



Staff Report
City of Richmond, Virginia



Urban Design Committee Report to Planning Commission

UDC 2021-32	Final Location, Character, and Extent Review 7/19/2021
Applicant/Petitioner	Christopher Frelke, City of Richmond
Project Description	Final location, character, and extent review of the removal of a monument and pedestal.
Project Location	
Address: 1900 Stuart Avenue	
Property Owner: City of Richmond	
High-Level Details: The City of Richmond Department of Parks Recreation and Community Facilities requests permission to authorize the removal of a monument and pedestal located in a park at the intersection of Park Avenue, Stuart Avenue, and Meadow Street. Once the monument has been removed, existing landscaping will remain.	
UDC Recommendation	
Staff Contact	Alex Dandridge, alex.dandridge@richmondgov.com , (804) 646-6569
Previous Reviews	The Urban Design Committee has not previously reviewed any projects for this location.
Conditions for Approval	None

Findings of Fact

Site Description	The confederate monument proposed for removal is located in Meadow Park where Park Avenue and Stuart Avenue meet at a fork. The monument is surrounded by hedge and landscaping in a green space. The park in which the monument is located is within the Fan Neighborhood and is surrounded by single-family residences and some commercial and institutional uses along Meadow Street.
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<p>Scope of Review</p>	<p>The project is subject to location, character, and extent review under section 17.05 of the Richmond City Charter for the removal, relocation, or alteration of structures/works of art.</p>
<p>Project Description</p>	<p>On behalf of the City of Richmond and in accordance with State Code Sec. 15.2-1812, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities requests a final location, character and extent review to authorize the ability to remove a monument and pedestal from Meadow Park located at 1900 Stuart Avenue. The First Virginia Regiment Confederate Monuments which is an asset of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities.</p> <p>Justification for this application for review is further rooted in the City Charter and the City Code. Code §30-100 outlines the purposes of the zoning ordinance. The ability to remove the monument and pedestal will (3) Promote health, sanitation and general welfare, as well as (7) Facilitate the creation of a convenient, attractive and harmonious community. Code §30-930.2 (4) outlines the purposes of City Old and Historic Districts. Ability to remove the monument and pedestal will provide for (4) The enhancement of the quality of life for residents. Charter § 2.04 of the Charter provides the City power to make regulations for the preservation of the morals of the city and its inhabitants. The applicant asserts the representation of white supremacy and the legacy of slavery in prominent public places through this monument is of questionable morality. Charter § 2.04 of the Charter provides the City power to prevent riots, disturbances, and disorderly assemblages. Based on the events of the last year, and similar events in other cities, the ability to remove monuments and pedestals could be considered such a prevention effort.</p> <p>The statutory portion of this monument was removed by protestors in the summer of 2020, the pedestal remains with plaques on all four sides describing the First Virginia Regiment, including involvement in the Confederacy.</p> <p>The First Virginia Regiment Monument was erected at the intersection of Stuart Ave and Park Ave in Meadow Park on May 1, 1930.</p> <p>The site plans attached show the removal of the monument and pedestal with the retention of the circular stone base. Holly bushes will be retained around the entire perimeter of the site as they currently exist.</p>

Urban Design Guidelines and Master Plan

	Text	Staff Analysis
<p>Master Plan</p>	<p><i>City-wide vision: In 2037, Richmond is a welcoming, inclusive, diverse, innovative, sustainable, and equitable city of thriving neighborhoods, ensuring a high quality of life for all.</i></p>	<p>Information and analysis provided by the applicant states that the existing monuments are not in-keeping with the ideals in the city-wide vision stated in the City of Richmond's Master Plan, which</p>

		emphasizes the importance of creating neighborhoods that are equitable, diverse, and welcoming to all visitors, current residents, and potential residents.
Urban Design Guidelines	<i>Landscape plans should include diverse plant species, including evergreen, flowering and shade tree species combined with shrubs, ground covers and annual and perennial plantings. Plant materials should be adaptable to existing soils, climatic and lighting conditions, and be disease resistant. Native plant species are encouraged, but not required. (pg. 10).</i>	Staff finds that the proposed reseeding of disturbed areas is in-keeping with the City of Richmond's Urban Design Guidelines.