



City of Richmond

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Meeting Minutes - Draft Planning Commission

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

6:00 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

To access the meeting via Microsoft Teams: <https://go.rva.gov/CPC2025>

Call To Order

Chair Poole called this regularly scheduled meeting of the City Planning Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

-- Present 10 - * Commissioner Burchell Pinnock, * Commissioner Dakia K. Knight, * Commissioner Dakia K. Knight, * Commissioner Rodney Poole, * Commissioner Brian White, * Commissioner Ellen Robertson, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner Victor Mckenzie Jr., * Commissioner Rebecca Rowe, and * Alternate Sharon Ebert

Chair's Comments

Approval of Minutes

Director's Report

Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda items were considered by the Commission as a group, and there was one single combined public hearing held for all items listed on the Consent Agenda.

There were no speakers during the public comment period.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rowe, seconded by Commissioner Greenfield, to adopt the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Aye -- 9 - * Commissioner Burchell Pinnock, * Commissioner Dakia K. Knight, * Commissioner Rodney Poole, * Commissioner Brian White, * Commissioner Ellen Robertson, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner Victor Mckenzie Jr., * Commissioner Rebecca Rowe and * Alternate Sharon Ebert

1. [ORD. 2025-245](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the total amount of \$728,695.00 from the Virginia Department of Transportation and to amend Ord. No. 2025-058, adopted May 12, 2025, which accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and the four fiscal years thereafter, adopted a Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, and determined a means of financing the same, to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Capital Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Public Works Bike Lanes/Boulevard (Street Conversions) project in the Transportation - Federal/State/Regional category by \$728,695.00 for the purpose of funding the Bike Lanes/Boulevard (Street Conversions) project.

This item was recommended for approval.

Regular Agenda

2. [ORD. 2025-244](#) To declare a public necessity for and to authorize the acquisition by gift of the parcels of real property known as 313 South Harrison Street and 1112 Idlewood Avenue from the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority for the purpose of creating a permanent public park. (5th District)

There were no speakers during the public comment period for this item.

Following the motion to approve, Chair Poole called for discussion; there being none, the motion proceeded to a vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Greenfield, seconded by Commissioner Knight, that this item be recommended for approval. The motion carried unanimously.

3. [CPCR.2025.008](#) Resolution of the City Planning Commission to Adopt the Cultural Heritage Stewardship Plan

During the public comment period the following people spoke in support of this item:

Martha Warthen
Logan Parham – Preservation Virginia
Cyane Crump – Historic Richmond
Rob Comet
Melissa Savenko
Lexi Cleveland
Jim Hill
Peighton Young
Jennie Joyce
Kimberly Vullo

The following people noted concerns:

Samantha Kenny

Following the motion to approve, Chair Poole called for discussion.

Commissioner White, who was a member of the subcommittee for the plan, shared support for the advancement of the paper due to City staff's cooperation with the subcommittee. Additionally, Commissioner White expressed disappointment that the plan focuses on administrative control over market driven solutions.

Commissioner Knight, another member of the subcommittee, noted her concern that the plan would create barriers that would lead to a lack of affordability.

Commissioner Rowe, the third member of the subcommittee, thanked City staff for their work on the requested changes made by the subcommittee. Commissioner Rowe discussed the balance between historic preservation and affordability. She noted that Richmond has a significant history but no preservation plan, unlike other historically significant cities such as Charleston and Savannah.

Commissioner Robertson expressed concern over the fiscal impact of some of the recommendations listed in the plan and the impact on property values in the City. She shared her support for historic preservation and noted that there are neighborhoods in the City, such as the historically black neighborhoods of Jackson Ward and the area near Byrd Park previously known as the West End, could have been protected. She discussed the impact that planning has had on the black residents of the City, highlighting the history of displacement and disinvestment, specifically noting the displacement of black residents from the 3rd District and the 5th District. She continued to express concerns about implementation, noting that there should be benchmarks in the plan to ensure accountability. She further elaborated on the necessity of setting benchmarks, citing concerns about repeating history. Commissioner Robertson concluded by stating that she felt that the plan could be implemented as is, but that she had proposed amendments that would assist in implementation.

Commissioner Greenfield questioned if the resolution should be continued to address Commissioner Robertson's suggested amendments.

Commissioner White, Commissioner Pinnock, and Commissioner McKenzie all

expressed support for sending the resolution as it stood and for the work of the subcommittee. Additionally, Commissioner McKenzie recognized Commissioner Robertson’s concerns and posed the question about the possibility of future amendments.

Director Vonck discussed the process of approval for amendments to the plan.

Chair Poole expressed support for the resolution and recognized the concerns raised by other Commissioners.

Director Vonck finished the discussion by walking through the process of requesting amendments to the plan in more detail.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rowe, and seconded by Commissioner Pinnock to approve this resolution with the following amendments:

- Amend the plan as noted in the attached amendment document; and

- Amend the resolving clause to read as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Richmond City Planning Commission hereby amends the Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth Master Plan by adopting the Cultural Heritage Stewardship Plan, dated October 2025, a copy of which is attached to this resolution, as amended by the City Planning Commission on November 18, 2025, a copy of which amendments is attached to this resolution, as an incorporated element of the Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth Master Plan;

Aye -- 8 - * Commissioner Burchell Pinnock, * Commissioner Rodney Poole, * Commissioner Brian White, * Commissioner Ellen Robertson, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner Victor Mckenzie Jr., * Commissioner Rebecca Rowe and * Alternate Sharon Ebert

No -- 1 - * Commissioner Dakia K. Knight

4. [PDRPRES 2025.034](#) Code Refresh Update

Chair Poole offered a public comment period.

The following people spoke on this item:

John Cass
Kenton Hambrick

This item was presented.

Council Action Update and Upcoming Items

Adjournment

Chair Poole adjourned the meeting at 9:53 pm.