrahise@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 12:23 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Monroe Park signage proposal

I am a registered voter and Fan/Oregon Hill resident, and I strongly oppose case # UDC 2018-25 Monroe Park Way Finding Signage proposal.

The proposed freestanding corporate donor billboard is inappropriate in our historic Monroe Park, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. If donors must be memorialized in some way, proven alternatives such as engraved pavers are much less invasive and have less of an adverse effect on the natural sight lines within the historic park.

As a taxpayer I have contributed to the 4 million + that has already gone into this renovation, and I demand that my voice be heard.

Sincerely,
Phaedra Hise
714 Holly Street

> - sent from the microchip implanted in my forearm _____

> Phaedra Hise Office 804-344-9859 Cell 804-342-2372

>

>

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Robin Levey <Robin.Levey@LongandFoster.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 12:53 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: opposition to case # UDC 2018-25 Monroe Park Way Finding Signage proposal

I am writing to submit my opposition to the proposed freestanding corporate donor billboard in our historic Monroe Park, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and ask that if donors must be memorialized in some way, then an alternative such as engraved pavers is much less invasive and has less of an adverse effect on the natural sight lines within the historic park. Remember that city taxpayers have OVER 4 MILLION DOLLARS invested in this "renovation".

I am also the president of Ginter Park Residents Association and wish to focus on preserving the historical character and esthetics of our city. This seems to be an overt and unnecessarily obscene gesture to corporate sponsors. An engraved stone marker may be a more estetically appealing alternative.

Robin Levey

Licensed Real Estate Agent VA

Long & Foster Grove Avenue

Email: robin.levey@lnf.com

Web: robinleveysellsrva.com

Mobile: 804-516-5590

Office: 804-288-8888

Fax: 804-288-8893

5702 Grove Avenue, Richmond, VA 23226



[Grove Office](#)



[My Business Page](#)



[Grove Office Website](#)

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Robert Mark <rm@avalar.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 12:28 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Donor sign at Monroe Park

Greetings. I am a graduate of VCU and a home owner in Richmond. I am totally against the idea of a permanent donor sign in Monroe Park!

Please count my citizen vote as NO!

Thank you.

Bob Mark

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Sherri Johnson <sdmjohns@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 11:30 AM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Monroe Park

Dear Mr. Son,

I understand that the Monroe Park Conservancy has (or plans to) petition(ed) the UDC to be allowed to install a corporate donor sign at the park's main entrance. Can't corporate donors do good things without leaving their "mark" all over them? Recent examples of such atrocities: the lovely Mosque renamed Landmark and now "Altria Theater," and the worst offender, the beautiful Carpenter Theatre is now "Dominion Energy Center" – awful!

Perhaps a small plaque could be placed on a sidewalk somewhere, but freestanding corporate donor signage is just not appropriate for a historic park. Please deny this request.

Thank you,

Sherri Johnson

Citizen of the City of Richmond

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Stew Powell <jazzbobilly@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 2:34 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: UDC 2018-25

To Whom It May Concern

I opposed to any freestanding donor sign in historic Monroe Park. It would adversely affect the natural sight lines in the park and is highly inappropriate. I think Dominion Energy has demonstrated in more than one instance that they are not in any way good corporate neighbors.

Thank you for your time
Stewart Powell

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: sloppy harp <1sammyminer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 10:51 AM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Monroe Park

Joshua.Son@richmondgov.com>

I am opposed to ANY freestanding donor sign in historic Monroe Park! it would adversely affect the natural sight lines in the park and is highly inappropriate!

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: wendyhanneman@gmail.com on behalf of Wendy Boynton
<wendy.l.boynton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 5:29 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: NO to Dominion!

Mr. Son,

I am writing to express my opposition to case # UDC 2018-25 Monroe Park Way Finding Signage proposal. The proposed freestanding corporate donor billboard is inappropriate in our historic Monroe Park, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and I ask that the biggest donor, the tax payers, be memorialized over corporate donors. Please remember that city taxpayers have OVER 4 MILLION DOLLARS invested in this "renovation." Which was to have been completed some time ago, had already destroyed many trees they vowed to preserve and barred Richmond residents from the use of a vital public square.

Thank you,
Wendy Boynton

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: charles woodson <candylandmusic@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 1:26 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Cc: Agelasto, Parker C. - City Council; Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council; Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office
Subject: Letter from Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association regarding UDC 2018-25 (Monroe Park Signage)

Dear Mr Son

At the conceptual hearing for the way finding signage in Monroe Park at the Planning Commission recently, a commissioner made the very good suggestion that engraved pavers be used to acknowledge corporate doners. This would be appropriate and have minimal adverse affect on Monroe Park, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The applicant, Ms Alice Massie misrepresented to the CPC that permeable pavers can not be engraved. Subsequently, I sent a verification letter from Hanover Pavers, inc in Pennsylvania that confirmed that permeable pavers could indeed be engraved. This is far from the first time we, as an organization, have gotten misrepresentations from Ms Massie on Monroe Park issues. We would appreciate Ms Massie sticking only to the solid truth in the future, if that is possible for her.

We find the paver solution much more desirable than placing a 3.5 foot freestanding sign at the historic park's prime entrance on N Laurel and Cathedral Place. While corporate dollars were used in the renovation, I remind the UDC and CPC that over 4 million dollars of taxpayer funds were also used. Placing this proposed corporate advertising freestanding sign at any entrance or any other place in the park in perpetuity is inappropriate, disrespectful to the history of the historic park and the citizens of Richmond and constitutes a detriment to the sight lines in the park.

The Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association is opposed to the proposed freestanding corporate donor advertising sign as included in the UDC 2018-25 proposal and much prefers the idea of engraved pavers if acknowledgement is absolutely required. Remember that the taxpayers neither seek or would accept an acknowledgement marker for their more substantial contribution in funding this renovation.

Thank you for providing our input to the UDC and CPC.

Todd Woodson, president
Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association
302 S Cherry St
Richmond Va 23220
904 783 8829

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Jay Holdren <jay.holdren@vcuhealth.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 3, 2018 7:00 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Opposition to branding Monroe Park

Im writing to express opposition to a PERMANENT BILLBOARD BRANDING MONROE PARK WITH CORPORATE DONORS SUCH AS DOMINION ENERGY!

This is a public space which we should conserve and protect.

I understand UDC will hear the "conservancy's" request this week.

Please do the right thing!!

Jay Holdren, MHA, LNHA
Director - Geriatric & Continuum Services
VCU Health System
804-874-1267

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Earth Folk Collective <earthfolkcollective@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 11:40 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Monroe Park

Take the fences down. We want Monroe Park back. The conservancy has been digging holes and cutting down trees without permits for way too long. We don't need a giant pavilion monument to Dominion. We don't need Monroe Park to become a fake VCU campus with private security to make sure homeless people don't exist in the city. We don't need whatever the hell is taking so long to open our park back up. Free Monroe Park! Open the gates. Let the people enjoy our PUBLIC park.

Jameson Price

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Kevin Eichenberger <keevoe88@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 1:42 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Corporate signage in Monroe park

Hello,

My name's kevin eichenberger, I live a few short blocks from Monroe park in Oregon hill.
I'm writing to let you know that I'm incredibly opposed to a corporate donor sign in Monroe park due to the fact that it's a public space for the beautiful, incredible residents of Richmond, not private corporate interests.

Thanks,
Kevin

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: kathy walker <unkathy@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 8:56 AM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Billboard in Monroe Park

Dear UDC Secretary and other decision makers,
Please do not place a permanent billboard in Monroe Park thanking corporate donors. A very small sign somewhere will serve to thank them without detracting from the natural beauty of the park.

Thank you,
Kathy Walker

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Lobo Marino <lobomarinomusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 11:32 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: NO corporate branding in Monroe Park!

Hello Joshua,

I am writing to ask first of all that we FREE MONROE PARK.

It is ridiculous that the renovation of the park has taken longer than it took VCU to build the ICA.
It has taken longer than it took the city to finish the PULSE bus line.

I'm starting to feel like the "conservancy" might just keep that fence up around Monroe park and and only allow Altria and Capital One to have their private events in the park.

They have cut down more trees than they were permitted and I hear that they want to put giant permanent signs branding the landscape with the name of corporations like Dominion Energy. Please do not let them scar the park with names of companies which are polluting our river.

This park belong to the people of the city of Richmond and it's time for the wall to come down.

Laney Sullivan
Long time Richmond resident

--

Lobo Marino
www.lobomarinomusic.com

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Scott Burger <scottburger@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 4:07 AM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: I strongly object to proposed signs in Monroe Park

To the UDC,

I am very disturbed and angry about the signs that the Monroe Park Conservancy has proposed for Monroe Park.

Alice Massie and her corporate goons should be fully deposed now.

Thanks,
Scott Burger
612 S. Laurel Street
Richmond, VA 23220

804 714 5444

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Suzanne Keller <suzheart03@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 12:14 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Monroe Park

Dear Mr. Son and Members of the UDC,

As a longtime resident of the city and a VCU graduate, I have many fond memories of Monroe Park. Monroe Park is an important public square in Richmond, besides the Capitol it is like the "commons" our city. I completely oppose any corporate signage there. It would degrade the experience of being in the park and only solidify the corporate takeover of public life. It is a city park and should not be labeled a corporate landscape.

I do hope you reject all corporate signage in Monroe Park.

best regards,
Suzanne Keller

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Turk Sties <turk.sties@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 2:02 AM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Cc: Turk Sties
Subject: Monroe Park signage

Mr. Son, please note and pass on to the UDC my opposition to a sign for donors proposed for Monroe Park in UDC 2018-025. Such a sign is an insult to the citizens whose taxes paid for over half of the renovations.

So, some corporations may have made donations, big deal.

That funding may have come from excess charges to customers and/or short changing stockholders of a fair share of the profits. It may have been altruistic or it may have been to get some special consideration in the revision of the rehabilitation. It is so tacky for them to need a sign in recognition.

If some of the donations were by personal check, well, send a nice, sincere thank you note or present them with one of those Council certificates at the Awards and Honors segment of a City Council meeting. There are other ways to show appreciation without cluttering up the landscape.

I would suggest it would be more appropriate to have a sign honoring the members of the Monroe Park Advisory Commission (MPAC) which caused the Master Plan and Construction Documents to be developed. Of course, it also would be appropriate to also make sure the MPAC is exonerated from the many departures from the Master Plan made by the Conservancy's board for reasons known only to them.

With respect for full disclosure-I was on the MPAC, and if the UDC would consider such a sign I would oppose that also, it is just an alternative that might have been considered.

Countless citizens help our City daily without the need to have a sign erected, it would not hurt for the corporate citizens to practice a modicum of humility from time to time.

Thank you for your consideration of this opinion.

--
Turk Sties
432-9999

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Scott Burger <scottburger@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 9:53 PM
To: Ben Weiner
Subject: RELEASE: Sierra Club: Terminate the Monroe Park Conservancy's Lease, Remove Board President Massie

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 6, 2018

CONTACT

Joe Brancoli, Chairperson of the Sierra Club Falls of the James Executive Committee, (804) 502-9502

Sierra Club: Terminate the Monroe Park Conservancy's Lease, Remove Board President Massie

RICHMOND, Virginia – At the May meeting of the Sierra Club Falls of the James (SCFOJ) Executive Committee, a vote was taken to update and republish last year's public letter by the SCFOJ Executive Committee to the Mayor and City Council which called for an end to the lease agreement with the Monroe Park Conservancy. (Note: a copy of the 2017 SCFOJ letter can be found at this link: <https://theshockoeexaminer.blogspot.com/2017/01/sierra-club-falls-of-james-letter-to.html>, please do review its statement of facts.) This new resolution follows multiple, unanswered requests for meetings with elected officials, despite their pledges for more public oversight. The new resolution also makes the additional request that City Council ask the Monroe Park Conservancy to remove Alice Massie from her position as the president of the Conservancy.

The past year has seen growing public outrage against the Monroe Park Conservancy for its actions. It is worth noting that, after being closed for 19 months and with none of the previous projected finish dates being met, the Monroe Park renovation is ridiculously behind schedule and over budget. The renovation has used over 4 million dollars in public taxpayer money and it is not apparent where additional funds will be found to complete the renovation. The problems are legion:

We are concerned that granite curbstones adjacent to sidewalks were not reset properly after the sidewalk was removed, as well as shoddy brickwork overall. We are also concerned about the renovation of the Checkers House, which is listed as contributing to the Monroe Park Historic District, because alterations may affect its inclusion on the National Registry of Historic Spaces.

We agree with near-by neighborhood associations that the signage that the Monroe Park Conservancy has proposed for the park is inappropriate. Superfluous signage clutters the sight lines in the park and detracts from the natural beauty. The Monroe Park Conservancy has once again applied to the Urban Design Committee to place a large (3.5 foot high) billboard for corporate donors in a prominent position at the main entrance to the park across from Sacred Heart Cathedral. Despite most of the funding for the renovation has come from taxpayers, this sign would prominently advertise corporations/institutions such as Dominion Energy and VCU at this area of our city's most historic park, overwhelming the Department of Historic Resources' highway marker that cites the park's listing on the National Register of Historic Places. There are alternatives to this billboard such as engraved pavers that would not detract from the park's natural sight lines. Alice Massie, President of the Monroe Park Conservancy, misled the City Planning Commission by stating that permeable pavers cannot be engraved.

An ugly electrical control station was placed right next to the World War II memorial in Monroe Park, blocking it. This disturbed the site lines and sanctity of the elegant memorial, which was designed by famous landscape architect Charles Gillette in 1951 and is listed as a contributing structure to the Monroe Park Historic District as included on the National Register of Historic Places. The Memorial, renovated to U.S. Secretary of Interior Standards circa 2005, consists of a masonry structure with limestone sheets upon which names of the city's World War II war dead are inscribed and is adorned with 2 brass eagles and features two black granite benches which were donated by A. P. Grappone and Sons, Inc. stone works, at the time of the renovation. Original 2009 work documents had located two electrical control stations in the eastern portion of the park near Belvidere and near Pine and W. Main Streets, and, while it is not apparent who ordered the change, it appears to have been done to accommodate surrounding private development. Veterans and their families have publicly complained about this insensitivity of this clunky station placement.

In December 2016, 15 healthy mature trees were destroyed without the city seeking or gaining a departmental variance. A project supervisor applied to the Urban Design Committee and Planning Commission for approval after the trees were destroyed but both bodies refused to approve the destruction post facto. Since then, more old-growth trees have been destroyed despite requests from the public and the City's Planning Commission that the Monroe Park Conservancy consider alternatives. The stated goal of the Conservancy is for the park to serve as 'a green living room' that is completely self-sustainable. With trees playing such a critical role in absorbing the greenhouse gases that fuel global warming, and so much of the historic tree canopy now destroyed after having been declared in conflict with the mechanical bio-retention feature in the park, the environmental logic behind the Monroe Park restoration project is flawed.

Recently, in the location of the destroyed trees, a huge corporate tent was erected for a month that further damaged and monopolized a whole portion of the park, killing all of the vegetation beneath it. This block long tent "feature" is being actively marketed by the Monroe Park Conservancy and the management of the Altria Theatre for paid functions, effectively displacing the larger community from using this public green space.

On the same fateful evening that the Conservancy was awarded the lease to the park, City Council also unanimously approved Resolution 2014-R64-64, which called for the Conservancy to diversify their board with community stakeholders and neighborhood representatives within 60 days. Alice Massie, who is the current president of the Conservancy, signed this agreement with Council. But in the 4 years since signing this agreement, the Conservancy has consistently refused to add neighborhood representatives to the Board. The community volunteers listed on their website do not represent or report to their respective neighborhoods. The refusal to honor this agreement is especially troublesome because the 2008 Master Plan, overseen by Rhodes and Harwell, and which was celebrated for the transparency and public participation that went into it, has been ignored and altered, including the removal of a children's resource area in order to place the huge corporate "tenting" area.

There are reports that the Monroe Park Conservancy has submitted a set of rules dictating use of Monroe Park but this draft has not been made available to the public. These rules must be approved by Richmond City Council, but the public should also have the opportunity and time to review and comment on these rules before they arrive before City Council. Supposedly, this is currently under the purview of the City of Richmond's Capital Projects, and (possibly) Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Departments. The public eagerly awaits a chance to review these rules. The Sierra Club urges free and unrestricted use of this PUBLIC park at no cost by all individuals and community groups, as has historically been the practice in Monroe Park.

Given the abandonment of a publically-approved plan, the obvious desecration of historic and natural features, the cost overruns and long-extended construction timeline, and the continuing embarrassing eyesore of a stalled construction zone in the center of Richmond, it is clear that the Monroe Park Conservancy has failed to meet its

responsibilities to the City and must be held accountable for this travesty. In closing, it's not often that the Sierra Club calls for the removal of a non-elected, non-government official, but in this egregious situation, it makes sense to demand more accountability. For this reason, the Sierra Club is asking again that the Mayor and City Council terminate all agreements with the Monroe Park Conservancy, and demands that City Council ask the Conservancy to remove President Alice Massie as a demonstration of no confidence. The Monroe Conservancy may yet accomplish a decent, renovation of Monroe Park, but it is very clear that the wooded, historic, Victorian, PUBLIC park that citizens cherished and loved has been irreparably and callously destroyed. The responsibility falls squarely on City government to correct its lack of oversight in regard to this very flawed 'public private partnership/development', and the Sierra Club is joining Richmond citizens to demand immediate action.
