



City of Richmond

City Hall
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Meeting Minutes Planning Commission

Monday, September 21, 2020

1:30 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

This meeting will be held through electronic participation 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.

Most, if not all, Planning Commission members and other staff will participate in this meeting by teleconference/videoconference via Microsoft Teams. Those who may be assembling for this meeting will do so in the 5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall at 900 East Broad Street in Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Special Guidelines for Public Access and Citizen Participation:

To access or participate, or both, in the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, September 21, 2020, at 1:30 p.m., you have several options outlined in the following document:

1. [PDRPRES
2020.059](#)

Attachments: [Public Access and Participation Instructions - Planning Commission
Sep 21, 2020](#)

Citizens are encouraged to provide their comments in writing to PDRLandUseAdmin@richmondgov.com in lieu of speaking through audio or video means during the meeting.

When submitting your comments by email, be sure to include in your email (i) your full legal name, (ii) any organizations you represent, and (iii) any economic or professional relationships that would be affected by the adoption of the legislation on which you are commenting.

The person responsible for receiving written comments is Matthew J. Ebinger, Secretary to the Planning Commission.

All written comments received via email prior to 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 21, 2020, will be provided to all members of the Planning Commission prior to the beginning of the meeting and will be included in the record of the meeting.

Call To Order

Mr. Poole called the regular meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

- Present 9 - * Chair Rodney Poole, * Vice Chair Melvin Law, * Commissioner David Johannas, * Commissioner Vivek G. Murthy, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner Max Hepp-Buchanan, * Commissioner John Thompson, * Commissioner Lenora Reid, and * Commissioner Ellen Robertson

Chair's Comments

Mr. Poole welcomed all who were present.

Approval of Minutes

2. [PDRMIN 2020.017](#)

Attachments: [DRAFT CPC Minutes May 4, 2020](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Johannas, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, that the May 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye --** 8 - * Chair Rodney Poole, * Vice Chair Melvin Law, * Commissioner David Johannas, * Commissioner Vivek G. Murthy, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner Max Hepp-Buchanan, * Commissioner John Thompson and * Commissioner Lenora Reid

- Excused --** 1 - * Commissioner Ellen Robertson

3. [PDRMIN 2020.018](#)

Attachments: [CPC Draft Minutes June 15, 2020](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Greenfield, seconded by Vice Chair Law, that the June 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye --** 8 - * Chair Rodney Poole, * Vice Chair Melvin Law, * Commissioner David Johannas, * Commissioner Vivek G. Murthy, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner Max Hepp-Buchanan, * Commissioner John Thompson and * Commissioner Lenora Reid

- Excused --** 1 - * Commissioner Ellen Robertson

4. [PDRMIN 2020.019](#)

Attachments: [CPC Draft Minutes July 6, 2020](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Law, seconded by Commissioner Greenfield, that the July 6, 2020 Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye --** 9 - * Chair Rodney Poole, * Vice Chair Melvin Law, * Commissioner David Johannas, * Commissioner Vivek G. Murthy, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner Max Hepp-Buchanan, * Commissioner John Thompson, * Commissioner Lenora Reid and * Commissioner Ellen Robertson

5. [PDRMIN
2020.020](#)

Attachments: [CPC Draft Minutes July 20, 2020](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Murthy, seconded by Commissioner Johannas, that the July 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 9 - * Chair Rodney Poole, * Vice Chair Melvin Law, * Commissioner David Johannas, * Commissioner Vivek G. Murthy, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner Max Hepp-Buchanan, * Commissioner John Thompson, * Commissioner Lenora Reid and * Commissioner Ellen Robertson

Director's Report

- Council Action Update

Mr. Ebinger provided an update on the actions taken by City Council at its September 14, 2020 meeting.

Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda

11. [PAC 2020-002](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[PAC Report to CPC Aug 17, 2020](#)
[Staff Report to PAC](#)
[Application Materials](#)
[Support Letter_HG](#)
[Letter of Opposition](#)

Item Title: Section 17.05 Review of a temporary public art installation in the form of a road mural, consisting of the phrase "Black Lives Matter," located on East Grace Street, between North 9th Street and North 8th Street.

This item was heard and approved with conditions by the Planning Commission on August 17, 2020.

On September 8, 2020 the Planning Commission held a closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) to consult with legal counsel regarding what legal consequences, if any, might follow from the Commission's design and location approval of a Black Lives Matter mural on City right-of-way. Immediately after the closed session, the Planning Commission voted to reconsider this Item.

On September 18, 2020 the applicant requested that this item be withdrawn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johannas, seconded by Commissioner Robertson, that this Section 17.05 Review Item be withdrawn. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 8 - * Chair Rodney Poole, * Vice Chair Melvin Law, * Commissioner David Johannas, * Commissioner Vivek G. Murthy, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner John Thompson, * Commissioner Lenora Reid and * Commissioner Ellen Robertson

Abstain -- 1 - * Commissioner Max Hepp-Buchanan

Consent Agenda

Mr. Murthy had questions on Items 7 and 8.

Public Hearing: No one spoke.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Law, seconded by Commissioner Murthy, that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye -- 9 - * Chair Rodney Poole, * Vice Chair Melvin Law, * Commissioner David Johannas, * Commissioner Vivek G. Murthy, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner Max Hepp-Buchanan, * Commissioner John Thompson, * Commissioner Lenora Reid and * Commissioner Ellen Robertson

- 6. [ORD. 2020-193](#) To declare surplus and direct the sale of the City-owned real estate known as 2901 Bainbridge Street for \$10,000.00 to the Richmond Fire Department Foundation.

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2020-193](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Site Plan](#)
[Improvement Plans](#)
[Map](#)

This Ordinance was recommended for approval to the City Council.

- 7. [ORD. 2020-194](#) To amend Ord. No. 2020-050, adopted May 11, 2020, which adopted the Special Fund Budgets for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and appropriated the estimated receipts of the Special Revenue funds, to transfer funds in the amount of \$1,700,000.00 from the Office of the City Attorney’s “Delinquent Tax Sales” special fund and to amend Ord. No. 2020-051, adopted May 11, 2020, which accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and the four fiscal years thereafter, adopted a Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Budget, and determined a means for financing the same by (i) establishing a new project in the Culture & Recreation category called the “Enslaved African Heritage Campus” project and (ii) appropriating the funds transferred to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Budget by increasing revenues and the amount appropriated to the new Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities’ Enslaved African Heritage Campus project by \$1,700,000.00 for the purpose of planning, designing, acquiring land for, and constructing a multiuse enslaved African cultural and heritage parklike campus in the city of Richmond.

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2020-194](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Community and Economic Impact Report](#)
[Map](#)

This Ordinance was recommended for approval to the City Council.

- 8. [ORD. 2020-199](#) To declare a public necessity for and to authorize the acquisition of the parcel of real property owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation and known as 311 South Belmont Avenue for the purpose maintaining the property as a City green space, playground, and recreational area.

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2020-199](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Survey](#)
[Map](#)

This Ordinance was recommended for approval to the City Council.

- 9. [Location 2020-003](#)
Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Easement Plat](#)
[Map](#)

Item Title: Location Review of a proposed permanent variable width street lighting utility easement across multiple parcels of land lying on the south side of N. 31st Street and on the east side of Kuhn Street in the vicinity of the former site of Armstrong High School.

This Location Item was approved.

- 10. [PAC 2020-08](#)
Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Maggie Small Application](#)
[Maggie Small Article](#)

Item Title: Approval of Maggie Small as a new arts professional member of the Public Art Commission.

Maggie Small was confirmed as a new arts professional member of the Public Art Commission.

The consent agenda consists of items that appear relatively non-controversial in nature and for which there was no known opposition at the time this agenda was set. The Consent Agenda items will be considered by the Commission as a group, and there will be a single combined staff presentation and a single combined public hearing held for all items listed on the Consent Agenda.

Regular Agenda

- 12. [PDRPRES 2020.060](#)

Attachments: [Richmond 300 Pre-Final Memo](#)
[Presentation](#)
[Public Comment Church Hill Association](#)

Item Title: Presentation: Richmond 300 Pre-Final Plan

Ms. Maritza Pechin provided staff's presentation. Mayor Levar M. Stoney also spoke during the presentation.

Public Hearing: Two individuals made comments.

Mr. Poole thanked Mr. Olinger and staff for their work on the Master Plan.

Mr. Hepp-Buchanan echoed Mr. Poole's sentiments on the process overall.

Ms. Robertson also thanked the staff for their great work and expressed her appreciation. She spoke about the change in the language as it relates to affordable housing. She stated she is not sure that affordable housing is well defined, it sends mixed messages to different communities as it relates to what that means. She stated I appreciate the broader description of what is included in affordable housing.

Ms. Reid stated we have this massive document but that is because it is reflective of the amount of work that has been put in over the years, it is very much appreciative of the great work performed by the entire team. It is going to be a great benefit to our citizens.

Mr. Murthy reiterated everything that the commissioners said. It is a lot of documentation, a lot to take in, it paints a great picture of where our city can go, from affordable housing to being able to walk your dog continuously without running into dead end streets or having to cross busy roads it is incredibly impressive of what you guys have put together.

Upcoming Items

Mr. Ebinger shared a list of items tentatively scheduled for the October 5, 2020 meeting of the Planning Commission.

Adjournment

Mr. Poole adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

All persons attending the meeting are requested to register on the attendance sheets that have been placed on the chairs and are also available at the table by the conference room entrance. Once you have completed an attendance sheet, it should be provided to the Commission staff.