

City of Richmond

*900 East Broad Street
2nd Floor of City Hall
Richmond, VA 23219
www.rva.gov*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 4, 2022

10:00 AM

To access this meeting virtually - Follow the Public Access and Participation Instructions posted on the Agenda.
5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall

Urban Design Committee

Attachments: [09 2022 Public Access and Participation Instructions - Urban Design Committee](#)

Call to Order

Roll Call

Present -- 6 - * Andrea Quilici, * Justin Doyle, * Eva Clarke, * Jessie Gemmer, * Committee Member Charles Woodson and * Mitch Danese

Absent -- 4 - * Committee Member Luigi Mignardi, * Amelia Wehunt, * Damon Pearson and * Committee Member Max Hepp-Buchanan

Approval of Minutes

Secretary's Report

Secretary Roakes provided updates on City Projects.

Intern Trump provided an informational presentation detailing examples of libraries from other jurisdictions.

Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA

REGULAR AGENDA

1.

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

Planner Roakes provided a presentation.

Commissioner Woodson requested that trash cans be designed to discourage vermin and over spillage of litter.

Applicant agreed.

Commissioner Doyle asked if the paving material in the parking area will be permeable.

Chair Quilici asked why fiber glass materials are being used on the exterior of the building and not aluminum.

Applicant stated that fiber glass is better for maintenance but that they will consider a greater use of aluminum.

Chair Quilici asked if the fencing around the basketball court will be chain link.

Applicant stated that environmental graphics will be added to the fencing to enhance the attractiveness of the fencing.

Chair Quilici asked if the GRTC bus stop adjacent to the project could be moved so that the proposed canopy arcade could be extended to double as cover for the bus stop.

Applicant stated that they would contact GRTC about that possibility.

Commissioner Gemmer requested the applicant to consider light pollution impact on surrounding residential from night games in the play fields.

Commissioner Doyle asked if pedestrian improvements were considered along Ruffin Road Right-of-Way.

The applicant stated that the Department of Public Works intends to provide future improvements.

Vice Chair Clarke asked what size trees will be planted.

Applicant stated that the minimum required by the City Landscaping Guide.

Public Comment:

No public comment was given.

A motion was made by Committee Member Woodson, seconded by Clarke, that this Location, Character and Extent Item be recommended for approval with conditions to the Planning Commission.

Approved Conditions:

- 1. Staff recommends that final details on outdoor lighting be sensitive to light pollution or dark-skies compliant.**
- 2. Staff recommends inclusion of permeable hardscape materials where appropriate and as suggested by the Urban Design Guidelines.**
- 3. Staff recommends that the re-use of existing materials onsite should be incorporated with the design plans, where feasible.**
- 4. Staff recommends that a maintenance plan be submitted during the Final UDC review phase to include landscaping, sustainability features, and public spaces.**
- 5. Staff recommends the applicant incorporate public art, where feasible.**
- 6. Staff recommends that site design acknowledge the existing GRTC stop and include improvements, as suggested by the Urban Design Guidelines.**

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 6 - Andrea Quilici, Justin Doyle, Eva Clarke, Jessie Gemmer, Committee Member Charles Woodson and Mitch Danese

2.

Attachments: [UDC Report to the CPC](#)
[Staff Report to the UDC](#)
[Application & Plans](#)
[Exhibit - raised intersection \(new\)](#)

Planner Roakes provided a presentation.

Staff requested the additional condition: Staff recommends that the final design include seating, landscaping, and stormwater elements in such a way as to encourage safe use

of the proposed splash pad.

Applicant explained public outreach and that maintaining the existing baseball field was a community priority.

Commissioner Gemmer asked if the design for the pool improvements were completed.

Applicant stated that pool related plans will be provided at the final approval stage.

Commissioner Woodson requested that trash cans be designed to avoid vermin.

Commissioner Danese requested further detail on why flat roofs were selected.

Applicant stated that hydrology will be worked out for final application and that rain water harvesting will be facilitated from the roofs which is helped by flat roofs.

Commissioner Clarke asked if Pickle Ball courts were considered.

Applicant stated that the sports fields provided were reflective of the community outreach and that Pickle Ball courts were provided at another facility nearby.

Commissioner Gemmer voiced concern over a pollinator garden Staff pointed out near the pool facility.

The Applicant stated that was a mistake on Staff's part and that the garden is actually a urban food forest to operate in conjunction with the adjacent community garden.

Chair Quilici asked if the playfield fencing will operate similar to previous application, with environmental graphics.

Applicant stated in the affirmative.

Chair Quilici asked if the material that appeared to be wood on the architectural renderings was indeed wood.

Applicant stated that material would likely be a faux wood material due to cost and maintenance considerations.

Chair Quilici commented on the proposed Splash Pad being so close to the street with concern that children users may conflict with vehicles.

Chair Quilici asked if traffic calming measures would be included in the parking lot to deter passthrough use.

Applicant agreed.

Commissioner Woodson voiced concerns about tree removal.

Applicant stated that most of the trees to be removed are of poor health and potential hazard of falling. Many trees are also in proximity to power lines, this requiring significant pruning that decreased health.

Public Comment:

No public comment received.

A motion was made by Gemmer, seconded by Danese, that this Location, Character and Extent Item be recommended for approval with conditions to the Planning Commission.

Approved Conditions:

1. Staff recommends that final details on outdoor lighting be sensitive to light pollution or dark-skies compliant.
2. Staff recommends inclusion of permeable hardscape materials where appropriate and as suggested by the Urban Design Guidelines.
3. Staff recommends that the re-use of existing materials onsite should be incorporated with the design plans, where feasible.
4. Staff recommends that a maintenance plan be submitted during the Final UDC review phase to include landscaping, sustainability features, and public spaces.
5. Staff recommends the applicant incorporate public art, where feasible.
6. Staff recommends that the applicant provide further visual interest on the building façade facing Rogers Street.
7. Staff recommends that the final design include seating, landscaping, and stormwater elements in such a way as to encourage safe use of the proposed splash pad.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 6 - Andrea Quilici, Justin Doyle, Eva Clarke, Jessie Gemmer, Committee Member Charles Woodson and Mitch Danese

3.

Attachments: [UDC Report to CPC](#)
[Staff Report to UDC](#)
[Application & Plans](#)
[Presentation to UDC - Existing Library Examples](#)

Staff provided a presentation.

Commissioner Gemmer asked for clarification on removal of the "front porch structure."

Applicant confirmed that the structure will be removed, including columns.

Commissioner Gemmer asked if shade for the proposed front common area will be facilitated after the porch structure is removed. The Commissioner also asked if the roofline of the building will be appropriate once the porch structure is removed.

Applicant states that removal of the porch furthered transparency, inviting architecture, maintenance issues, and access.

Chair Quilici asked for clarification on what exactly was to be approved by the UDC during that meeting, further detail on proposed function of area around the building, and what the community has requested in terms of outdoor space.

Applicant stated the community's primary request was to keep the existing rear garden. The Applicant stated that the plans included greater connection between the interior of the building and that rear garden. The Applicant also stated that the splashpad will be

designed to protect against conflict with the street via landscaping and site furniture.

The Applicant explains the history of the library and the goal of the renovation project. The Applicant stated that the entrance being on ground level facilitates equitable access.

The Applicant states that the project is in the early phases of design and may change.

The Committee and Planner Roakes discuss what is to be approved by the current application, that the application can come back before the UDC to be amended before Final Approval review, and that the current plan needs to be improved with further detail and finalized items.

Vice Chair Clarke asked for about the timeline of the project.

Applicant stated that there was no firm timeline because it has not been budgeted at that time, but the Applicant hoped to be back before the UDC by 2024.

The Commission added the following conditions to the conditions recommended by Staff.

10. Applicant to return to the UDC to amend the Concept Plan once proposal items are finalized and detailed, prior to final approval by the UDC.
11. Applicant to further detail and improve landscaping, stormwater retention, site design, and architecture to amend the concept plan when available.
12. Existing facade to be studied in how it connects to the new addition and preserve the existing building where feasible.

Public Comment:

No public comment received.

A motion was made by Committee Member Woodson, seconded by Doyle, that this Location, Character and Extent Item be recommended for approval with conditions to the Planning Commission.

Approved Conditions:

1. Staff encourages the proposed sustainability concepts and recommends inclusion of sustainable stormwater practices.
2. Staff recommends that disaster sustainability features be included.
3. Staff recommends that final details on outdoor lighting be sensitive to light pollution or dark-skies compliant.
4. Staff recommends inclusion of permeable hardscape materials where appropriate and as suggested by the Urban Design Guidelines.
5. Staff recommends that street trees be evaluated for health and adequacy and should be protected or replaced during the project.
6. Staff recommends that sustainability features be included for the proposed splash pad and pedestrian plaza, as detailed by the Urban Design Guidelines.
7. Staff recommends that the re-use of existing materials onsite should be incorporated with the design plans, where feasible.
8. Staff recommends that a maintenance plan be submitted during the Final UDC review phase to include landscaping, sustainability features, and public spaces.
9. Staff recommends that the final design include seating, landscaping, and stormwater elements in such a way as to encourage safe use of the proposed splash pad.
10. Applicant to return to the UDC to amend the Concept Plan once proposal items are finalized and detailed, prior to final approval by the UDC.
11. Applicant to further detail and improve landscaping, stormwater retention, site design, and architecture to amend the concept plan when available.

12. Existing facade to be studied in how it connects to the new addition and preserve the existing building where feasible.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 6 - Andrea Quilici, Justin Doyle, Eva Clarke, Jessie Gemmer, Committee Member
Charles Woodson and Mitch Danese

OTHER BUSINESS

Adjournment