



Staff Report
City of Richmond, Virginia



Commission of Architectural Review

4. COA-094562-2021	<p align="center">Final Review Meeting Date: 11/23/2021</p>
Applicant/Petitioner	Michael Pellis - My Noodle
Project Description	Construct a pergola and outdoor seating area.
Project Location	
Address: 1600 Monument Ave.	
Historic District: Monument Avenue	
<p>High-Level Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant proposes to construct a pergola over an existing outdoor seating area and to install additional concrete planters and low, metal fencing • The wooden frame of the pergola will be wrapped in wooden architectural elements such as square columns and a cornice • The top of the pergola will have a translucent, polycarbonate material as a covering, which will be minimally visible from the public right-of-way • The eastern portion of the outdoor seating area will be uncovered • Staff notes that the pergola framing has already been constructed 	
Staff Recommendation	Approval, with Conditions
Staff Contact	Alex Dandridge, alex.dandridge@rva.gov , (804) 646-6569
Previous Reviews	<p>This application was previously reviewed by the Commission at the July 2021 meeting. The Commission deferred the application to allow the applicant time to revise the design of the outdoor seating area to be more in-keeping with the character of the Monument Avenue City Old and Historic District. Specifically the Commission had concerns about the design of the pergola and the metal swinging seats on the eastern side of the outdoor seating area. In reponse to the Commission’s feedback, the applicant proposes to remove the polycarbonate paneling, swinging seats, and apply architectural elements to the pergola that are compatible with the Monument Avenue City Old and Historic District.</p> <p>A Certificate of Appropriateness application was applied for by the same applicant for a metal picket fence and concrete patio and was presented at the July 22, 2014 meeting. The Certificate of</p>

	Appropriateness was approved with the condition that staff approve the stain color for the wooden counter attached to the new fence.
Staff Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that any new gate or fencing be a simple design that is in compliance with any applicable zoning regulations for fences, and that it be submitted to staff for review and approval. • that round columns be utilized rather than the proposed square columns. • that the applicant utilize an approvable material such as wood or composite wood for the column wraps and cornice molding. • that additional information on how the roof will be designed to accommodate stormwater drainage be submitted for administrative review • that the color and design of the outdoor curtains/drapes be submitted to staff for review.

Staff Analysis

Guideline Reference	Reference Text	Analysis
Fences & Walls, pg. 78, #3, #6, #7	<p><i>3. If not original to a site, new street-front fences, walls, and gates should be compatible with the historic structure in design, materials, and location, and should be based on physical or documentary evidence from the site. In instances where physical or documentary evidence does not exist, the proposed fence, wall, or gate should be compatible in design, materials, and location, and should look to precedent on the block face or block face opposite, or within the district, but not outside the district. By following this guidance, in some circumstances, permission for new fences, walls, or gates may be granted.</i></p> <p><i>6. A new fence or wall should be constructed using materials and designs appropriate to the District.</i></p> <p><i>7. Fences in Old and Historic Districts located along main thoroughfares shall be painted or opaquely stained a color or colors complementary to the main structure.</i></p>	<p>The applicant proposes to install a low, black, metal gate between an existing masonry wall and the proposed new planters at the entrance of the eastern side of the outdoor seating area, as well as along the western side of the outdoor seating area. There are many examples of low, black, metal fences that front this block of Monument Avenue. On a site visit, Staff noticed that there are sections of low, black, metal fencing already installed on the site whose location and design are not reflected in the rendering provided in the application. <u>Staff recommends that any new gate or fencing be a simple design that is in compliance with any applicable zoning regulations for fences, and that it be submitted to staff for review and approval.</u></p> <p>The applicant proposed to install 4 additional planters on the eastern portion of the outdoor seating area that will match the existing 4 planters.</p> <p>The applicant has responded to Commission feedback from the previous review, removing the tall, metal, swinging seats within the eastern portion of the outdoor seating area, and is now proposing a 3'6" tall bar top and with accompanying stools along the sidewalk. The bar top and stools will be partially obscured by new concrete planters that will match the existing concrete planters on site.</p>
Standards for Site Improvements, pg. 76	<i>Streetscape elements are the most public aspects of any historic district, and as such they belong to the community as a whole. Therefore, it is</i>	The applicant proposes to construct a wooden pergola over an existing outdoor seating area. The wooden pergola's posts will be wrapped fypon, square columns and the

	<p><i>particularly important that these elements support and reinforce, rather than detract from, the overall historic character of the district. In general, the more public the site feature, and the more closely located to the front of the site, the more strongly compatible historic design will be encouraged.</i></p>	<p>roof framing will be covered in polycarbonate panels, concealed along the edges with cornice detailing. The rendering submitted with the application appears to show that the pergola will have a flat roof structure. <u>Staff recommends that additional information on how the roof will be designed to accommodate stormwater drainage be submitted for administrative review,</u> and notes that the roof should be designed so that stormwater is not being directed toward the building.</p> <p>The applicant proposes to utilize drapery or roll down shades on the sides of the pergola. <u>Staff recommends that the color and design of the outdoor curtains/drapes be submitted to staff for review.</u></p> <p>While freestanding pergola structures are not common within the Monument Avenue City Old and Historic District, the proposed pergola will utilize a decorative cornice molding and square columns that are similar in design to the existing front porches on the subject block.</p> <p>While the applicant is proposing square columns, Staff notes that rounded columns are more common within the district. <u>Staff recommends that round columns be utilized rather than the proposed square columns.</u></p> <p>The columns and cornice molding are proposed to be fypon, which is a plastic material. Plastic and vinyl are not appropriate materials for City Old and Historic Districts. <u>Staff recommends that the applicant utilize an approvable material such as wood or composite wood for the columns and cornice molding.</u></p>
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Figures



Figure 1. 1600 Monument Avenue. Existing Outdoor Seating. Tall green swinging seats will be removed.



Figure 2. 1600 Monument Avenue. Existing Outdoor Seating. All wooden posts are proposed to be wrapped, and will not be visible.



Figure 3. New Pergola Proposal