



To: Urban Design Committee
From: Planning and Preservation Division
Date: August 4, 2016
RE: **Final Location, Character and Extent Review of modifications to telecommunications equipment on a monopole at Carter Jones Park, 2813 Bainbridge Street; UDC No. 2016-33**

I. APPLICANT

Pamela Porter, Department of Public Works

II. LOCATION

Carter Jones Park, 2813 Bainbridge St

Property Owner:

City of Richmond

III. PURPOSE

The application is for conceptual location, character and extent review of additions to an existing telecommunications monopole at Carter Jones Park, 2813 Bainbridge.

IV. SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

Staff is supportive of this project as it will allow for the necessary upgrades with minimal alterations to the existing condition. Therefore, it is Staff's position that the Urban Design Committee should recommend that the Planning Commission grant conceptual approval as submitted.

Staff Contact:

Kathleen Onufer, (804) 646-5207

V. FINDINGS OF FACT

a. Site Description and Surrounding Context

The existing pole and equipment are contained within cabinets inside a shelter and surrounding by a compound chain link security fence, with some vegetative screening, with vehicular access provided by a driveway. Single family neighborhoods surround Carter Jones Park on all sides.

b. Scope of Review

The project is subject to location, character, and extent review under Section 17.07 of the Richmond City Charter as a "public structure".

c. UDC Review History

The Urban Design Committee reviewed and the Planning Commission approved the construction of the existing monopoles at this location in 2000, and has reviewed updates of the equipment and collocation in 2006, 2007, and 2009.

d. Project Description

This project proposed upgrades, including the installation of additional equipment, to an existing 150' monopole used for collocation of telecommunications at the site. This additions include cables and antennas to the existing wireless telecommunication facility, as well as one additional 2' microwave dish and one remote radio unit.

Tower-mounted equipment such as this is composed of panel antennas and microwave dishes. The panel antennas provide area coverage for services, in this instance Sprint's, and the microwaves function as a data transport network and provide "line-of-site" links to adjacent, connecting sites. To support their network and also to remain compliant with FCC E911 Regulations, Sprint is altering and updating antenna systems like this one at collocated sites within the City and surrounding jurisdictions.

e. Master Plan

The subject property is located in the Old South Planning District, as defined by the Citywide Master Plan, and is designated for Public and Open Space uses, a category that includes publicly owned and operated parks, recreation areas, open spaces, schools and other government and public service functions (page 275). There is no language in the Plan specific to the proposed telecommunications monopole.

f. Urban Design Guidelines

The Public Facilities section of the Urban Design Guidelines states that "whenever possible, new telecommunication devices shall be located on existing infrastructure" and further that "telecommunication devices that are able to be co-located on existing towers are encouraged" (page 16).

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- a. Vicinity Map**
- b. Application**
- c. Plans**