



# City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
2nd Floor of City Hall  
Richmond, VA 23219  
www.richmondgov.com

## Meeting Minutes - Draft Urban Design Committee

Thursday, December 7, 2017

10:00 AM

5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall

### Call to Order

### Roll Call

- Present --** 7 - \* Chair Andrea Almond, \* Chris Arias, \* Giles Harnsberger, \* Committee Member Dawn Hicks, \* Committee Member David Johannas, \* Jill Nolt and \* Chair Andrea Quilici
- Excused --** 2 - \* Bryan Green and \* Robert Smith
- Absent --** 1 - \* Andrew P. Gould

### Approval of Minutes

- Present --** 10 - \* Chair Andrea Almond, \* Chris Arias, \* Bryan Green, \* Andrew P. Gould, \* Giles Harnsberger, \* Committee Member Dawn Hicks, \* Committee Member David Johannas, \* Jill Nolt, \* Robert Smith and \* Chair Andrea Quilici

1. [UDC MIN 2017-10](#) Minutes of the October 5, 2017 Meeting of the UDC to be Approved

**Attachments:** [UDC MIN 2017-09 DRAFT](#)

**A motion was made by Committee Member Johannas, seconded by Committee Member Hicks, that these Minutes be approved.**

**The motion carried unanimously, members in attendance were Harnsberger, Hicks, Johannas, and Nolt, however it should be noted a quorum consists of six members of the committee.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Aye --** 4 - Giles Harnsberger, Committee Member Dawn Hicks, Committee Member David Johannas and Jill Nolt
- Excused --** 3 - Chair Andrea Almond, Bryan Green and Robert Smith
- Abstain --** 2 - Chris Arias and Chair Andrea Quilici

### Secretary's Report

Mr. Son stated a welcome to the newest UDC member, Andrea Quilici. He went on to discuss Mr. Quilici's accomplishments and experience, stating that Committee member Quilici holds a Masters degree in Architecture from the University of Florence, Italy, and a Master of Science in Urban Design from Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland. He has 20 years of experience working in the US. During his time here, he's had the fortune of working at the internationally recognized architectural firm of KieranTimberlake

in Philadelphia, and of being the project Architect/Manager for the VMFA expansion in Richmond. For the past 4 years, he's been working on library designs and master plans for universities. His international background brings diverse cultural perspectives, while his extensive work in the US brings a deep knowledge of urban planning and the American construction industry.

Mr. Son further stated that staff approved Venture Richmond's application for 30 designs that utilize the alphabet around downtown for their RVA Creates initiative. They will be used for three years and will be temporarily replaced by holiday banners every Nov. and Dec.

Mr. Son stated that staff is continuing efforts to update the UCD Guidelines and is currently focusing on outdoor seating and ways to ensure their design minimally impacts the ROW, differentiating these permanent fixtures from the sidewalk café ordinance which requires fixtures to be brought in every night.

## Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda

### CONSENT AGENDA

### REGULAR AGENDA

Approval with proposed staff recommendations ( base of tower not exceeding 12 inches.

**Approval with proposed staff recommendations ( base of tower not exceeding 12 inches.**

2. [UDC 2017-40](#) Review of encroachments throughout the Downtown area for AT&T Wireless telecommunications equipment, 1200 E. Clay St. and 910 E. Byrd St.

**Attachments:** [Staff Report to UDC](#)  
[Location & Plans](#)  
[Supplement: Revised Pole](#)

Discussion focused on the placement of new equipment in public right-of-way to provide telecommunications and data service for an area of more than a quarter of a mile in diameter. These 30' poles are proposed to be placed on the sidewalk, approximately 3ft from the curb.

The applicant, Evan Paner of Jacob, Inc. on behalf of AT&T was present to answer any questions from the committee.

The committee discussed:

- Possible alternatives that would consist of adding a base to the poles to match the base of existing light fixtures
- 30' in height, dictated by desired coverage and quarter of a mile spacing.

Mr. Johannas suggested the Department of Public Works consider these issues for future applications to provide more proactive options when thinking of the future and proliferation of encroachments due to wireless telecommunications equipment.

**A motion was made by Mr. Arias, seconded by Mr. Johannas, that this Encroachment item be recommended for approval with all staff**

**recommendations:**

- That the proposed poles be no more than 12" in diameter
- That the color of the poles are black or match the prevailing color of surrounding utility or light poles
- That the pole proposed for 1200 E. Clay St. be installed on the north side of the existing light pole for more efficient use of public right-of-way
- That the pole proposed for 910 E. Byrd St. be located closer to the S. 9th and E Byrd St. location if it is found that the proposed location may negatively impact the root system of the closest existing tree, as determined by the Urban Forestry division

**Additional conditions by the UDC were:**

- That the applicant consider ways to address the base of the poles so they are similar to the base of surrounding light fixtures
- That alternate locations for poles be considered such as on existing poles

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye --** 6 - Chair Andrea Almond, Chris Arias, Committee Member Dawn Hicks, Committee Member David Johannas, Jill Nolt and Chair Andrea Quilici

**No --** 1 - Giles Harnsberger

**Excused --** 2 - Bryan Green and Robert Smith

3. [UDC 2017-39](#) Conceptual Location, Character, and Extent review of Cannon Creek Greenway – Nature Trail

**Attachments:** [UDC Report to CPC](#)

[Staff Report to UDC](#)

[Location & Plans](#)

Discussion focused on the following aspects of the application:

- If there are Spring 2018 approvals, this could allow for Fall 2018 construction
- A 12' path and boardwalk to accommodate maintenance truck size is needed, this dictates the cost between path-width
- Additional connections for the neighborhoods on either side of the greenway
- Visible trash cans drinking fountains
- Lighting at trail heads
- Alternatives to ramp/stair combination – work with contours

**A motion was made by Nolt, seconded by Arias, that this Location, Character and Extent Item be recommended for approval to the Planning Commission with the following conditions for final review:**

- That the wooden bollards and chains at all entrances are replaced with granite blocks as a physical and visual barricade between pedestrians and vehicles
- That if temporary bollards are necessary to prevent unauthorized vehicle entry, consider using a single bollard instead of two
- That the final location of the mid-point entry on the eastern side of the trail is placed farther south along the Richmond-Henrico to enhance sight lines
- That the final design of the mid-point entry take into account the Richmond-Henrico Turnpike Improvement project for improved pedestrian connectivity

That the final planting schedule consist of a reduced amount of *Acer rubrum*, to be substituted with *Liquidambar styraciflua* or other comparable species

- Consider a narrower trail width wherever possible
- At the E. Brookland Park Boulevard entrance, consider how the system of stairs and ramps may better blend into the natural topography
- Consider additional east and west entrances, south of the proposed mid-point entrance, to connect the grid in the future
- Additional granite benches along the trail
- Additional bike parking at all entrances and trail heads
- Study and ensure adequate lighting at the trail heads for safety

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye --** 7 - Chair Andrea Almond, Chris Arias, Giles Harnsberger, Committee Member Dawn Hicks, Committee Member David Johannas, Jill Nolt and Chair Andrea Quilici

**Excused --** 2 - Bryan Green and Robert Smith

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Adjournment**