



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
2nd Floor of City Hall
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com

Meeting Minutes - Draft Urban Design Committee

Thursday, February 8, 2018

10:00 AM

5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall

Call to Order

Call to order - 10:04AM

Meeting Reconvened

Roll Call

- Present** -- 6 - * Chair Andrea Almond, * Bryan Green, * Andrew P. Gould, * Giles Harnsberger, * Jill Nolt and * Chair Andrea Quilici
- Excused** -- 3 - * Chris Arias, * Committee Member David Johannas and * Robert Smith
- Vacant** -- 1 - * Committee Member Dawn Hicks

Approval of Minutes

1. [UDC MIN 2018-01](#) Minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 4, 2018

Attachments: [UDC MIN 2018-01 DRAFT](#)

A motion was made by Committee Member Gould, seconded by Committee Member Quilici, that these Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye** -- 4 - Chair Andrea Almond, Andrew P. Gould, Giles Harnsberger and Chair Andrea Quilici
- Excused** -- 3 - Chris Arias, Committee Member David Johannas and Robert Smith
- Abstain** -- 2 - Bryan Green and Jill Nolt

Secretary's Report

Mr. Son spoke to Alexander Rawles in the Clerk's Office. He thought going forward, still accepting applications from persons in the field of Static Arts as it is broadly defined including architecture. If the applicant feels they meet a very vague criteria, we general include the application for the council's review. Including anyone in architecture unless we are explicitly informed that the various forms of architecture are not in Static Arts. Mr. Rawles made a recommendation for amending the composition. Mr. Son presented a PowerPoint slide of the suggested amendment.

Mr. Gould asked Mr. Son to go back to the proposed amendment and to suggested further changes.

Ms. Nolt, stated further modifications.

Ms. Almond stated that, she thinks the position could be someone from Art 180 or VMFA.

Ms. Harnsberger, stated that we should find out what the intention is for this position, and think about how that person would help frame that. Is that the intention?

Mr. Son, stated this is what you all can consider. Mr. Son states, that this is an issue that can be discussed next meeting in the "Other Business" part of the meeting.

Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA

2. [UDC 2018-7](#) Final Location, Character, and Extent review of G. W. Carver Elementary School Signage, 1110 W. Leigh St.

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

A motion was made by Committee Member Nolt, seconded by Committee Member Gould, that the consent agenda items be approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

3. [UDC 2018-6](#) Final Location, Character, and Extent review of Bellemeade Enterprise Center, 1600 Overlook St.

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

The applicant, Bob Argabright (BA), President and Chairman of the Board of Ground Work RVA stated that he wants to give a brief history because all of this was laid out well. Seven years ago when we talked about developing the new school, the theme of the school was always to be the watershed and the outdoors. We have been developing the property with the outdoor theme in mind. Six years ago we formed what we called the "The Bellemeade Walkable Watershed Coalition." We had meetings with so many community members and out of that came a number of ideas on beautification, safe routes to school and so on. All these walkable corridors were laid out based on what they saw. The school was designed for walking and biking, and no child lives more than 7/10 of a mile from the school. The problem with the community is that it is under serviced. Although they can walk and bike, there are no bikes in the community, so in the last five years, I have donated over 800 bikes in that community. What typically happens is they will recognize my car and wave me down and tell me, "Mr. Bob, my bicycle is broken." He has a compressor to help the children with their bike. You start working with the youth, you realize that they have no knowledge of the tools or how to repair. So the thought was to put a bicycle repair shop there and teach them. Let's reach out to the moms as well. What's happening also, I have a group of middle school and high school kids that are working on a project now. If you look at the (shows vision board) the school zone, if you look at it, there is one mile of bike trail that could be implemented in this community, that will connect them to the trail. I would ask you to please endorse this program, there are so many benefits that can come out of it. I would love to vision at some point in time, everything we are doing can be replicated, so why not see this in other locations too. I would be willing to answer any questions you may have.

This is a key project for us, the other key project for us is the bridge and that got the connector to Hillside Court, which is now a just a third of a mile from the school. Everything starts from this Enterprise Center.

JN: I completely endorse the idea, I would love to see this as a case study. The question is, regarding the location chosen for the structure and what I can see from the budget you are not planning ground or site improvements to go with this, no (pathways, walkways).

BA: The only walking trail now is coming in from Royal Avenue on the far right-hand corner. That goes around to the bridge and then across the bridge along the creek going west then by the football field on the left. There are plans in place to join that walking path then completely go around an able to complete the route. The walking place stops right here (show photo) but there are plans to continue around the back-side and come around this way. This piece of property use to be private property that is being develop. We put in "Black Eye Susan" last year. This is a pollination garden (show vision board).

JN: This project is going to happen before some of those thing get implemented, and just make it successful. I'm just thinking about the servicing that has to come to through the trailer like bike supplies and if the students are dropping off recycling in exchange for bike service, they may be able to haul that recycle away. It might be worthwhile to look at some alternate location that can take advantage of path or vehicular drives already in place or see if you can include a pathway to get to service. You wouldn't want it to become a muddy sight around the building to make it function.

BA: States that this is a city street Krouse Street (vision board), this is a public alleyway and it has construction gravel in it now. Once the construction trucks are out of there then ????? has agreed to come in improve that "way" then you can actually drive through.

JN: asked, then how do you get from that point to the proposed building location?

Applicant Bob: States there will be a gate in here (vision board), there is space for parking. Once you get to the parking point, it's only 20 feet from the container. You can drive down there, if you choose to do so.

JN: Asked, is this how you envision it being operated? That the people that are working there would be driving down to the site to off load there equipment. Applicant Bob: replies, they will be picking up the recycling supplies. Most of the volunteers would parking in the community center parking lot and walking up there. Anytime we would have to go down there, we would have that part closed off, it is too easy for people to come in and jumping, we control that entry point.

AQ: Stated: I completely support your project. How would the containers be used, my understanding it would be just storage, then the shelter would be the place where the students will be doing their repairs?

BA: Replied, off to one side of it a little shelter area and they would be there. In good weather, we would take bike racks and put them outside, is what we would do. On the right side would be bike carts and tools. The other side would be maintenance equipment.

AQ: Most of the work would be done outside?

BA: Outside under the cover or if we have beautiful days, we will be outside too. The thing about it, when we open, we can have 20 kids at one time and we have to have local volunteers working with them, until we can develop the local community and teach them

how to do the mentoring also. So, we need the space outside. It's a beautiful view there.

AQ: So, it will be used mostly, I would say summer time, spring time, and on nice days.

BA: There is nothing for the kids to do down there on the weekends. I have been down there before on the weekends (Saturday and Sunday), and if I am just present down there, they are going to come.

AQ: Do you envision this to be used in the evening and if so, is there some kind of electricity connection?

BA: There is a public utility poll 20ft. from the container, it has a street light on it. But I don't envision, once it starts to get dusk, I would not have the children up there, I would want them to be home. I do some times about the security when we are not there, so that is where that utility poll comes in to put in a monitoring system. And most of the vandalism in that community comes from 10-11 year old kids.

JN: Asked do you feel like there is generally good visibility of this location, do you have long site lines?

BA: Yes, also there are neighbors that all backed up to the container, its wide open, and the neighbors are into it too. They want to be involved as well.

AQ: Is this the road you were talking about that leads close to the containers, that it's still gravel and would be then completed?

BA: That's construction gravel right now because use that construction gravel to put the bridge in, so you really wouldn't want to walk around there all the time, it's just too busy. Luck Stone has agreed, they furnish gravel. They will come and finish it for me. I call myself the President of the Enterprise Center, I will not be driving back there myself, and other people will want to park back there as well. I will let trucks back there but that's it.

AQ: Is that the light poll you mention?

BA: There is another one, you can barely see it, and you can see the silver part of it back there. The lights on the field stay on. On the far right hand side Joshua (Showing PowerPoint Presentation).

AQ: A couple of other questions, is there any connection to water?

BA: There is a resident that I have tap in his water sometimes when we have watered some trees.

AQ: Below the Shed, is there some type of gravel?

BA: It would be mulch, we have the inch ½ gravel and the rest mulch. We have some picnic bench and will put some more places to sit (benches). The children are going to use this as a place to go, because they have no option.

AQ: I have a couple of other technical questions. How are containers going to sit there or will have metal, CMU Blocks, what are you thinking about?

Will McQuate (WM), of GroundworkRVA: The container are going to set on bed of 57 gravel. That we are going to level. will set them with a crane. We partnered with a crane

company. So it should be on a gravel level.

AQ: Looks like shed roof or beam is a little low.

JN: You are only going to be able to use only half of that space. The kids may not be able to stand up.

WM: I think it will be higher than the rendering because of the continuing will on bed of gravel. That particular area underneath the roof structure will not need to be. Envision 1 ft. higher, so it's quite low but more usable space.

AQ: How much are we talking about 6ft 8in to 10ft. on the other side?

WM: On the other side it is approximately 5ft. it would be approximately one foot higher.

JN: As I understand this is the trust this is your stick building in the field. So that this beam can come up higher. This way you will get more usable space.

JN: The other thing to think about, I imagine when the doors open, there will be a little shade.

WM: We have not discussed that but I think that could happen.

Nathan Burrell, Superintendent of JRPS: States that he was asked by Parks & Recreation to represent this project. As the City of Richmond continues work in the community and work with partners and community members, expose community member. We at Parks and Recreation absolutely support this project.

JN: We are considering this a final. Approval with staff comments. And change pitch of the shed roof for adequate head height.

A motion was made by Committee Member Nolt that this item be approved with Staff recommendations and the following conditions:

-That the applicant change the pitch of the roof for adequate head height

Staff recommended conditions are:

-That the applicant consult with DPU – Water Resources Division to ensure all design and plans are in compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act regulations.

Committee Member Quilici seconded the motion and it carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 5 - Chair Andrea Almond, Bryan Green, Andrew P. Gould, Jill Nolt and Chair Andrea Quilici

Excused -- 3 - Chris Arias, Committee Member David Johannas and Robert Smith

Recused -- 1 - Giles Harnsberger

4. [UDC 2018-8](#) Conceptual Location, Character, and Extent review of a new outdoor classroom pavilion for Patrick Henry School of Science & Art, 3411 Semmes Ave.

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

The applicant Deborah Corliss, an associate with PHSSA stated that: PHSSA started in the church basement with 140 students, now we have 330, we have students from all over the district/city. The arts and science are major pieces of our curriculum and we feel that an outdoor classroom would enhance the ability for students to use that space and make it viable for the students. We have a lot of garden at the school. We have butterfly garden, vegetable gardens, every classroom has a garden they are responsible for. Again, this will simply enhance the curriculum, which we have already started.

DG: Asked if this plan would require a drawing based on the amount of land for Chesapeake Bay Compliance

JS: replied this is something that I ran by DPU because it's close to Reedy Creek which is part of the Chesapeake Watershed, all it would require is certain permitting.

AQ: I didn't see any gutter at the end of the slope of the roof so I would suggest since you have a gardening there would be nice and helpful to have a water collector.

Jason Mullany of HKS Architects (JM), stated: we will try to collect on one side and control in a rain barrel.

AQ: Asked about materials for retaining wall, are kind of block walls

JM: it will be landscape blocks

AQ: Will it be gravel or grass

JM: it would be gravel, the top would be grass

JN: Use column and push them back so it feels like trees and canopy of trees, you have 3 on one side and two on the other. JM, agreed, we would like to push that as far as we can.

AQ: What is the grade change?

JM: We do not have an accurate survey but what we estimate to be is about 4 feet drop, so it's about a gentle slope.

Nathan Burrell, Superintendent of JRPS stated support of the project.

A motion was made by Committee Member Gould that this item be approved with Staff recommendations.

Staff recommended conditions are:

-That the applicant consult with DPU – Water Resources Division to ensure all design and plans are in compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act regulations.

Committee Member Quilici seconded the motion and it carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 6 - Chair Andrea Almond, Bryan Green, Andrew P. Gould, Giles Harnsberger, Jill Nolt and Chair Andrea Quilici

Excused -- 3 - Chris Arias, Committee Member David Johannas and Robert Smith

5. [UDC 2018-9](#) Final Location, Character, and Extent review of Richmond Transit Network Plan bus shelters at 500 N. 9th St. and 4110 Hull St.

Attachments: [Staff Report to UDC](#)
[Location & Plans](#)
[DPW Comment](#)

JN: Is that ground or is that structure with space below.

JS: It looks like a solid with a more impacted soil, with this concept, they (GRTC) will pour concrete.

JN: Is there a bus shelter standard in the City?

JS: We have the shelters in the neighborhood bus shelters and the presentation that I did last month were mesh. We have those as a part of our catalog of bus shelters in the City.

JN: Do you feel this is meeting the standards that you would expect from other shelters in the City.

JS: This is not going to be a standard, this is just for these two locations. I spoke to the applicant, if this was to be considered for use around the City, it would come under another review. But in terms, of the design of this shelter, this is a huge improvement and is better from a security stand point.

JN: Is this the proposed color for the shelter? I'm wondering what the color was to get some continuity, in the finished color.

The applicant, Amy Inman, City of Richmond: Thank you for considering the bus shelters. It needs to be modernized for the a few decades now. This is the first step toward that vision. We are very excited, we will have the changes to all the shelters. We will make sure the GRTC has it black in color. Not sure if the metal roof will be the color black.

GH: With roof tops, I would say that the city has a heat problem, I honestly think that a black roof causes more heat. Black roofs create more heat.

David Capparuccini of Kimley-Horn, stated on behalf of the applicant: the roof will be a light grey aluminum.

GH: Are these temporary on 9th but not temporary on Hull Street Road.

AI: Correct, the Hull Street Road will have more activity at that location. We are looking at transfer facilities throughout the city to get a handle on the overall needs.

GH: Asked a question on the implementation schedule for the temporary shelter and how that coordinate with the Coliseum project.

AI: Stated that she does not have an answer for that at this time. When we receive the proposal, we will have better understanding to what phasing might look like. There has been significant desire on behalf of the riders and elected officials that we do something

about this.

GH: My concern is the potential renovation of the Social Services building, to me if you are going to have a demolishing or renovation of that structure it can impact those shelters.

BG: Asked can they be relocated to new sites.

AI: Yes.

GH: Are the solar panels connected to a light source.

AI: Yes

A motion was made by Committee Member Harnsberger that this item be approved with Staff recommendations and the following conditions:

- That the applicant consider moving certain 9th street shelters onto underutilized dirt space**
- That the finish colors of the proposed shelters match those of the BRT stations, to the highest extent possible**
- That the top surface of the roofs of the proposed shelters be reflective or a lighter color**

Staff recommended conditions are:

- That the applicant shift the proposed bus shelter, at 4110 Hull St., east approximately 1'-2', to accommodate pedestrian "shy distance", the space between the edge of the sidewalk and any fixed object**

Committee Member Gould seconded the motion and it carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 6 - Chair Andrea Almond, Bryan Green, Andrew P. Gould, Giles Harnsberger, Jill Nolt and Chair Andrea Quilici

Excused -- 3 - Chris Arias, Committee Member David Johannas and Robert Smith

OTHER BUSINESS

Adjournment