



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Urban Design Committee

Thursday, December 10, 2020

10:00 AM

5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall

This meeting will be held through electronic communication means.

This meeting will be held through electronic communication means pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020. This meeting will be open to participation through electronic communication means by the public and closed to in-person participation by the public.

Committee members and other staff will participate by teleconference/videoconference via Microsoft Teams.

Special Guidelines for Public Access and Citizen Participation:

Audio of the meeting will be streamed live online at the following web address:

<https://richmondva.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

To listen to the meeting's live stream at the web address provided, find and click the link that reads, "In Progress" in the farthest right hand column entitled, "Video".

Interested citizens who wish to speak will be given an opportunity to do so by following the instructions below.

[PDRPRES
2020.070](#) Public Participation and Access Information - URBAN DESIGN
COMMITTEE

Attachments: [12 Public Access and Participation Instructions - Urban Design
Committee](#)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Andrea Almond at 10:00AM.

Mr. Dandridge read the statement regarding virtual meetings:

Virtual Meeting and Public Access/Participation Disclosure Statement - Secretary Mr. Alex Dandridge: This meeting of the Urban Design Committee will be held as an electronic meeting pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance 2020-093. The public has been notified of this meeting and how to participate by a notice via email, and an instruction sheet posted with the agenda on the Legistar website. The public may participate in the meeting by calling *67-804-316-9457 and entering 860 851 961# Public comment will be heard for each item on the agenda after the applicant has responded to staff recommendations. Members of the public will be limited to 3 minutes for their comments.

Committee members are electronically present, none are physically present in City Hall.

We will be conducting a roll call vote with each member stating their name prior to voting. If you are not speaking, it is asked that you keep your microphone muted to prevent any background noises.

Attendees of this meeting should not utilize the Microsoft Teams chat function, as any conversation within that function is not recorded and cannot become part of the public record of this meeting.

Roll Call

- Present --** 7 - * Jill Nolt, * Andrew P. Gould, * Emily Smith , * Chair Andrea Almond, * Charles Woodson, * Andrea Quilici and * Max Hepp-Buchanan
- Excused --** 1 - * John Reyna

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Committee Member Gould, seconded by Committee Member Hepp-Buchanan, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2020. The motion passed by the following vote:

- Aye --** 4 - Jill Nolt, Andrew P. Gould, Chair Andrea Almond and Max Hepp-Buchanan
- Excused --** 2 - John Reyna and Charles Woodson
- Abstain --** 2 - Emily Smith and Andrea Quilici

Secretary's Report

UDC Guidelines updates delayed due to limited staff resources.

Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda

None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. [UDC 2020-22](#) Final location, character, and extent review of Richmond Public Library - Westover Hills Branch Interpretive Signage; 1408 Westover Hills Boulevard.

- Attachments:** [UDC Report to CPC](#)
[Staff Report to UDC](#)
[Location & Plans](#)
[Updated Sign Location \(12/08/2020\)](#)

Mr. Dandridge stated that staff has worked with the applicant to revise the originally submitted plans. The applicant has moved the interpretive sign from in front of the main library building, to a more accessible and visible location next to the main sidewalk. This location will allow for greater use and function as an educational resource.

Surani Olson of Water Resources stated that she had not received material ...

Mr. Gould stated that the purpose of the meeting is not to perform a detailed review, and

that additional details would be submitted for review for these projects...

A motion was made by Committee Member Hepp-Buchanan, seconded by Committee Member Woodson that this item be recommended for approval by the Planning Commission.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 7 - Jill Nolt, Andrew P. Gould, Emily Smith, Chair Andrea Almond, Charles Woodson, Andrea Quilici and Max Hepp-Buchanan

Excused -- 1 - John Reyna

REGULAR AGENDA

Mr. Dandridge: There are three projects on the Regular Agenda, all being site improvements associated with the Greening Richmond Public Libraries Initiative. All site improvements proposed in the scope of these projects include the same components, varying a bit based on the specific needs of each site.

Greening Richmond Public Libraries Initiative Overview

This initiative focuses on site improvements at Richmond Public Libraries that implement Green infrastructure like stormwater retention basins, rain gardens, swales, and the planting of native plant species that are adapted to the regions climate. The initiative hopes to create landscapes at public libraries that serve as an educational resource for the community.

These projects are funded by a 319H grant from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (\$34,356.00), the City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities Stormwater Utility (\$50,000.00) and supported by staff hours from The James River Association and RVAH2O with service donations from Four Winds Design.

There will be installation of irrigation at each site.

All trees and shrubs shall conform to the most recent edition of The American Standards for Nursery Stock. No plants are to be stored on site for longer than 48 hours, and all stored plants must be kept in full shade and watered daily.

All planting beds shall be treated with three to four inches of hardwood double shredded mulch dyed brown. Compost or a bedding mix shall be tilled into the soil a depth of 4" in all planting areas except where soil is to be removed. Finished grade of all topsoil shall be 3" below hardscape elevations.

Some native species included in the Green Library Initiative include, but are not limited to: River Birch, Tupelo, White Fringe Tree, Sweet Bay Magnolia, American Hornbeam, Red Maple, Scarlet Oak, Hydrangeas, Yaupon Holly, Creeping Phlox, Switch grass, and sedge.

There will be installation of an interpretive sign at each branch location that will be 32" tall. The panel will be mounted on a three inch aluminum post. The panel will be 24.50" wide and have smoothed edges for safety. Each interpretive sign will include information on the green infrastructure on site and how it contributes to the local watershed.

All maintenance of RPL properties is performed by an independent contractor managed by RPL staff. The site improvements at Westover Hills Branch Library, which were completed in phases from 2014-2019, have served as maintenance testing grounds and

pilot project.

2. [UDC 2020-20](#) Final location, character, and extent review of Richmond Public Library - North Avenue Branch Site Improvements; 2901 North Avenue

Attachments: [UDC Report to CPC](#)
[Staff Report to UDC](#)
[Location & Plans](#)
[Public Comment Compilation](#)

Mr. Dandridge: The site is located in North Richmond just south of the North Avenue and Brookland Park Boulevard intersection. The site is bordered by North Avenue to the west, Essex Street to the south, and a public alley to the east. The property is zoned UB-PE7, Urban Business District-Parking Exempt. The site is approximately 0.60 acres.

Stormwater runoff and flooding are major issues in this combined sewer district and particularly on Essex Street along the south side of the site. Soil infiltration values are surprisingly good and well-suited to managing runoff on site, although the small size of the property presents a design challenge. No outdoor seating is proposed at this branch location. ‘

Specific improvements to the North Avenue Branch Include:

North side of the site

- oExcavate turf strip on north side of existing parking lot to be concave in form, and soil to be three inches below the pavement, soil will not be disturbed within five feet of existing trees

- oOne Eastern Redbud tree is proposed for removal; however, the applicant has confirmed that this tree will not be disturbed if it is not damaged or diseased. Community members have provided staff with numerous public comments regarding this tree, including images showing this particular tree in good condition.

- oReduction in impervious surface on the north side of the library where concrete will be removed and native soil will be exposed, existing liriope will be removed

- oPlanting of new native trees, shrubs, and grasses in existing beds

West side of the site

- oRemove concrete, gravel, and soil to a depth of 36” in the existing, empty tree wells along North Avenue and install engineered soil

- oNative trees to be planted in the improved, existing tree wells

- oRemoval of non-native and diseased shrubs in existing western landscape bed, and replacement with native shrubs and grasses

South side of the site

- oRemoval of two existing Crape Myrtle trees

- oReplacement of existing sidewalk along Essex Street with a new sidewalk in a meandering design

oThe new sidewalk will match the existing sidewalk in width and finish, and will include two conveyance channels allowing drainage to pass from the landscape bed into the new retention basins on the south side of the sidewalk. The conveyance channels cutting through the sidewalk will be covered by slip-resistant grates. Although the city sidewalks in this neighborhood are generally straight, following the grid pattern of the streets, the applicant has confirmed that during the community input portion of the project, many comments were received from library staff and citizens stating that this site needed something unique, and the break from rectilinear layout being proposed draws attention to the project for increased educational exposure.

oInstallation of an interpretive sign

oPlanting of new native trees, shrubs and grasses

East side of the site

oExisting plantings to remain

oPlanting of native trees

The applicant proposes to alter the landscape and hardscape at the Richmond Public Library - North Avenue Branch. Alterations include the removal of non-native plant species and dead or diseased plantings. New native trees, shrubs and grasses will be planted in place of the removed plantings and in addition to the existing plants. The existing landscape beds will be altered with the installation of retention basins and conveyance channels containing ornamental stone to capture stormwater runoff.

Ms. Nolt stated that she is in support of the plant and tree species proposed and, contrary to staff recommendations, does not object to acorns, berries, or fruits they may produce. Ms. Nolt stated that it would help the project to move forward with the species as proposed. Ms. Nolt expressed concern as to whether the carex would survive given that sun exposure may be excessive at the location planned for it.

Applicant representative Mr. Drew Harrigan of Four Winds Design stated that the applicants had had good luck with this kind of planting of carex before, but that the planting of all the perennials would be subject to adjustments based on availability at the time of planting.

Ms. Nolt noted that the planting of juncus is planned for some of the other projects under review, and suggested this could be considered as an alternative. Ms. Nolt asked for clarification regarding the location of the cardinal flower. Mr. Harrigan stated that this would be part of the general perennial mix.

Mr. Quilici asked for clarification about the extent of the irrigation process component of the project, and asked if water-saving systems such as a drip as opposed to head had been considered. Mr. Harrigan stated that there would be access to water at the public alley side of the building, so the extent of the irrigation would be through the new improvements on the south side, along the public alley, and within the existing planting bed contiguous with that.

Mr. Harrigan stated that the applicants were uncertain about access to the planting bed closest to the parking lot, due to some utilities which would be installed.

Mr. Harrigan stated that the installed irrigation would be primarily for the south side improvements, and that the applicants planned to use pray heads rather than drip lines,

due to the maintenance issues associated with drip lines, their tendency to migrate to the surface, and their susceptibility to tampering.

Mr. Quilici asked if there were plans to expand the irrigation to the north side of the lot, if possible.

Mr. Harrigan stated that this was not in the project scope, as the project funding would not sufficient to support this expansion.

Mr. Quilici stated that regarding the plantings, though he did not have specific tree species suggestions, priority should be given to increasing the canopy by introducing large shade trees.

Committee Chair Almond stated that she agreed with Ms. Nolt that the tree selections were appropriate and that the placement of large and small trees made sense, the large shade trees being around the parking lot where they would do the most good to curb the heat island effect and the small trees situated where there is less space to fit large trees.

Mr. Quilici stated that there was concern from the public about obscuring public lighting, and that he wanted to make sure sufficient public lighting was provided, taking into account the tree and light pole spacing.

Mr. Harrigan stated that the light posts are shown on the plan, and that he did not believe the proposed trees would affect the public lighting.

Mr. Quilici stated that he had seen a comment about a brick course and a splash block on the south face of the library and asked for details about how this would work. Mr. Harrigan stated that there is no gutter or downspout on the south side of the roof, so the runoff from the roof comes right off the drip edge. Part of the original design and installation of the library had a brick splash block that reduces the velocity of the roof runoff, which needs some repointing and repair work. In addition, the applicants would like to raise it slightly so as to increase the calming capacity in the bioretention basin. Mr. Harrigan stated that the applicants intend to match the existing brick, mortar, and pointing style and build over the top of the existing splash block.

Ms. Smith asked if it would be possible to introduce public art at this location, and suggested that it might be a suitable place to do so, even though it is not listed on the map of Public Art Commission projects. Given concerns expressed by the public and staff about seating, Ms. Smith suggested that seating and public art could be combined in some way, near the corner of North and Essex.

Ms. Almond stated that she could respond to this, as she also sits on the Public Art Commission, and that she did not believe that the size and funding sources of this project required it to include public art, and that the budget of the Public Art Commission is already allocated to projects for the next two years. Public art could be included, but that would be at the discretion and with the initiative of the client and/or community members.

Ms. Almond stated that she agreed with Ms. Smith, and that it would be great to ultimately have public art incorporated into all the projects being reviewed.

Ms. Smith asked about the planning of projects by Public Art Commission, and whether it is all done years in advance or whether project sponsors can submit applications during the course of a project. Ms. Almond stated that the planning is done in advance, and that, the PAC makes a work plan each year that outlines the projects which will be

funded based on City funding, as well as projects that the PAC does not have funds for but which they wish to support and/or raise funds for anyway.

Ms. Almond gave as an example the South Side Community Center, for which there is currently PAC funding allotted for public art as part of a City-funded renovation project. The PAC also has a different kind of project involving putting public art in a series of City public garden spaces.

Ms. Almond stated that, though there is not currently planning or funds for it, she could foresee in the future the City could having an initiative for public art in library projects, and that she could bring that idea forward at the Public Art Commission meeting as something to add in future to their matrix of projects. Ms. Smith stated that she felt this could be very valuable, particularly to enhance the North Avenue part of the project site.

Committee Chair Almond asked if there was any public comment on the proposal.

Mr. Scott Firestine, Director of the Richmond Public Library, stated that he is very much in favor of the proposal and the library project in general, that the Library has been working on it for a while in cooperation with RVAH2O, and that he would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Firestine stated that the project conforms with the City's collaboration in terms of stormwater reduction, as well as informing and enriching the community.

Regarding the public art suggestion, Mr. Firestine stated that a major public art project with a budget of about \$11 million was undertaken by the library between 2011 and 2017; this was supposed to result in art installations at each library branch but had thus far only resulted in an installation at the Hall Street library location.

Mr. Firestine stated that anything that beautifies the library and makes it more attractive to the public, and also shows them how to mitigate stormwater, is positive and desirable both to Mr. Firestine and the Library Board.

Ms. Almond stated that she would follow up with Susan Glasser, Secretary to the Public Art Commission, about the project mentioned by Mr. Firestine, and find out if funding was misplaced or taken away.

Ms. Jen Clarke with the City of Richmond Stormwater Utility stated that she represents the RVA H2O initiative, and that she echoed the statements of Mr. Firestine. Ms. Clarke stated that the applicants would be proposing storm drain art for all three library locations being reviewed today, which will be simple stencil depictions of Ripple the Otter, reminding of the importance of not littering in storm drains.

Mr. Justin Doyle of the James River Association introduced himself and stated that the JRA is a partner on this project. Mr. Doyle expressed agreement with what Mr. Firestine and Ms. Clarke had said, and stated that the JRA is very supportive of the proposed plan as presented.

Mr. Quilici stated that there were issues expressed in public comments regarding the north side of the project site and potential for new plantings to be damaged by vehicles. Mr. Quilici asked if any measures such as wheel-stops would be taken to prevent vehicle damage to new trees. Mr. Harrigan stated that there was no provision for wheel-stops in the plan, and that none of the grant funding for the project would cover that. Mr. Quilici asked if there were any suggestions as to cost-free steps that could be taken to protect the trees in the early stages of their growth. Ms. Janine Lester of Urban Forestry stated

that it would probably not be possible to stop cars, but the additional landscaping around the trees, nested in a mulch bed, would probably deter pedestrians. Mr. Quilici stated that, as pointed out in a public comment, a vehicle such as a pickup truck could do considerable damage to young trees.

Mr. Firestine stated that keeping cars under control was always an issue for the libraries, and that bollards in the parking lot had been considered and could be again, in cooperation with the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Firestine stated that the applicants planned to develop project guidelines so that even as contractors change, maintenance of the landscaping is consistent and plants are preserved and if necessary replaced.

Mr. Dandridge stated that in each application under review in the current meeting, a specific maintenance plan had been included.

Mr. Woodson suggested that protective measures for trees could be combined with public art, for example a metal sculpture as opposed to a bollard. Mr. Firestine expressed agreement and stated that the applicants would circle back with the Public Art Commission.

A motion was made by Committee Member Woodson, seconded by Committee Member Nolt, that this item be recommended for approval by the Planning Commission with the following conditions:

-The Eastern Redbud proposed for removal at the north end of the parking lot be reassessed for overall health, and if the tree is found to be healthy it be retained, along with the other existing redbuds in this location, or safely moved to another location on the site using the proper techniques for transplanting.

-To ensure compliance with the Urban Design Guidelines, the applicant confirm with staff that the mature height and spacing of proposed plantings will not interfere with overhead wires and existing lighting.

-If funding is available, the applicant coordinate the reconfiguration of the existing city sidewalk along Essex Street with the City of Richmond's Department of Public Works.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 7 - Jill Nolt, Andrew P. Gould, Emily Smith, Chair Andrea Almond, Charles Woodson, Andrea Quilici and Max Hepp-Buchanan

Excused -- 1 - John Reyna

3. [UDC 2020-21](#) Final location, character, and extent review of Richmond Public Library - West End Branch Site Improvements; 5420 Patterson Avenue.

Attachments: [UDC Report to CPC](#)
[Staff Report to UDC](#)
[Location & Plans](#)
[Updated Interpretive Sign Location](#)

Mr. Dandridge: The site is located in the West End of Richmond and is bordered by Patterson Avenue to the south and Glen Burnie Drive to the north, and backs up to the United States Post office and a residential area.

The property is zoned R-5, single-family residential. The library sits in the center of the

parcel and is surrounded by a parking lot on three sides. There is a rear patio and seating area off the building, and an existing landscaping retaining wall along the sidewalk adjacent to Patterson Avenue, terracing the steep grade of the property.

The site is the largest library branch in the City. Soil infiltration values are poor and the site has had many former uses, leaving the soil with significant debris. There are several stormwater runoff issues on the property, particularly the flooding of parking stalls near the back entrance. Despite these challenges, this location creates the opportunity to detain, filter, and absorb very large volumes of runoff.

Specific improvements at the Richmond Public Library – West End Branch include:

Northwest side of the site

- oRemoval of diseased, non-native tree next to the building, which will be replaced with a native species
- oRemoval of gravel and soil in existing raised planter to a depth of 12 inches, which will be replaced with engineered soil and native plantings

Southwest side of the site

- oRemoval of nandinas and liriopse in the landscape bed next to the building
- oPlanting of native shrubs and grasses

Northeast side of the site

- oRemoval of invasive plants such as ivy, privet, and Japanese honeysuckle to the greatest degree possible along the rear hedge
- oRemoval concrete surface in an existing parking lot island, and installation of soil and a retention basin with native plantings. Creation of a curb cut to allow stormwater to enter the new basin.
- oInstallation of a retention basin and associated curb cut next to the existing rear patio
- oPlanting of native trees, shrubs, and grasses

Southeast side of the site

- oInstallation of retention basins
- oInstallation of a concrete retaining wall within the landscape bed around the retention basins. Removal of three existing crape myrtle trees that will likely be damaged due to the regrading of the site
- oPlanting of native trees, shrubs, and grasses
- oCreation of a leaf composting area
- oInstallation of a conveyance channel across the parking lot, covered by a metal grate. This conveyance channel will direct water from across the parking lot and into a proposed retention basin.

The applicant proposes to alter the landscape and hardscape at the Richmond Public Library – West End Branch. Alterations include the removal of non-native plant species and dead or diseased plantings. New native trees, shrubs, and grasses will be planted in place of the removed plantings, and in addition to the existing plants.

The existing landscape beds will be altered with the installation of retention basins and conveyance channels containing ornamental stone to capture storm water runoff. Retention basins will be installed within the existing parking lot islands to capture stormwater runoff from the parking lot.

The project reduces the amount of impervious surface and non-native species on site, implements low-impact design to manage stormwater runoff and serves as an educational

resource available at this library branch.

Regarding the language in the plan stating that no native species would be removed along the northern edge of the parking lot, Mr. Quilici asked if there were plans to replace plantings in that area. Mr. Dandridge stated that time and resources allowing, the applicants plan to retain the existing hedge and remove the invasive species such as ivy and privet which have encroached upon the hedge; no new plantings are planned for that section of the site.

Mr. Quilici asked if it would be possible to add a crossing at that part of the site, or if there was a fence there which would block this. Mr. Harrigan stated that there is a fence at the location Mr. Quilici mentioned, and that there had been discussion of and public comments in favor of making a walkway or other connection between the library and the adjacent post office, but that the current funding did not support this. Mr. Quilici stated that a pedestrian connection between these two public buildings would be desirable, if this were to become possible.

Mr. Harrigan stated that there had been a lot of interest in creating such a connection, and that a location for it had been identified, but the current project grants do not provide for this sort of improvement.

Mr. Firestine stated that the issue of a connection had come up in public charrettes and meetings and that the applicants are attempting to find a creative way to do it outside the scope of the current project.

Mr. Sam Lilly, City Arborist with the Richmond DPW Urban Forestry division, stated that there is an oak tree at the front area of the building on Patterson which is in poor condition and has been slated for removal, and that this has been discussed with Lisa Christian, the branch manager for that location. Mr. Lilly suggested that the resulting opening could be an opportunity to put in a replacement tree. Mr. Firestine stated that this is a good point, and that this tree was damaged by construction in 2016-2017. Mr. Firestine stated that the applicants hoped to in future figure out suitable native species to plant in that area and would be happy to work with Urban Forestry and Mr. Harrigan on this.

Mr. Lilly stated that since the request for the tree removal was submitted in the current fiscal year, it would most likely be done in the next 3-6 months. Mr. Firestine stated that the applicants hoped to make clear that this tree removal was not related to the current project, and that the applicants do not wish to appear to be removing trees in the process of planting new trees.

Ms. Janine Lester, acting manager at Urban Forestry, stated that Mr. Lilly would need to survey the site if any trees are being removed without replacement, regardless of whether they are native or non-native. Ms. Lester stated that the City of Richmond does not distinguish between native and non-native trees when it comes to removal, but focuses instead on tree and canopy size and the service the tree provides to the community. Ms. Lester requested clarification regarding what trees are being removed.

Mr. Harrigan stated that there is one nearly-dead Japanese Maple which is to be removed, and replaced with a Service Berry of similar size; and that the Willow Oak being removed is a separate matter, not directly connected with this project. Mr. Harrigan stated that three crape myrtles are also being removed by the drive aisles due to the regrading in that area, but that numerous trees will be going in to replace them. Ms. Lester stated that a remediation survey will have to be done by Mr. Lilly for those trees being removed, since the trees in question are healthy. Ms. Lester stated that a development gets credit for all trees being added, but that all healthy trees being removed

do have to be accounted for.

Ms. Almond asked if there was any further public comment. There was none.

A motion was made by Committee Member Nolt, seconded by Committee Member Gould, that this item be recommended for approval by the Planning Commission with the following conditions:

-To ensure compliance with the Urban Design Guidelines, the applicant confirm with staff that the mature height and spacing of proposed plantings will not interfere with overhead wires and existing lighting.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 7 - Jill Nolt, Andrew P. Gould, Emily Smith , Chair Andrea Almond, Charles Woodson, Andrea Quilici and Max Hepp-Buchanan

Excused -- 1 - John Reyna

4. [UDC 2020-19](#) Final location, character, and extent review of Richmond Public Library - Broad Rock Branch Site Improvements; 4820 Old Warwick Road.

Attachments: [UDC Report to CPC](#)
[Staff Report to UDC](#)
[Location & Plans](#)

Mr. Dandridge: Impervious area and non-native species will be removed and native plants added for shade, wildlife habitat, and other ecosystem services. The project will include the installation of interpretive signage which can be used for special library programs and community involvement. An arrival court and nearby seating area for multifunctional community use and outdoor gatherings will be composed of pervious pavers and seat walls. The design was informed by public charrettes and the collaborative project management effort of Richmond Public Library staff, RVAH2O, The James River Association, and Four Winds Design.

Specific improvements at the Richmond Public Library – Broad Rock Branch include:

Northwest side of the site

- oRemove fallen, dead tree
- oRemove and repurpose existing granite slabs in existing circular seating area
- oGrinding and removal of a stump in the existing landscaping bed
- oRemoval of non-native shrubs in landscaping bed
- oInstallation of retention basins and conveyance channels to direct water from downspouts. The conveyance channels will contain ornamental stone
- oCreation of a leaf composting area
- oPlanting of new native trees, shrubs, and grasses

Northeast side of the site

- oExisting landscaping to remain

Southwest side of the site

- oRemoval of non-native shrubs in the existing landscape bed
- oInstallation of retention basins
- oInstallation of new conveyance channels to direct stormwater from downspouts into the retention basins on the northwestern side of the building. Conveyance channels will contain ornamental stone

- oInstallation of city-standard curbs with small curb cuts that allow storm water to drain into the new retention basins installed within the existing parking lot islands
- oConstruction of a circular entry plaza with pervious pavers surrounded by a retaining wall. The new seating area will utilize the repurposed granite slabs that are currently in front of the northwest entrance
- oPlanting of new native trees, shrubs, and grasses

Southeast side of the building

- oCreation of a leaf composting area
- oNew native plantings
- oRetention of existing plantings

The applicant proposes to alter the landscape and hardscape at the Richmond Public Library - Broad Rock Branch. Alterations include the removal of non-native plant species and dead or diseased plantings. New native trees, shrubs, and grasses will be planted in place of the removed plantings, and in addition to the existing plants.

The existing landscape beds will be altered with the installation of retention basins and conveyance channels containing ornamental stone to capture storm water runoff. Retention basins will be installed within the existing parking lot islands to capture stormwater runoff from the parking lot. A new, circular entry plaza will be constructed with pervious pavers and will contain seating.

The project reduces the amount of impervious surface and non-native species on site, implements low-impact design to manage stormwater runoff and serves as an educational resource available at this library branch.

Committee Chair Almond asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

Ms. Lester asked if the Branford Pear at the site was slated for removal. Mr. Harrigan stated that no pears were slated for removal, only some stumps and one dead tree on site.

Ms Almond stated that it appeared that someone had already removed the dead tree.

A motion was made by Committee Member Nolt, seconded by Committee Member Quilici, that this item be recommended for approval by the Planning Commission with the following conditions:

-To ensure compliance with the Urban Design Guidelines, the applicant confirm with staff that the mature height and spacing of proposed plantings will not interfere with overhead wires and existing lighting.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 7 - Jill Nolt, Andrew P. Gould, Emily Smith , Chair Andrea Almond, Charles Woodson, Andrea Quilici and Max Hepp-Buchanan

Excused -- 1 - John Reyna

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Almond expressed appreciation that the projects of the current meeting included maintenance plans, and encouraged the applicants to continue seeking funding for projects of this nature.

Mr. Woodson asked if updates to the Guidelines would be discussed at the current meeting. Mr. Dandridge stated that due to lack of staff resources he has not made much progress on the Guidelines project in the past month, so it would have to carry over into 2021.

Ms. Almond suggested that, in light of this meeting's discussion, the Guidelines be revisited regarding the planting of trees that yield acorns, nuts, and/or fruits. Ms. Lester stated that this is an excellent point, and that often landscape architects will put in only male trees, in order to minimize the need for clean-up, and this results in higher pollen levels.

Adjournment