



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Ord. No. 2016-248: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$3,000,000 from the Monroe Park Conservancy and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Capital Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Monroe Park - Renovations and Restoration project in the Culture and Recreation category by \$3,000,000 for the purpose of assisting in the renovation of Monroe Park.

To: City Planning Commission
From: Land Use Administration
Date: October 3, 2016

PETITIONER

City of Richmond

LOCATION

Monroe Park, 15 North Laurel Street

PURPOSE

To appropriate funds in the amount of \$3,000,000 from the Monroe Park Conservancy to the Monroe Park – Renovations and Restoration CIP Project for FY17.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

This City Council action is pursuant to and contemplated by the Agreement and Deed of Lease, unanimously adopted by City Council in April 2014. The Monroe Park Conservancy was to raise \$3,000,000 to contribute to the Monroe Park – Renovations and Restoration CIP Project. The Monroe Park – Renovations and Restoration CIP Project will renovate and restore Monroe Park, incorporating design plans based on the Monroe Park Master Plan. The funds provided will allow the City to complete the renovation and restoration plans of this public asset.

Pursuant to the Agreement, the Monroe Park Conservancy has raised \$3,000,000 and will pay this sum to the City.

The City will procure the construction services necessary to complete the renovations. The City must receive the \$3,000,000 from the Monroe Park Conservancy in order to make a contract award.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Site Description

The subject property is a 9.3 acre parcel of land known as Monroe Park, in the Near West planning district.

Proposed Use of the Property

Renovation and restoration of the existing park.

Master Plan

Monroe Park is located within the VCU Downtown Urban Center Area, as designated by the City's Downtown Plan.

According to the Plan, Monroe Park should be promoted as a center of the VCU campus and community: "With the growth of the Monroe Park Campus that surrounds the park on four sides, Monroe Park is becoming more important to the University as its primary green space, and as such has been endorsed as a central feature within the campus by the VCU 2020 Master Plan. The City and the Monroe Park Advisory Council have developed the 2008 Monroe Park Master Plan that will guide future enhanced use of the park as a cultural and passive recreational center for the campus and the neighborhood. This park plan has been reflected in the illustrations in the Downtown Plan. Respect for the park's historic integrity and increased maintenance and security are key to the park's success (p. 4.17)."

Zoning

Monroe Park is zoned with the R-73 Multifamily Residential District.

Surrounding Area

Properties surrounding Monroe Park are zoned within the R-73 Multifamily Residential District, the R-53 Multifamily Residential District, the B-3 General Business District, and the RO-3 Residential-Office District. A mix of institutional, office, commercial, and residential land uses are present in the vicinity.

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