

UDC MEETING 2/4/2016

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Levine to approve the February 7th minutes, seconded by Ms. Harnsberger and passed 7-0-0 (Almond, Arias, Cole, Harnsberger, Levine, Nolt and Smith for).

Staff Report

Ms. Onufer stated that at the January 19th meeting the Planning Commission approved the Kanawha Plaza transportation and pedestrian access plan on the Consent agenda with UDC conditions. Ms. Onufer stated that Mr. Vik Murthy has declined his appointment to the UDC due to a time conflict with his work. Ms. Onufer stated that Mr. Doug Cole will continue to serve as PC member on UDC – two new members will join PC in the next few months and when they do the PC will take up the UDC appointment again.

Mr. Mark Olinger, Director of Planning and Development Review, stated that he would like to see what the pleasure of the Committee was in handling the tour of Broad Street for the Urban Design Guidelines for the BRT. Mr. Olinger stated that it would be good if they could get over the next couple of weeks and walk around a little bit from Bowe Street to Staples Mills Road. Mr. Olinger and the Committee came to a consensus to do the tour between 11:30 to 1:30 and Mr. Olinger stated that he would like to do it before the end of February. Mr. Olinger stated that he would like to talk about doing it at night to see how the lights affect the way finding signs.

Mr. Cole inquired if there was an update of the Maggie Walker Plaza and inquired if it going to stay with UDC or go to CAR. Ms. Lory Markham, with the Planning Commission, stated that the Planning Commission did discuss the Maggie Walker Plaza and whether the application should be sent to CAR or UDC at their last meeting and stated that they deferred the decision to next meeting which is on February 16th. Ms. Markham stated that they seemed amicable to sending it to the UDC and stated that they felt that the expertise at the UDC will be more appropriate for this type of project.

1. Conceptual Location, Character and Extent Review of a new pump station and water tank at 8850 Huguenot Road, UDC No. 2016-02

The application is for conceptual location, character and extent review of a new pump station and water tank at 8850 W. Huguenot Road.

Ms. Levine stated that she strongly agree that there needs to be green shielding on Huguenot side. Mr. Bob Steidel, Director of Utilities for the City Of Richmond, stated that this is part of the regional drinking water system that provides safe drinking water through plan design of transmission mains, pump stations and storage tanks throughout the region. Mr. Steidel stated that this project will add infrastructure to that regional system and is supported by the City of Richmond water supply plan as well as the system of wholesale contracts that they have with their customers Chesterfield County, Hanover County and Henrico County. Mr. Steidel stated that additionally this project will provide new fire protection for some properties in the City of Richmond. Mr. Steidel stated that he certainly recommend this project for UDC approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Harnsberger to recommend that the Planning Commission grant conceptual approval with the following conditions:

- That the final plans include a tree survey indicating location and species of any tree 4" in caliper and greater that is proposed to be removed as part of the roadway widening and realignment.
- That the final plans include a landscape plan and schedule showing tree species, quantity, location and size at the time of installation.
- That the applicant considers planting a row of evergreen vegetation along the Huguenot Road section of security fencing to provide year-round screening.
- That the applicant considers, in consultation with the Fire Station, planting additional evergreen screening in the island created by the Fire Station access drives, in order to provide additional screening for vehicles travelling westbound on Huguenot Road.
- That the applicant specify and provide renderings showing that the water tank will be painted with a color designed to blend with the surrounding vegetation.
- That the final plans include renderings of all four pump station façades.
- That the final plans include plans showing the dimensions of the tank and pump station.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Cole and passed 7-0-0 (Almond, Arias, Cole, Harnsberger, Levine, Nolt and Smith for).

2. Conceptual Location, Character and Extent Review of the widening of Richmond-Henrico Turnpike between Dove Street and Fourquare Lane, UDC No. 2016-05

The application is for Conceptual Location, Character and Extent review of the widening of Richmond-Henrico Turnpike between Dove Street and Fourquare Lane.

Mr. Arias inquired why the recommendation for the radii be reduced at Dove and the Turnpike. Ms. Onufer stated that the large radii allows vehicles to take the corners in sharp speeds in comparison and stated that both of the narrow lanes on this road currently in the substandard pavement act as a form of natural traffic calming. Ms. Onufer stated that as they are evaluating this is in order to make it up to standards it is likely that they would lose some of that negative traffic calming and stated that they want to consider ways to address any adverse effects coming out from that particularly in terms of protecting the Cannon Creek Greenway and increase use of that by pedestrians and bicyclists.

Ms. Nolt stated that Ms. Onufer spoke about one intersection and inquired if she think all the other intersections are appropriate or is she recommending that they restudy all of them and Ms. Onufer stated that it will be worth looking at studying all of the intersections.

Mr. Cole inquired if the City through staff or code have a recommendation for trees that come out and stated that if they say they need to replace in inch for inch and Ms. Onufer stated that they don't officially have a tree policy right now and stated that they can consult with the City arborists and staff to find out what their recommendations would be in this instance.

Ms. Harnsberger stated that there is a note on one of the plans at the intersection of Fourquare and Richmond Henrico Turnpike and stated that in the center of the plan the City of Richmond to development the need for pedestrian access by the guard rail. Ms.

Harnsberger stated that is the cut that is primarily used by the residence of Green Park to get to the commercial uses on Brookland Park Boulevard and stated that she has looked at that with Parks and Rec for potential stairway installation and stated that it is a difficult location because there is a lot of grade there. Ms. Harnsberger inquired what consideration for pedestrian access was. Mr. Mark Vasco, consultant engineers on the project, stated that there was some concerns about accesses the ravine in this location and stated that if the guardrail were to be installed it will cut off any possibility of getting down into the ravine. Mr. Vasco stated that they were unsure at this time whether they wanted to maintain that access down into the ravine and stated that there was some discussion a while back about possibly having a trail down in the ravine. Mr. Vasco stated that if an access needs to be considered they need to coordinate that with the City and do whatever they need to do in that location.

Mr. Manuchehr Nosrati, Department of Public Works Project Manager, stated that there is an opening in that intersection and it was requested previously to keep that section available for people that want to go down to the ravine for recreational walk. Mr. Nosrati stated that putting in stairways is not a part of this project and stated that they are not anticipating to make it public access there it is only for maintenance people. Ms. Harnsberger stated that she has particular knowledge of that location and request that location be open for pedestrian access because there are students that go to the high school there that crosses through that intersection. Mr. Nosrati stated that they are not going to close that opening for people that want to go down there so that section will not be closed off. Mr. Nosrati stated as far as the other conditions that was addressed they are doable and stated that he spoke with the traffic division and in order to close up the radii as much as possible but stated that they must make sure that large fire trucks can make the radii. Mr. Nosrati stated that as far the trees are concerned they will identify what trees and how many are supposed to come out and stated that as far as the replacement they spoke to Mr. Mike Mather City arborists and he mentioned that there are some places that they can place some trees. Mr. Nosrati stated they will make the recommendation on how many trees and where to place them and stated that it shouldn't be a problem. Mr. Nosrati stated that as part of preparing the landscape plan they don't see that it is necessary and stated that the plan review will specify how many trees are coming out and the species based on the recommendation by the arborist. Mr. Nosrati stated that with the fourth recommendation about the wall they are anticipating placing a VDOT stand up walls since it is only a small section they are minimizing the slope removal and will retain as many trees as possible.

Ms. Nolt inquired what the retaining wall is made out of and Mr. Nosrati stated that it is made out of concrete.

Mr. Olinger stated that he really don't like the guardrail that was put in the first portion and stated that he thinks the guardrail is blaring and stated that he thinks this is one of the nicest roadway cross sections in the City and inquired if they would consider doing something on the guardrail detail that would be a little more recessive and is not sure if they can paint it and is unsure what the materials are. Mr. Olinger stated that if it still retains most of its forest characterization he thinks that having a bright shiny guardrail on this stretch would do a disservice to the feel of the turnpike. Mr. Olinger stated that he was wondering if they would consider changing that a little bit and exploring other options. Mr. Olinger went on to say that if they are not coming right together they are going to have that gap and stated that could possibly work. Mr. Nosrati stated that the gap is approximately under 10ft and 7 or 8ft in the opening and stated that they were thinking that Public Works was looking at keeping the continuity look and keeping the guardrail that was installed from Fourquean to East Brookland Park Boulevard. Mr. Nosrati stated that as far as the aesthetic look it was just

judgment and they wanted to keep something similar for aesthetics and continuity and stated that they are open to suggestions. Mr. Nosrati stated that if everyone wants to change that they have no problem and stated that as far as it being a rustic look he was told that is not a VDOT approved guardrail. Mr. Olinger stated that they have the detail that was installed on the Huguenot Bridge and stated that the detail is on one of the Henrico counties roads near I-64 and stated that they have something similar to that at the Nickel Bridge. Mr. Olinger stated that it does exist elsewhere in the city and stated that he can't believe that VDOT would have done something to the Huguenot Bridge that isn't VDOT standard. Mr. Vasco inquired if it was a rustic guardrail and Mr. Olinger stated no that it is just a regular guard rail that is either brown or rusticated and stated that he is not looking for the wooden post with the rope. Mr. Olinger stated that he is looking for the steel rail that recessed and don't reflect glare like the highway and would defer to whatever the UDC says. Mr. Olinger stated that this is a heavy wooded area and that it should keep its heavy wooded character.

Ms. Nolt asked Ms. Almond that in the past they had some guidelines on replacement of trees based on what has been demolished and inquired if she could bring the Committee update on whether they have a guideline. Ms. Almond stated that they don't have a tree policy but they do have a rule of thumb for replacements. Mr. Mike Mather, City Arborist, stated that there has been an inch per inch that play more of the common guidelines but stated there is not an ecstatic every time they do it Guideline. Mr. Mather stated that if they take a 24 inch tree down and you replace it with 2 inch trees it would be 12 tree replacements if it's possible. Mr. Mather stated that this kind of corridor might not be possible depending on how many trees have to be removed.

Ms. Almond stated that in those cases they will plant in the adjacent neighborhoods somewhere near the project. Mr. Mather stated that will be up to the Director of Public Works at that point in time and stated that there is no ecstatic used every time.

Closed Public Comment

Mr. Arias stated that he likes Mr. Olinger comments that is should be included even though they have an established guardrail there he thinks that as time goes on and it needs to be replaced it can be replaced with something more aesthetically pleasing as opposed to something that is off the shelf guardrail whether it is weathering steel or something else.

Ms. Nolt stated that she agrees with maintaining the path openings and stated that they need to specify the widths in the openings. Ms. Harnsberger stated that the gap that exists there is adequate and stated that she is not clear if the guardrail is going to be new guardrail there. Ms. Harnsberger stated that she was going to suggest in the motion that the width of 8 to 10ft be maintained at that location and stated that she was kind of toying with the idea of adding a concrete pad because she thinks in the future there will be stairs there. Ms. Nolt stated that they can leave it open until future design is done.

Mr. Cole inquired if they want to give any guidance for the tree replacement inch per inch. Ms. Harnsberger stated that she thinks inch per inch is a great rule of thumb and that there are plenty community partners that will help Public Works find a home for those trees. Ms. Harnsberger stated that they can make recommendation that Public Works work with organizations, community partners or civic associations.

Mr. Smith inquired if there would be any crossings markings or pedestrian access and Ms. Onufer stated that she believes that it is outside of the scope and stated that it is not a formal trail yet.

Mr. Nosrati stated that this is a safety project and they don't have any intentions of doing a lot of clearing and grubbing and stated that the only few trees that is needed to be removed are a couple of feet. Mr. Nosrati stated that he spoke with the City Arborist about the corridor and stated that they have a lot of room to put many trees back and stated that the area needs to have a buffer around it and stated that they will do their best to maximize the plantings as much as possible and it might not be inch per inch.

Mr. Cole stated that it is beautiful street and stated that they don't have to plant all of them right there and that they have a lot of lead way in the zone and Mr. Nosrati stated that there is a slope there and stated that he don't know how that is going to affect the construction but stated that they will consult with the City Arborist and they will plant much as they can but states that it may not be inch per inch.

Ms. Nolt stated that this is conceptual and that the Committee could ask them to come back with a landscape plan and a schedule showing tree locations as well as a survey.

A motion was made by Ms. Levine to recommend that the Planning Commission grant conceptual approval, with conditions of the staff recommendations and the conditions:

- That curb radii be reduced at the intersection of Richmond-Henrico Turnpike and Henrico Drive, Fourquare Lane.
- That there be a preference to the use of corten steel or something more aesthetic for the guardrail being used.
- That the guidelines should be followed for tree replacement to an inch for inch guideline if possible.
- That a pedestrian opening be maintained at 8-10' width at the intersection of Richmond Henrico-Turnpike and Fourquare Lane
- That the applicant to consider tightening the radii at the intersections of Richmond-Henrico Turnpike and Dove Street, Henrico Drive, and Fourquare Lane as part of the project.
- That the final plans include a tree survey indicating location and species of any tree 4" in caliper and greater that is proposed to be removed as part of the roadway widening and realignment.
- That the final plans include a landscape plan and schedule showing tree species, quantity, location and size at the time of installation.
- That the final plans include dimensions and samples/images of the materials for the retaining walls.
- That the guidelines should be followed for tree replacement to inch for inch guidelines if possible.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Arias and passed 7-0-0 (Almond, Arias, Cole, Harnsberger, Levine, Nolt and Smith for).

3. Final Location, Character and Extent Review of the redesign of the 17th Street Farmer's Market, UDC No. 2016-04

The application is for final location, character and extent review of the redesign of the 17th Street Farmer's Market.

Ms. Nolt inquired if they could speak about the pole lights and public utilities policy in combining low voltage and line voltage on the same pole and Ms. Onufer stated that is a question for the applicant.

Ms. Jeannie Welliver, Department of Economic and Community Development gave a presentation and a brief discussion about the project. Ms. Welliver stated that they do realize how important all of these aspects these designs are. Ms. Welliver stated that they are going to recommended that the streets be closed under a separate action to public vehicular traffic and stated that they are going to keep them open for deliveries and service vehicles. Ms. Welliver went on with her presentation.

Mr. Burt Pinnock, with Baskerfield, showed a video and gave a brief presentation. Mr. Pinnock addressed the concerns and the recommendations that were made by staff and the Committee.

Ms. Welliver stated that Mr. Mike Sawyer is here for the traffic circulation and traffic analysis required to close the streets and stated that again they are not asking for the Committee for this recommendation to close the streets.

Ms. Nolt asked for clarification of the design of the bollards. Mr. Pinnock stated that a number of bollards have been removed except on Walnut, and at each access point east and west there will be three bollards and stated that now they have a total of 14 bollards.

Mr. Cole inquired if the applicants disagree with the city about the paving with the 16 or 17 different materials and Mr. Pinnock stated that it is brick and granite and there is a tumbled granite cobblestone paver and stated that there are different finishes of granite paving used in different ways. Mr. Pinnock stated that he has added the granite travel lane and stated that it is a football size of two materials used in a number of different ways. Mr. Cole asked if they disagree with staff's recommendation and Mr. Pinnock stated yes.

Ms. Almond inquired about the bollards and Mr. Pinnock showed photos of the bollards and showed the Committee where they are located.

Mr. Arias inquired why they eliminated the public restrooms and Ms. Welliver stated that in 2017 when this project is set to open Main Street Station open as well and stated that it will be a new public space with brand new public restrooms in Main Street Station. Ms. Welliver stated that they had a lot of feedback from the public about this and stated that they will have a lot of restrooms available in Main Street Station for public use. Mr. Arias stated that there was a lot of discussion about public art in this space and stated that there was a small radius on Main Street designated for the public art and inquired if there was any feedback regarding it and Ms. Welliver stated that is what the 1 and the 7 that was shown in the video and stated that is a place holder and stated that all of this seated little gardens created that was in their original conceptual plan and stated that those were possibilities to have small installations of art. Ms. Welliver stated that she met with the Public Arts coordinator about this space and stated that they are reserving space there and the Main Street Station. Ms. Welliver stated

that the bull heads from 6th Street Marketplace and the bell will all be incorporated in the Farmers sign and stated that it was in the video and stated that they are going to infill that with stained glass and pictures of the stories of the Christians and stated that it will be a history of that space. Ms. Welliver stated that they will reserve space throughout the market place for art.

Ms. Nolt inquired where the glass was located on the site and Ms. Welliver stated that it is next to the legacy vendors.

Mr. Pinnock showed the Committee where they are located near the 3 legacy vendors.

Ms. Almond inquired if the signage design of the project is coming back later. Ms. Welliver stated that it is a sign permit and stated that they are reincorporating the artifacts of what was once there and stated that they are taking the Farmers Market sign of the building and outing back as a fixture. Ms. Almond stated that it is going to be something in the ground plain and stated that the design is important for the Committee to know where it is located and what it looks like. Ms. Welliver stated that they could come back if they need to. Ms. Almond stated that she thinks some people don't understand what it is and Ms. Welliver stated that the legacy of the vendors are 3 families that have been there for over 4 generations and stated that Tim Christian occupies the space at Sweet Teas and stated that his father used to be there before him and stated that they have all of the family photos that they could give them of their operation over the years. Ms. Welliver stated that there have been many articles done the years about these 3 families.

Ms. Nolt inquired if they plan to submit the modification of the signs to the Arts Commission for their review and Ms. Welliver stated it is a sign. Ms. Nolt stated that she thinks it's more than a sign permit and stated that if they are really using it as a way to celebrate art and have an opportunity to have art in the market then they should the Arts Commission the opportunity to review it. Ms. Welliver stated that whatever the process is fine and stated that they have submitted some of their art installation signs in the past.

Mr. Pinnock showed the Committee the sign and stated that it a wire frame outline of letters and stated that they want to see the letters better and also able to acknowledge the history of these vendors. Ms. Almond inquired if the signs are on posts and Mr. Pinnock stated yes and stated that they will create a bracket and base to mount them on. Ms. Almond inquired if you would read the sign from Main Street or the other way and Mr. Pinnock stated from the other direction and stated that if you heading from Main Street you would see it.

Mr. Arias inquired if there was an electrical power source in the ground and Mr. Pinnock stated that it was not planned for electrical in that location and stated that they are not limiting public art to that location and stated that there is electricity on the 8 poles as a jumping off point. Mr. Pinnock stated that they have not undergrounded electricity in any of their locations. Mr. Arias suggested that they could put a chase or PVC in there and stated that they have been discussing putting a permanent piece in there and stated that it would be nice if they didn't have to tear up the existing street work in the plaza to do that. Mr. Pinnock stated that if it is the recommendation of the Committee they would add a chase or PVC or conduit to that location.

Ms. Nolt stated that in regards to the overall design there are a lot of parts and pieces of amenities being added and stated that it looks like most of that is concentrated in the middle and is wondering if there is a reason why some of those amenities don't come out and meet

Franklin and Main Street. Ms. Nolt stated that in particular thinking about their approach to this destination or this pocket garden and what you will see in your approach on Main and Franklin and was wondering if the trees could come out a little bit more or if the amenities that could be offered on those edges. Ms. Nolt inquired why everything set back internal. Mr. Pinnock stated that his thought was like the barbell thing in terms of the energy of this space and that there are a lot of things that remain open on the edges especially when they are talking about festivals and events that you are drawn into by the visual events. Mr. Pinnock stated that it's more like a historical place with open space that greets you versus the forest of trees or structural things so there is an understanding that this is a large public open space that they are coming into and not a forest. Ms. Nolt stated that with that it becomes a deliberate elimination of street trees along the stretch. Mr. Pinnock stated that along this stretch there is an illuminations of street trees. Ms. Nolt stated that with the festooned of lights there is an overlap between the tree locations and festooned lighting and inquired what their strategy is for maintaining the lights as the tree grows and weaves in between the festoons. Mr. Pinnock stated that the system of connecting the cables to the poles the cables will only run in one direction and the trees will go in and then the cables will go in at a certain point and stated in part of the ONU manual that as the tree mature it will need to be loosened and lowered or raised to accommodate the changing tree. Ms. Nolt inquired if there is a secondary structure that can be in between the festoons in case they will need to create larger openings for a tree as it grows and still maintain the consistency of the festoon lights. Mr. Pinnock stated that the idea is that the north south cable are flexible in their height location and then the east west is whatever the event planners and space will allow for.

Ms. Levine stated that she commends the applicants with community engagement and putting this together and appreciate what they have brought to the Committee and the public. Ms. Levine stated that she is a little disappointed with the outdoor furniture and stated that she understands that they need mobility but states that it feels cheap and uninviting in her opinion. Ms. Levine stated that when it comes to functionality and you have a large group coming in and pick up food at a restaurant and they sit down how they engage with each other. Ms. Levine inquired about shading being that the trees aren't providing shade yet and inquired if they should be consider umbrellas or some other kind of shading for the plaza. Mr. Pinnock stated that the movable furniture is a classic café table and chair and stated that it is iron that is heavy and then there is the cheap plastic which this is not. Mr. Pinnock stated that they certainly want them to be movable by the likes of kids but wants it to be sturdy enough to move and hold larger people.

Ms. Nolt stated that it is a classic model style and that flexible and is not that expensive. Mr. Pinnock stated that their dream is that when they come down there they can't find seating.

Ms. Levine stated that looking at the bike racks they lacks consistency and stated that it is a little frustrating that they every time they see a project it is different. Ms. Levine stated that in the context it needs to be more consistent. Ms. Welliver stated that this is a dero style bike rack that is also in the front of Main Street Station that is black that came from the standards to match the others and stated that if that detail looks different slightly and stated that it was intended to that it was the cross with the circle and stated that City standard bike racks match the others. Ms. Levine inquired if they considered incorporating planters for delineation for restaurant dining versus public spaces. Mr. Pinnock stated that they video is showing planter delineation for the outdoor dining area that are a part of the restaurants as one of the opportunities they can use but they are not the only ones and stated that in terms of the standards prescribing that they have to use outdoor planters they are not prohibited but they are not providing those elements for the various restaurants. Ms. Levine stated that regarding

the restaurants and consistency they need to know that there is a level of uniformity throughout or at least guidelines. Ms. Welliver stated that the intention is to work with each vendor and stated that they are going to follow the street dining guidelines but states that they still want the vendors to be able to express their personalities. Ms. Welliver stated that some of the vendors use planters but they still must have some lines for ABC. Ms. Welliver stated that they are going to leave that up to the personalities of each restaurant within reason and stated that they are looking for delineation through planters however they don't want to get too specific in dictating what that should look like.

Ms. Levine stated that she is not sure what kind of shading a 7inch caliber tree gives or doesn't give at this point and wonders if they need umbrellas for public spaces early on. Ms. Stacy Farinholt stated that upon installation they could expect the tree to be at least 15ft tall and 8ft in diameter at the drip line and stated that with 20 trees at least 15 percent of the plaza might be in shade depending on the time of day and that is on day 1. Ms. Farinholt stated that as they move out to year 20 it could be more than 60 percent of plaza in shade and stated that she understands the concerns that is why movable furniture was very important so that you can chase the shade and you can chose to sit in the sun. Ms. Farinholt stated that you always want control of the whether you are in the sun or shade and stated that is always important to let the user control their climate. Ms. Farinholt stated that she agree that umbrellas would be a great addition in the beginning but at some point they will be unnecessary.

Ms. Almond stated that she really likes the planting plan and the plant selection and stated that there is one planter that has 2 oak trees in it that are about 10 or 12ft apart and inquired if that spacing is going to be okay feasible. Ms. Farinholt stated that they do want these trees to interlace in there branching and stated that if she looked at the plans her main concern would be do they have enough soil volume and the answer is yes. Ms. Farinholt stated that most urban trees have a life span of 7 years and that is because they are desperately lacking soil volume and stated that what they have done is that they are leaving space for emergency vehicles to conflict with the canopies. Ms. Farinholt stated that they are trying to make continuous trenches so the roots can overlap and shares soil volume zones. Ms. Farinholt stated that what they are seeing is the opening and stated that what's underground is a continuous root zone. Ms. Almond inquired if there was a polyandry for the winter berry and Ms. Farinholt stated that it is not in plant schedule but states that there will be a Jim dandy slit here and there.

Ms. Harnsberger inquired about the planter being contained because of dogs and dog walkers and inquired if they were changed from the last plan and Ms. Farinholt stated that there is some desire to keep dogs from using those planting areas as restrooms.

Mr. Smith stated that with the pedestrian traditional lighting is LED and stated that on the back it looks like a metal halo light and Mr. Pinnock stated yes and stated that it is a city standard and will be a metal halo light. Mr. Smith stated that along the preserved pathways for the streets are they going to cut down on the bands and inquired if it could just be 1 instead of 3. Mr. Smith inquired if the benches are fixed because he wonder about having some benches on the side of the streets and Ms. Almond stated that the benches are fixed but the movable furniture so if someone wanted to pull out a chair a move it they can. Mr. Pinnock stated that the benches are fixed and stated that the whole idea is that you can out the movable chairs however you want to.

Ms. Almond inquired if there was a fire pit still in the plan and Mr. Pinnock stated yes but not as a permanent installation but stated there is a gas connection.

Ms. Levine inquired where the equipment is stored and Ms. Welliver stated that they don't have a manager yet and stated that they talked to some potential managers about this and stated that they may use the Seaboard Building at the Main Street Station and maybe use a gator to store tents and chairs appropriate storage and stated that they are multiple ideas and concepts.

Ms. Almond inquired if the applicants saw all of the public letters about the bicycle connectivity. Ms. Almond stated that all of the letter were stating that they want a cobblestone free bike path through the plaza. Mr. Pinnock stated that on both 17th Street is the non-cobblestone paved routes and stated that with Mr. Jake Helmboldt assistance they will label that, marked that or sign that however Capital Trails directs them to do so. Ms. Almond inquired if the strips between the two cobblestones and Mr. Pinnock stated yes and stated that each one of them is 3ft.

Ms. Harnsberger stated that they are saying that they don't want to drift on the pavers because they are uncomfortable and stated that she knows they are repurposing the materials which is what they asked for. Ms. Harnsberger stated that she is wondering when they come back in with the granite and with the center lane which is the fishtail and inquired what it looks like when it comes back in. Ms. Harnsberger inquired how it feels and how it is treated and inquired if there was a middle ground there. Mr. Pinnock stated that there is a large field that is not cobble and inquired if the question is to make the band more than 3ft. Ms. Harnsberger stated that they wanted to know what the recommended bike path through the Market Place is and how it relates to this plan.

Mr. Cole stated that when the bike race was here they rode bikes on the cobblestones and they did fine and stated that to him it's not a big issue.

Mr. Jacob Helmboldt, Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator, stated that he don't want to speak for Capital Trail Foundation or Bike Walk RVA and stated that they had a sit down meeting with them along with Ms. Welliver. Mr. Helmboldt stated that there are 2 primary elements one is materials with respect to cobbles not only in here and stated that if they are bringing people to this as the central nexus to where connections come through from Franklin and Main Street Station through the station to the train shed and beyond whether they will connect them to the Capital Trail via 17th Street or whether you connect by continuing going down Franklin and down 21st Street which is kind of an envisioned connection as well. Mr. Helmboldt stated that it is the materials and that is where the larger discussion of cobblestones came up as far as the amount and whether there are any strips along some of those other areas. Mr. Helmboldt stated that the other issues is conveying whether or not if they are bringing bicyclist to this heavily used pedestrian plaza how they dismount because there are people dining and serving and crossing this path and they want to know if it is conducive bringing people through serving as a connection within that network. Mr. Helmboldt stated that this is still an ongoing question on how they can tie all of this together.

Ms. Nolt inquired if any planning had been done for 17th Street and inquired if they could confirm that is the future designated route to get to the Capital. Mr. Helmboldt stated that nothing has been done at this point and stated that it is the shortest segment less than 2 full city blocks and stated that it also brings you straight to the termini for both the Canal Walk and the Capitol Trails were the two join up. Mr. Helmboldt stated that the discussion has been centered on improving that intersections because crossing Dock Street is challenging and stating that improving that intersection is the least amount of travel where someone would have to be in a roadway environment because it is less than 2 full city blocks. Mr. Helmboldt

stated that they are looking at doing something along Franklin as well because that is going to link up to Union Hill and Church Hill. Ms. Nolt stated that at in looking at the intersection of 17th and Main she wonders how that bike route will cross that intersection and stated that right now it look like it more directly line up with the outdoor dining than it does a designated route. Mr. Helmboldt stated that it would line up presuming that the granite strips in the existing roadway and stated that it is slightly offset and that is a signalized intersection and stated that it does connect fairly directly with where you would be coming up 17th.

Ms. Almond inquired if the 3ft width of the smoother paved lane seems too narrow if that is the designated crossing side and stated that the comments was that 5ft minimum non cobble through there was what they would like there better. Mr. Helmboldt stated that it's not so much the width of the materials as far as being able to bike on it but more of a matter of what they are encountering going through there and whether you have to whine your way through pedestrian or dining activity and whether it is conducive to flow through there.

Mr. Arias stated that he don't understand why they can't go up to 18th Street and go around and stated that it seems like they are having a lot of conversation about accommodating bicyclist through a plaza. Mr. Helmboldt stated that is the fundamental question is the intent of the project is to bring people to that location first of all and stated that if so it needs not to just be a gap within a network. Mr. Helmboldt stated that secondly 18th Street is heavily trafficked and stated that it is not the place where you be bringing people from the Capital Trail especially when you are talking about kids and families and stated that 18th Street is conducive for that. Mr. Helmboldt stated that the real question is what is the intent for this to function as that connection and how do you service that connection that.

Ms. Welliver stated that this project and the Main Street Station is intended to celebrate being in Richmond and understand our history and stated that they want people with bicycles to arrive here at some point and stated that they want to make sure a cyclist is encouraged to arrive here with their family and stop an enjoy it. Ms. Welliver stated that there are things to do here and there are places here to tell the world our story as a city if they are not familiar. Ms. Welliver stated that one of the intentions is to make sure if you are on a bicycle we want to make it easier for them to come here and stated that they want to make sure that Capital Trails get connected through Main Street Station and stated that can be through many different angles. Ms. Welliver stated that when you get off of Capitol Trails at Bottoms Up Pizza today what are you going to do because you can't cross Dock Street and stated that it is a very important business connection point to connect 17th and Dock to 17th and Main to 17th and Franklin to Main Street Station.

Ms. Almond stated that she think the question was about the multimodal transportation plan that they were given shows that as the main connector and Ms. Welliver stated that it is their Master plan for Main Street Station and stated that there will be cyclist savage points on the Capital Trail specifically and stated that is for others to decide. Ms. Welliver stated that what they want to make sure they connect the Farmers Market Square to the Capital Trail from a business decision to Main Street Station and cyclist are always welcome. Ms. Welliver stated that this was not intended to be a fast track public space on to Main Street Station and don't think it can provide that fast track designated bike lane opportunity.

Ms. Harnsberger inquired about the condition behind the curve is at grade and Ms. Welliver stated that it is a beveled curve.

Mr. Cole stated that the power poles have to stay and Mr. Pinnock stated yes. Mr. Cole inquired if they had to adjust anything to minimize the impact of the power poles and Mr. Pinnock stated that they did a little bit of planning in the way that they look at the outdoor dining that is associated with existing business that are there and where they are going to be impacted. Mr. Pinnock stated that they are reducing them and many of them are not going to be in conflict. Mr. Cole stated that the water feature in the center is in plain view and discussed the connection points and stated that however the connection point is the Walnut Alley. Mr. Cole stated that he saw that there was a clean-up at Walnut Alley before and after and stated that he is worried a little bit that the fountain is in such a prominent place and worries that the alley isn't going to stay like that. Mr. Cole stated that one side looks really nice and other side still has dumpsters and stated that they need to work on the over side and remove the dumpster or something. Ms. Welliver stated that she is going to give some credit to Mr. Wynn who is a resident from Shockoe Bottom helped rally the troops and got a lot of the restaurant tours on a commercial collection system and stated that they have been looking at the trash issue on this corridor for some time and stated that super cans don't work that well in these environments. Mr. Cole stated that he likes the whole design and stated that he thinks it is simple and elegant and stated that he likes paving and the different patterns. Mr. Cole stated that he is glad the bollards are gone because it was too many poles.

Ms. Harnsberger stated that she likes that they are saving the bull's head and stated that she is confused about designated areas for public art and inquired if the bull's head a part of the concept. Ms. Welliver stated that this whole plaza is free and open to opportunities for public art and stated that there is no designation. Mr. Pinnock stated that in regards to the historic artifacts they said that they needed to remain.

Public Comment

Mr. David Napier, with the Shockoe Bottom Neighborhood Association, stated that they have worked long and hard to be flexible and adaptable and stated that this is a great project. Mr. Napier stated that people on bikes would want to slow down and stop and get off their bikes and enjoy the market and stated that it is less than 2 blocks long so they have to go a little bit slower or weave around. Mr. Napier stated that this is the fun part of being in a city and stated that they can really use this and stated that he urges the Committee to support this and send it forward with the recommendation to move forward.

Mr. Chris Johnson, with Shockoe Bottom Partnership and they advocate for the bonuses in Shockoe Bottom and stated that they want to commend the City because they have worked with them hands on since day one and stated that they had some concerns in the beginning and they were involved with the RFP. Mr. Johnson stated that they have listen to them and stated that Baskerfield has done a fantastic great job and they are really excited to get this done and they would love to see construction to start happen. Mr. Johnson thanked the city for working so hard to get this done and stated that their organization fully support the design.

Closed Public Comment

Ms. Nolt stated that she likes the paving pattern and she likes the sophistication of it and stated that it is signage without being signage and it can direct and inform how vendors use the space and how people use the space. Ms. Nolt stated that she would propose to move forward with layout as proposed and stated that it is sophisticated but subtle. Ms. Nolt stated that the tree canopies and the emphasis on trees are so important and is going to really make the place and stated that she would encourage them to get more trees at the entrances and

put to the street to draw people in. Ms. Nolt stated that the project is pedestrian oriented and all the activities that they have planned are in place and it is drawing people to a new urban place and stated that she don't quite see how they can provide a bike lane through this. Ms. Nolt stated that at this point she wouldn't encourage any change to this or to what has been proposed. Ms. Nolt stated that she is support of the paved patterns as proposed.

Mr. Arias stated that as far as the trees they need more space due to all of the activities and that way they can have a little more flexibility and not crowd the space.

Ms. Almond stated that she agrees with Ms. Nolt about seeing more tree presence from street trees whether it is following the same pattern in the plaza or a street tree on those ends.

Ms. Nolt stated that she don't think it would take but one additional tree on either side to feel the continuation and keep the open space and stated that it brings that value of the tree canopy that they have instilled in the middle and bring it out to the edges..

Mr. Cole inquired like Mr. Arias stated that they do need a large space for bands and things.

Mr. George Bolas, Project Development Manager and for the past 7 years he has been the representative for the City as the Farmers Market manager and stated that he has a lot of experience of the space. Mr. Bolas stated that his personal preference is to keep it simple and to keep it open and convertible because they may have yoga classes in the morning and be setting up for a wedding reception in the evening. Mr. Bolas stated that as far as the trees on Main and Franklin Street once the growth of the trees are laid out in towards the middle become mature it will provide enough shade and canopy and stated that he don't want trees that are on the Main Street side to hide from traffic heading east west on Main Street or the opportunity to see into the market to see what was going on. Mr. Bolas stated that he would prefer keeping it open and maybe on a rotation having temporary Public Art there to draw people in rather than a permanent tree.

Ms. Levine stated that as this project has been proposed that she likes it and is in agreement with it and think it has been incredible thought out and stated that just for the time being she would like to see incorporate umbrellas into the scheme of things.

Ms. Almond stated that the trees were proposed in the earlier plan and wonder why they can't incorporate them. Mr. Pinnock stated that they will incorporate more trees.

A motion was made by Ms. Harnsberger to recommend that the Planning Commission grant conceptual approval of the 17th Street Market Plan with staff's recommendations and the conditions:

- That the applicant consider providing two trees located towards the Franklin and Main Street ends of the site.
- That the applicant provide umbrellas to bring shade before the trees reach maturity.
- That the applicant provide conduit for public art at the Main St location designated in the plans

The motion was seconded by Ms. Nolt and passed 7-0-0 (Almond, Arias, Cole, Harnsberger, Levine, Nolt and Smith for).

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 am.