

# GLORY4MLW

This elegant lady DESERVES GLORY to highlight the heritage of Jackson Ward

## **A lighted, 360 degree view**

Her statue MUST be unfettered and without a tree. She must stand proudly centered in the spotlight at the corner of Brook Road, Adams and Broad Streets.

The Maggie Walker statue must personify her strength, character, fortitude, dignity and determination as an African American woman during the Jim Crow era of segregated Richmond.

## **A tasteful pedestal representing the values & heritage of Jackson Ward**

She stood on the shoulders of the "Harlem of the South," the African American community of Jackson Ward. Yet, her sphere of influence and command was nationwide.

## **A Gateway for Jackson Ward**

She symbolically stands North on Broad Street for a reason.



## **Mrs. Maggie Lena Walker**

As the Right Worthy Grand Secretary of the Independent Order of St. Luke for thirty five years, Mrs. Walker is widely known as the nation's first female bank president. But she was much more in the hearts and heritage of black Richmond. She was an ardent activist, community organizer, anti-lynching advocate, and staunch supporter for voting rights for women and blacks. She was a leader, not for herself, but for her people.



## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Jennie Dotts [jennie@oldhouseauthority.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 4:54 PM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR; jeremy@richmondfreepress.com; bshulleeta@timesdispatch.com  
**Subject:** Why Richmond, Why?!? Park Upgrade in Jackson Ward

**From:** Jennie Dotts [mailto:jennie@oldhouseauthority.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 4:39 PM  
**To:** priggan@richmond.com; Doug Cole <dcole@cite-design.com>; Parker C. - Council Member' <Parker.Agelasto@richmondgov.com>; ashley.a.carruthers@gmail.com; Walter Dotts <walter@oldhouseauthority.com>; Dixon Kerr <dixon@oldhouseauthority.com>; Eva A Cole/FS/VCU <pacole@vcu.edu>; Beth Glasser <scottishdeerhound1@gmail.com>; Lory.Markham@richmondgov.com; jane.ferrara@richmondgov.com; mark.ohlinger@richmondgov.com; lynn.mcateer@betterhousingcoalition.org; dave@johannasdesign.com; jeremy@richmondfreepress.com  
**Subject:** Why Richmond, Why?!? Park Upgrade in Jackson Ward

[http://www.richmond.com/news/local/why-richmond-why/article\\_e5c78f48-97c7-11e2-9712-0019bb30f31a.html#.Vpli3n72e0Y.gmail](http://www.richmond.com/news/local/why-richmond-why/article_e5c78f48-97c7-11e2-9712-0019bb30f31a.html#.Vpli3n72e0Y.gmail)

Members of the Planning Commission and Public Arts Commission,

This 2013 article in the Times Dispatch asks the obvious and still unanswered question about the under-utilization of Abner Clay Park. There's even a suggestion of a sculpture garden/memorial to Maggie Walker AND links to the Black History Museum, Maggie Walker House and Ebenezer Baptist. What is the fate of that park and can it be reconsidered for placement of the Maggie Walker sculpture. Wouldn't this solve the problems of the live oak tree, the relocation of public utilities at Brook and Broad and bring life to this important location?

I repeat: Why Richmond, why?

Can someone respond to me about plans for Abner Clay Park and the budget that seemed available for its improvement in 2013?

Thank you,  
Jennie Dotts

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Jennie Dotts [jennie@oldhouseauthority.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 17, 2016 7:29 PM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR  
**Cc:** Ferrara, Jane C. - ECD; 'Doug Cole'; mark.ohlinger@richmondgov.com; lynn.mcateer@betterhousingcoalition.org; dave@johannasdesign.com; rpooleadop@aol.com; jeremy@richmondfreepress.com; bshulleeta@timesdispatch.com; Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member; news@wric.com; sbarnhouse@wtvr.com; newsroom@nbc12.com; noliver@timesdispatch.com; Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member  
**Subject:** RE: Brook & Broad plaza too constricted for Maggie Walker monument

**From:** Jennie Dotts [mailto:jennie@oldhouseauthority.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2016 4:15 PM  
**To:** 'Parker, Ellyn - PDR' <Ellyn.Parker@Richmondgov.com>; 'Lory.Markham@richmondgov.com' <Lory.Markham@richmondgov.com>  
**Cc:** 'ellen.robertson@richmondgov.com' <ellen.robertson@richmondgov.com>; 'jane.ferrara@richmondgov.com' <jane.ferrara@richmondgov.com>; 'Doug Cole' <dcole@cite-design.com>; 'mark.ohlinger@richmondgov.com' <mark.ohlinger@richmondgov.com>; 'lynn.mcateer@betterhousingcoalition.org' <lynn.mcateer@betterhousingcoalition.org>; 'dave@johannasdesign.com' <dave@johannasdesign.com>; 'rpooleadop@aol.com' <rpooleadop@aol.com>; 'jeremy@richmondfreepress.com' <jeremy@richmondfreepress.com>; 'bshulleeta@timesdispatch.com' <bshulleeta@timesdispatch.com>; 'news@wric.com' <news@wric.com>; 'sbarnhouse@wtvr.com' <sbarnhouse@wtvr.com>; 'newsroom@nbc12.com' <newsroom@nbc12.com>; 'noliver@timesdispatch.com' <noliver@timesdispatch.com>; 'cynthia.newbille@richmondgov.com' <cynthia.newbille@richmondgov.com>; 'Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison' <Craig.Bieber@Richmondgov.com>; 'charles.samuels@richmondgov.com' <charles.samuels@richmondgov.com>; 'Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member' <Parker.Agelasto@richmondgov.com>  
**Subject:** Brook & Broad plaza too constricted for Maggie Walker monument

Dear Members of the Planning and Public Arts Commission:

I am writing to follow up on Monday night's meeting, where the public was left with little time for input following presentations by the Mayor, the artist, Mr. Ohlinger and others about the state of race relations in the city.

The time compression for public comment left unanswered questions and I hope you can address some of them for me.

- 1) **Why are no other sites under consideration?** Who made the decision to locate it at the impossibly fraught Brook/Broad intersection, and when? What was that process? I ask because this site is loaded with safety and cost concerns. If you have not read about the student hit by a car while exiting a school bus on Tuesday, please do so. [http://www.richmond.com/news/local/city-of-richmond/article\\_c104eade-76ea-5e91-a5a5-0162f4e2dbbf.html#.Vpfl\\_95Czsk.gmail](http://www.richmond.com/news/local/city-of-richmond/article_c104eade-76ea-5e91-a5a5-0162f4e2dbbf.html#.Vpfl_95Czsk.gmail).

If the Brook/Broad plaza is envisioned as a site where families, students, tourists and visitors can visit it, how will they access it by bus? When Broad Street becomes a bus highway and this intersection a bus stop, where will school buses park to unload children to visit the Walker monument? Will a school/tourist bus be able to turn on to Adams once a sidewalk is added to this already narrow street? Where will students find restroom facilities (typically, their first concern when disembarking)?

- 2) **Why is Abner Clay Park not under consideration?** Why was the public not engaged in determining the site since we will be asked to pick up the cost of relocating utilities, more-complicated-than-necessary landscape design, and the loss of tax revenue when properties on that block lose their accessibility, their tenants, their clientele, and, consequently, their value?

Abner Clay Park is treated as an unprepossessing backwater. It is in fact, a gateway spot directly across from two powerfull landmarks—Ebenezer Baptist Church and the Black History Museum (the long-forgotten armory of far more importance to the Maggie Walker story than anything at Brook and Broad). The park is close to I-95 but removed from the automotive entanglements of Broad St. If Mr. Mendez is half the artist he is purported to be, he can certainly transform the site into a cultural lodestar, a destination of more than passing interest, which Brook and Broad will be once it is a mass-transit and public dining hub.

Abner Clay Park is the large canvas that would allow Ms Walker the setting she deserves. Brook and Broad, on the other hand, is the equivalent of a broom closet, as the *Richmond Free Press* pointed out today. Abner Clay Park offers the potential for easy access, parking, and seating. Brook and Broad does not. Abner Clay Park offers the potential for in-depth exploration and serene contemplation. Brook & Broad does not. Can you please give some thought to this site? Or it is simply too late to prevent a monumental failure?

Thank you,  
Jennie Dotts

Jennie Dotts, REALTOR  
Virginia Properties, a Long & Foster Co.  
*Top Producer, Long & Foster Gold Team*  
412 Libbie Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23226  
(804)370-6565

## Parker, Eilyn - PDR

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**From:** Ask The Mayor  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2016 12:16 PM  
**To:** Parker, Eilyn - PDR; Green, Cheryl Ivey - Mayor's Office  
**Subject:** FW: Maggie Walker Phone:804300-3714

Eilyn,

We received this via "Ask the Mayor." I think this is the first "Ask the Mayor" I have sent you, so what we ask is that you send a follow up email to the resident and cc' Cheryl Ivey Green. This follow up can be simply to acknowledge their suggestion and point them in the direction of the online survey. Sometimes they do need additional follow up.

Thanks  
Shelby

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**From:** Gwendolyn Cahill [mailto:OmariIrene@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 17, 2016 8:58 PM  
**To:** Ask The Mayor  
**Cc:** CityWebManager  
**Subject:** Maggie Walker Phone:804300-3714

From: Gwendolyn Cahill

Email Address: [OmariIrene@yahoo.com](mailto:OmariIrene@yahoo.com)

Mail Address: 300 Addison Way, Apt. 10-1C  
Petersburg, VA 23805

Message:

To Mayor Dwight Jones In response to Jerermy M. Lazarus' article Tree not sole obstacle at Maggie Walker site The current site that is proposed for the Maggie Walker site is rather limited in size. Being a transplant from Westchester County I have seen a number of successfully placed statures in White Plains and Yonkers, NY. For instance The Yonkers waterfront Library has a small area near a tree and bench that celebrates the life of Ella Fitzgerald. The Martin L. King, Jr. stature is located outside of the White Plains Federal Courthouse. I can see no reason to dismantle the oak tree and as pointed out in Jerermy M. Lazarus' article, Tree not sole obstacle at Maggie Walker site there would be a lot of traffic and no real place to enjoy the beauty, peacefulness nor would the proposed area provide a place to quietly enjoy mother-nature. Perhaps the Mayor of Richmond, Antonia Tobia and others involved in this project should travel to White Plains and Yonkers, NY to observe the successful orchestration and completion of a living tribute to African-Americans who have contributed significantly to the city and county in which their live. Mayor Clinton Young as instrumental in obtaining funds to build the statue at the White Plains courthouse on Grove. I wholeheartedly believe that it is important to be inclusion when representing the contributions of people of Richmond. The contribution of the African diaspora in Richmond, VA should not be overlooked. Too often the history of minorities is hidden. Maggie L. Walker's legacy and visionary spirit should be prominently placed not shadowed by a tree or placed in an obscure area that truly will not do justice for stature. I am certain there is a way to satisfy the needs of those who relish nature. Let it not be said they killed a tree for a statue. Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Cahill

1/26/16

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Ask The Mayor  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2016 12:18 PM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Green, Cheryl Ivey - Mayor's Office  
**Subject:** FW: Maggie Walker Statue Phone:804-266-2041

Ellyn,

We received this via "Ask the Mayor." Please follow up with the resident.

Thanks  
Shelby

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**From:** Nat Taylor [mailto:hnatt@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2016 11:16 AM  
**To:** Ask The Mayor  
**Cc:** CityWebManager  
**Subject:** Maggie Walker Statue Phone:804-266-2041

From: Nat Taylor

Email Address: [hnatt@comcast.net](mailto:hnatt@comcast.net)

Mail Address: 1775 altman road  
richmond 23228

Message:

Why not create a historical space at the Abner Clay Park for Richmond's African American Heroes? It could be tied in with the African American Museum across the street. Plaques and benches would create an educational green space. Statues on streets are no more than a drive-by. Maggie Walker, Arthur Ashe, Bojangles, Oliver Hill, Doug Wilder, and Willie Lanier should all be represented there, with exhibits in the museum. This creates a historical/ tourist/ educational stop to enhance the development of Jackson Ward.

**For DIT Use Only:**  
**Client IP Address:** 192.168.99.129  
**Client Operating System:** Unknown  
**Client Browser Name:** Safari  
**Client Browser Version:** 9.0

1/26/16

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** cate venable [cate51.venable@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2016 11:41 AM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Subject:** Maggie Walker Statue

Dear Ellyn.Parker,

I am a resident of Richmond, Virginia. I am concerned about the location of the proposed statue in honor of Maggie Walker. I listened to the forum held at the Library. The artists work is impressive. However, in looking over his images, I was more taken with the huge expanse the work took in incorporating the statues in the landscape. They also were more impressive when incorporated near or within sites of buildings. Therefore, my inclination is that the work would be more visible and more accessible if placed near the Black History Museum within the Abner Clay Park.

We need to THINK, in this city. The statues are so controversial. We still have the police statue complications at state. Can't we know that a park setting if located directly across from a museum is the best location?

Closing a street, taking down a tree, placing a structure within a minimal amount of space, all these seem to be not well thought out increments. How can children be safe within that triangle of proposed space at Brook and Broad when there is no parking? How can it be thought of as an important statue when one will see it in peripheral image on a busy corridor on a busy street? Broad. This doesn't make any sense when you can give the sculpture a large Park to work within to give an impressive layout and adding to that a Black Museum History across the street with parking?

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely, Catherine

1/26/16

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Guy Asbury [gasbury@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2016 6:25 PM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Cc:** Markham, Lory P. - PDR; Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member; Charles.samuels@richmond.gov; Michelle.mosby@richmond.gov; Chris.hilbert@richmond.gov; Cynthia.newbille@richmond.gov; Reva.trammell@richmond.gov; Jonathan.baliles@richmond.gov; Ferrara, Jane C. - ECD; dcole@cite-design.com; mark.ohlinger@richmondgov.com; lynn.mcateer@betterhousingcoalition.org; dave@johannasdesign.com; rpooleadop@aol.com; leah.small@styleweekly.com; bshulleeta@timesdispatch.com; news@wric.com; jeremey@richmondfreepress.com; sbarnhouse@wtvr.com; newsroom@nbc12.com; Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; priggan@richmond.com  
**Subject:** Brook Road closure

*Dear Sir or Madam,*

*As you may know the City of Richmond is planning to close a portion of historic Brook Road and destroy an impressive live oak tree in order to create a plaza with a statue honoring notable "Richmonder" Maggie Walker. The space chosen is too small to create a meaningful monument even with destroying the tree. Without destroying the tree there is simply no room for the monument again without vacating and removing the street and rebuilding it to a new plaza level, all while needing to deal with new water draining issues that were already provided by the storm drainage on the street. The selection of the Title "Plaza" rather than square or park hints at the actual projected use of the space as outside dining for the adjacent restaurant (commercial ventures are included in the definition, albeit not mentioned). The relocation of utilities and traffic will be costly to taxpayers and with a new bus stop for expanded bus traffic at this location, the site is fraught with safety and runoff issues. As we all know this road is a well used cutoff for traffic accessing the highway. Several blocks away, the underutilized 4-acre Abner Clay Park—directly across from the Black History Museum- offers an ideal location for memorializing Maggie Walker in a more-in-depth way while creating an impressive gateway to Jackson Ward. Abner Clay Park would also offer parking and visitor amenities as well as areas for sitting and contemplating. Certainly we can come together in this very expensive, not well thought out proposition with unknown ripple effects and not make a knee jerk reaction to an otherwise worthy effort to memorialize Maggie Walker.*

*Sincerely Yours*

*Brooke Asbury*

*responded 1/26/16*



## **Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** judy sheldon [jshel7602@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 1:02 PM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Subject:** RE:Maggie Walker monument

Hi Ellyn,

This is the letter I sent to the Times-Dispatch. I do not know if they will publish it, but I wanted the project designers and decision makers to have this information.

Thank you so much for returning my call.

With best regards,

Judy Sheldon

Dear Editor,

In regard to the discussion of the future monument celebrating Maggie Walker sharing space with the existing live oak, I think both the monument and live oak would have a strong combined effect honoring African American heritage in Richmond.

An historic live oak resides on the campus of Hampton University, known as the Emancipation Oak, In Remarkable Trees of Virginia, by Nancy Hugo, she states that, reportedly under this tree, a free black woman used the space as an outdoor classroom, teaching both free and enslaved African Americans to read and write. A Union soldier read the Emancipation Proclamation in 1963 to a group of African Americans, this being thought to be the first such reading in the South. Booker T. Washington studied beneath the tree in the 1870s. Hugo goes on to describe the tree as a "symbol of education and freedom."

Although the Richmond live oak is not historic or as grand as the Emancipation Oak, it does provide an opportunity to connect with and symbolize education and freedom as reflected in the life of Maggie Walker and her forebears.

Broadening the scope of the future monument by preserving the existing live oak and connecting this tree, if only with the addition of an informative plaque, to the live oak that has figured prominently in the history of African Americans in Virginia, would enhance the significance of the public space.

Sincerely,

Judy Sheldon  
804-477-4534  
7602 North Pinehill Drive  
Richmond, VA 23228

## **Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:36 PM.  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Subject:** FW: Maggie Walker statue C.A.R. review

Marianne Pitts  
Planning and Preservation Division  
Department of Planning and Development Review  
City Hall, Room 510  
900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219-1907  
Ph. (804)646-7550  
[marianne.pitts@richmondgov.com](mailto:marianne.pitts@richmondgov.com)

**From:** Jennie Dotts [mailto:[jennie@oldhouseauthority.com](mailto:jennie@oldhouseauthority.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:07 PM  
**To:** Lory.Markham@richmondgov.com; Bryan Green <[BGreen@comarchs.com](mailto:BGreen@comarchs.com)>; Charles.samuels@richmondgov.com; Parker.agelasto@richmondgov.com; Ellen.robertson@richmondgov.com; Cynthia.newbille@richmondgov.com; howyoufixit@gmail.com  
**Cc:** 'Mary Hunton' <[mphunton@comcast.net](mailto:mphunton@comcast.net)>; scottishdeerhound1@gmail.com; peacock911@aol.com; jeremy@richmondfreepress.com; noliver@timesdispatch.com; leah.small@styleweekly.com  
**Subject:** Maggie Walker statue C.A.R. review

I am writing in response to a matter that arose at the Public Arts Commission yesterday.

The public was told that C.A.R. would review the design for the plaza, which will alter the face of an entire block within a City Old & Historic District. However, it was suggested at yesterday's meeting that C.A.R.'s involvement may be circumvented. Can that be confirmed or denied? C.A.R. has purview over landscape design, a fact over which there was confusion. Further, C.A.R. has a right—and an obligation--- to review this plaza design to ensure that preservation of the block's historic character and the memory of a very historic road whose obliteration has been made part of the site plan.

Please advise as to the role C.A.R. will –or will not play—in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Jennie

Jennie Dotts, REALTOR  
Virginia Properties, a Long & Foster Co.  
*Top Producer, Long & Foster Gold Team*  
412 Libbie Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23226  
(804)370-6565

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Jennie Dotts [jennie@oldhouseauthority.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2016 11:41 AM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member; Baliles, Jonathan T. - Council Member; Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member; bgreen@comarchs.com; jfyarch@cavtel.net; howyoufixit@gmail.com; sarahdriggs@gmail.com; dave@johannasdesign.com; lynn.mcateer@betterhousingcoalition.org; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; jeremy@richmondfreepress.com; noliver@timesdispatch.com; leah.small@styleweekly.com; peacock911@aol.com; scottishdeerhound1@gmail.com; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; pearsalllaw@comcast.net; ccrump@historicrichmond.com; jmcdonald@historicrichmond.com; jrheberd@gmail.com  
**Subject:** CAR review of Maggie Walker plaza/statue

Members of City Council, the Public Arts Commission and the Planning Commission:

In furtherance of my argument for a CAR review of the proposed Maggie Walker plaza, I refer you to City Council's Dec. meeting where **Mr. Olinger stated that CAR would be engaged in the process.** The video recording of that meeting, <http://www.richmondgov.com/CityCouncil/FormalMeetingVideos.aspx#prettyPhoto> beginning at 2:45:45, includes the discussion of the Brook Road closure. My understanding from this is:

**1) The road will not ultimately be closed if the permits are not issued. The Planning Commission has ultimate authority for approving plans to issue permits. The Planning Commission can ultimately choose not to close the street and that is their right. If UDC and CAR review the plans, they too can recommend that Brook Road not be closed.**

2) During Mr. Olinger's remarks, he mentions that CAR would be engaged for their March meeting. To now reverse that position suggests that Mr. Olinger's statements to City Council were either false or misleading. (On the subject of Mr. Olinger, he is both a member of the Public Arts Commission and the pitch man for this project. Do you see a conflict of interest?).

I hope ask you follow up with Mr Olinger and the Planning Commission on these commitments to allow CAR review. Some CAR members are under the impression that the decision to close Brook Road is final and they have no ability to reverse this. That is not my understanding. **City Council has merely authorized its closing but Planning Commission will ultimately decide.** Additionally, the Public Arts Commission is under the misapprehension that landscape design does not fall under CAR's purview. Clarification of process and responsibilities are in order.

Thank you for investigating the matter.

Sincerely,  
Jennie Dotts

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Jennie Dotts [jennie@oldhouseauthority.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 4:50 PM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member; Baliles, Jonathan T. - Council Member; Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member; bgreen@comarchs.com; jfyarch@cavtel.net; howyoufixit@gmail.com; sarahdriggs@gmail.com; dave@johannasdesign.com; lynn.mcateer@betterhousingcoalition.org; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; jeremy@richmondfreepress.com; noliver@timesdispatch.com; leah.small@styleweekly.com; peacock911@aol.com; scottishdeerhound1@gmail.com; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; pearsalllaw@comcast.net; ccrump@historicrichmond.com; jmcdonald@historicrichmond.com; jrheberd@gmail.com; Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR; walter@oldhouseauthority.com; dixon@oldhouseauthority.com; Mosby, Michelle R. - Council Member; Trammell, Reva M. - Council Member  
**Subject:** Maggie Walker plaza clarification  
**Attachments:** Maggie Walker Statue Ordinance.pdf

Members of City Council, Planning Commission, Commission of Architectural Review and the Public Arts Commission:

Many of those who will be making important decisions regarding the location, design and budget for the Maggie Walker statue in Jackson Ward have been led to believe that City Council ordered the closure of Brook Road for a plaza when it voted on the matter in December. This is not accurate. Attached is a copy of the Ordinance, which states: that Brook Road will be closed **on the condition that necessary permits are obtained for the construction of "certain improvements to the urban plaza."**

To be clear: Council has authorized, not mandated, the street closure.

*That a portion of Brook Road between West Broad Street and North Adams Street be and is hereby closed to vehicular travel as a street of the City of Richmond, as shown and noted on a plan prepared by the Department of Public Works, designated as DPW Drawing No. N-28685, dated October 7, 2015, and entitled "Proposed Closing to Vehicular Travel Only a Portion of Public R/W Known as Brook Road Located between W Broad Street and N Adams Street," a copy of which is attached to this ordinance, for the purpose of creating an urban plaza as part of a public art project; however, such closing shall not be effective until such time as the City issues the necessary permits pursuant to Chapter 90, Article II, Division 2 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2004), as amended, for the construction of improvements to the urban plaza.*

Can someone please explain the timetable for this permitting process, who will be involved, and how will the public be notified?

Thank you,

Jennie Dotts

February 13, 2016

City Council, Planning Commission, Public Arts Commission, and Commission of Architectural Review Members:

It seems to me that all concerned parties should step back, take a deep breath and focus on the original objective, to honor an important Richmond person, Maggie Walker. The city and public have two choices to consider: To place the statue in a tranquil dignified park setting that could accommodate large numbers of visitors, or a small setting that could accommodate only a few visitors at a busy intersection with no parking available.

The section of Abner Clay Park across from the Black History Museum is virtually unused, and could offer unlimited design concepts that would greatly enhance a connection with the museum. I don't see this as a failure of the previous site considerations at Brook and Broad, instead I see this as a magnificent opportunity to make a major landmark setting for the statue, while embracing a connection with the museum. There are few, if any underground utilities to consider, so this section of virtually unused land is ready for the vision of a professional site designer, who could create an eye catching setting for the Maggie Walker monument that everyone would want to visit. A design concept could include a major pedestrian walkway between the museum and the park, as well as some adjoining off street parking spaces. I say we need to use common sense and visual grandeur, as opposed to just plopping down a statue, and saying, there it's done.

Is it possible to work with the Parks Department on this project and utilize some of their capital improvement funds? After all, they are responsible for the park.

The problems with the Brook and Broad site are too numerous to mention, and have been over visualized beyond the point of functioning reality. However, if you should have concerns, the Planning Commission will have an answer for you.

As it stands now, the existing street drains at Brook and Broad are barely functional, causing the rain water to overflow the curbing onto the sidewalk, coming within inches of entering several store fronts. What will happen if another layer of paving bricks are added to the existing layers of cobble stones and layers of pavement, bringing the rain water flows even higher on the sidewalk?

The important historic intersection at Brook, Adams, and Broad should be carefully preserved and deservedly improved. These improvements might include recovering the original, paved-over cobble stones, appropriate lighting, landscaping, and a bronze marker signifying the importance of the intersection. The marker should include Maggie Walker's notable achievements and her influences on Jackson Ward.

This kind of transformation would resolve the unsubstantiated pedestrian safety issues that a few continue to suggest is a problem. With cobble stone surfaces, traffic would naturally move at a slower pace, a solution that seems to work well in the preserved historic setting of Shockoe Slip.

Our Commission of Architectural Review should be involved in the review of any design change in Jackson Ward's Old & Historic District in Jackson Ward. That is their charge. More, not less, participation will make Mrs. Walker's neighborhood and city deservedly proud of a monument to her..

Rubin Peacock  
303 Brook Road

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Richmond Public Arts Commission:

I am Dr. Carmen Foster. I live in Byrd Park But proud to say that I was born in Jackson Ward.

I appreciate the work that has been done by the Commission and the City to recognize Mrs. Maggie Walker with a statue at the site of Adams, Broad and Brook Road.

This statue is not only about Richmond's past - it is about posterity. we must hold up one imperative. That in our deliberations between the City, the Commission, stakeholders and citizens, we have documented in bronze her legacy and the heritage of the Jackson Ward community with integrity.

One imperative: that the end result demonstrates - from a cultural historical approach - the inherent values, principles and standards that represent Mrs. Walker's powerful impact on the noble history of Jackson Ward, Richmond's "Harlem of the South," as well as her national influence during segregation.

Her influence, character, presence and power embraced a particular tradition of black community values that enabled black families to survive during the harsh segregation in Richmond. Mutual benefit societies like the Independent Order of St. Luke abounded in black communities.

These societies interconnected extended families and churches. They produced social, economic and political networks steeped in ideals of collective consciousness and collective responsibility that live on today.

These community bonds nurtured children as rosebuds. The values of this collective community enterprise have been a shield of strength for the next generations facing racism, segregation and white oppression.

These bonds still hold strength - it just depends on where you choose to look, as several descendants of this legacy like me will appear at tonight's community meeting.

I am a tree lover for sure. But the roots of her legacy are much more important to posterity. Mrs. Walker's statue must have 360 degree view to light the gateway to Jackson Ward and to enlighten posterity.

Our one imperative is to do this with integrity.

February 13, 2016

City Council, Planning Commission, Public Arts Commission, and Commission of Architectural Review Members:

It seems to me that all concerned parties should step back, take a deep breath and focus on the original objective, to honor an important Richmond person, Maggie Walker. The city and public have two choices to consider: To place the statue in a tranquil dignified park setting that could accommodate large numbers of visitors, or a small setting that could accommodate only a few visitors at a busy intersection with no parking available.

The section of Abner Clay Park across from the Black History Museum is virtually unused, and could offer unlimited design concepts that would greatly enhance a connection with the museum. I don't see this as a failure of the previous site considerations at Brook and Broad, instead I see this as a magnificent opportunity to make a major landmark setting for the statue, while embracing a connection with the museum. There are few, if any underground utilities to consider, so this section of virtually unused land is ready for the vision of a professional site designer, who could create an eye catching setting for the Maggie Walker monument that everyone would want to visit. A design concept could include a major pedestrian walkway between the museum and the park, as well as some adjoining off street parking spaces. I say we need to use common sense and visual grandeur, as opposed to just plopping down a statue, and saying, there it's done.

Is it possible to work with the Parks Department on this project and utilize some of their capital improvement funds? After all, they are responsible for the park.

The problems with the Brook and Broad site are too numerous to mention, and have been over visualized beyond the point of functioning reality. However, if you should have concerns, the Planning Commission will have an answer for you.

As it stands now, the existing street drains at Brook and Broad are barely functional, causing the rain water to overflow the curbing onto the sidewalk, coming within inches of entering several store fronts. What will happen if another layer of paving bricks are added to the existing layers of cobble stones and layers of pavement, bringing the rain water flows even higher on the sidewalk?

The important historic intersection at Brook, Adams, and Broad should be carefully preserved and deservedly improved. These improvements might include recovering the original, paved-over cobble stones, appropriate lighting, landscaping, and a bronze marker signifying the importance of the intersection. The marker should include Maggie Walker's notable achievements and her influences on Jackson Ward.

This kind of transformation would resolve the unsubstantiated pedestrian safety issues that a few continue to suggest is a problem. With cobble stone surfaces, traffic would naturally move at a slower pace, a solution that seems to work well in the preserved historic setting of Shockoe Slip.

Our Commission of Architectural Review should be involved in the review of any design change in Jackson Ward's Old & Historic District in Jackson Ward. That is their charge. More, not less, participation will make Mrs. Walker's neighborhood and city deservedly proud of a monument to her.

Rubin Peacock  
303 Brook Road  
Richmond VA 23220

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Robinson, Betty H. - PDR  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2016 8:01 AM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Subject:** FW: Cut Down the Tree for Maggie Walker's Memorial!

**Importance:** High

FYI

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**From:** Ray and Carolyn Richardson [mailto:sopedish@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2016 3:45 PM  
**To:** Ask The Mayor; City Clerk's Office; Skinner, Steven R. - Council Chief of Staff Office; Ask PDR; Green, Cheryl Ivey - Mayor's Office; Jefferson, Lela C. - Mayor's Office; Jefferson, Tameka L. - Mayor's Office; PDR Historic Preservation; Ask PDR; PDR Land Use Admin; PDR Planning and Preservation; Mosby, Michelle R. - Council Member  
**Subject:** Cut Down the Tree for Maggie Walker's Memorial!  
**Importance:** High

Dear Richmond City Planning Commission,

**Please cut down and remove the tree** before installing the Maggie Walker statue and memorial. Maggie Walker was obviously a God-sent black woman in her time. At the height of jim-crow and legal segregation and discrimination, Mrs. Walker was able to become a pioneering business woman who started a bank. She was also a teacher.

Why cut down the tree – it will take away from the tribute to Mrs. Walker. The tree is taller than the statue and naturally one's eyes will first be attracted to the tree rather than to the statue of Mrs. Walker. The tree will over-shadow the statue. The tree will also emit sap and attract bird droppings; therefore, please cut it down.

*Kind Regards,*

*Ray Richardson  
6912 Welch Drive  
Chesterfield, VA 23832  
Phone: 804-276-8053  
Email: [sopedish@msn.com](mailto:sopedish@msn.com)*

*"To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe." - Anatole France*



## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Robinson, Betty H. - PDR  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2016 7:58 AM  
**To:** Markham, Lory P. - PDR; Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Subject:** FW: PLAZA DESIGN COMMENTS

FYI

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**From:** rubin peacock [mailto:peacock911@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2016 6:21 PM  
**To:** Robinson, Betty H. - PDR  
**Subject:** Fwd: PLAZA DESIGN COMMENTS

-----Original Message-----

From: rubin peacock <peacock911@aol.com>  
To: peacock911 <peacock911@aol.com>  
Sent: Sun, Feb 21, 2016 5:39 pm  
Subject: Fwd: PLAZA DESIGN COMMENTS

-----Original Message-----

From: rubin peacock <peacock911@aol.com>  
To: peacock911 <peacock911@aol.com>  
Sent: Sun, Feb 21, 2016 5:33 pm  
Subject: Fwd: PLAZA DESIGN COMMENTS

To Council Members, Panning Committee, Public Art Committee:

After giving much thought to the mocked up photographs of the proposed design for the Brook, Adams and Broad plaza, many questions come to mind.

I don't like the notion that the over all design seems to direct people via walls, landscaping and general walkways only one way, in like a cattle chute. Everyone might not be interested in stopping at a plaza to contemplate or pay homage to Maggie Walker, but have other directions in mind. Brings to mind the one way entrance to a Nazi Concentration Camp of entrapment with only one way out, with no cross through walkways.

The landscape is very bothersome, while it might look good from a conceptual point of view, via Boston, in reality it creates a perfect cover for night time street tenants, complete with concrete beds.

Imagine the city employees trying to keep up with this much landscaping, when they are bickering about not having a budget to pick up leaves. The trees along Brook Road, that were planted several years ago have never been pruned, the property owners have been doing it. The existing live Oak Plaza was never finished and was regarded as complete, with no landscaping, water, or mulching. Will the new plaza be the same as this one and so many other unfinished public projects that the city has failed to complete? I'm for low maintenance and uncluttered vistas, retaining at least some historic values.

The skate boarders are going to have a great time meandering and testing their skills on the various levels of concrete walls and pedestals!

I ask the question, why this area cannot be treated in the same dignified way that the Jefferson Hotel Plaza was done, with restricted drive through convenience, simple, but tastefully designed. I suspect the answer lies in the fact that

it was a private undertaking with their money supporting it. We don't need all the fluff or all the added required expenses. There are dead people statues all over the city with a lot less fluff.

I have many other unanswered question that I will address to the various "commissions", at another time. At the moment, I am blinded with fear at the loss of convenience to pedestrians, commerce, history, and transportation.

If the citizens don't do it, who will?

Rubin Peacock  
303 Brook Road

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Charles F [charlesaf3@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 2:11 PM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Subject:** Maggie Walker statue

I just wanted to write in support of keeping the tree, as well as the statue.

Actually, I'd love to see the statue on Monument avenue, which would really benefit from a black woman.

Charles Frankenhoff  
3100 Monument Avenue

**Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** Sarah Driggs [carsbus@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 11:58 AM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Subject:** Fwd: Honoring Maggie Walker

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** paul dipasquale <howyoufixit@gmail.com>  
**Date:** February 25, 2016 at 9:37:19 AM EST  
**To:** Sarah Driggs <CARSBUS@aol.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Honoring Maggie Walker

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Dixon Kerr <dixon@oldhouseauthority.com>  
**Subject:** Honoring Maggie Walker  
**Date:** February 24, 2016 at 5:11:15 PM EST  
**To:** [howyoufixit@gmail.com](mailto:howyoufixit@gmail.com)

Honoring Maggie Walker with a statue is a long overdue gesture to a native Richmonder. A memorial to her presents opportunities in several ways to both remember and show her accomplishments to future generations while leaving one last gift to the city in her name.

Rather than squeeze this memorial into a small available space, the statue and her memorial could be the anchor for Abner Clay Park, which is in dire need of development. All of the dollars spent on this would benefit a proper memorial rather than be used on infrastructure necessary to support a statue on Broad Street. This memorial could be within sight of her home on Leigh Street as well as the new home of the Black History Museum.

How many historic markers do we pass on busy streets and are never able to read the signage about them because we cannot stop or there is no place to park? With good planning now this memorial would be accessible and benefit the entire area.

I hope the decision makers for this project will consider these factors and allow this opportunity it's full potential.

Dixon Kerr  
Union Hill

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Jennie Dotts [jennie@oldhouseauthority.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 12:06 PM  
**To:** Olinger, Mark A. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member; scottishdeerhound1@gmail.com; peacock911@aol.com; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member; sarahdriggs@gmail.com; howyoufixit@gmail.com; jeremy@richmondfreepress.com; leah.small@styleweekly.com; ed.slipek@styleweekly.com; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; pearsalllaw@comcast.net; Joe Yates; Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member; Baliles, Jonathan T. - Council Member; bgreen@comarchs.com; Jones, Dwight C. - Mayor  
**Subject:** Maggie Walker statue options  
**Attachments:** Maggie Walker with Tree.jpg

Members of the Planning Commission and Public Arts Commission and Commission of Architectural Review:

The public was originally told that there would be designs for the plaza with and without the tree. Then, we were told there would only be options without the tree

On Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, the public was shown only plans without the tree. If you look at comments on *Style Weekly's* website and the neighborhood site Nextdoor you'll see widespread dislike for what was presented.

After the public presentation at the library, The Public Arts Commission released a design WITH the tree and no opportunity for public comment except online, where feedback is overwhelmingly favorable.

Can we make a formal presentation of both options and let the taxpayers decide what they wish to pay for?

Thank you,  
Jennie

Jennie Dotts, REALTOR  
Virginia Properties, a Long & Foster Co.  
*Top Producer, Long & Foster Gold Team*  
412 Libbie Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23226  
(804)370-6565

February 26, 2016

Mr. Culbertson:

Letter to the Editorial Page –

I don't understand why they "the Team" wants, so badly, to cut down the live oak tree.

What is the matter with these people? Don't they know that, that tree gives off oxygen.

We, the people, need oxygen to breathe. There will be hundreds of people that will  
Have less oxygen to breathe.

Also, cancer grows on less oxygen in our bodys. I guess it does not matter that more  
People will get cancer because dumb people are cutting off our oxygen supply.

Have they no shame?

Patricia Chalkley

*Patricia Chalkley*

3910 Antioch Church Road

Sandston, Va. 23150

Phone: 804-737-3125

*Ms. Briggs -*

*3-23-16*

*I am suprised that so many people  
want to cut down a perfectly good tree.  
If people want to get rid of the trees we  
will have to wear oxygen masks.*

*Patricia Chalkley*

## **Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** Jennie Dotts [jennie@oldhouseauthority.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2016 10:59 AM  
**To:** howyoufixit@gmail.com; sarahdriggs@gmail.com; Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member; Olinger, Mark A. - PDR; Jones, Dwight C. - Mayor; Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; bgreen@comarchs.com; Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR; Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member  
**Subject:** Planning Commission, Public Arts Commission, CAR members: from the person who planted the live oak

## *Richmond Free Press*

### Maggie Walker, tree site

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#### **Oak's true symbolism echos Walker's legacy**

1/1/2016, 10:20 a.m.

112

Re "Strange fruit? Critic: Oak evokes lynching image at Walker statue site," Dec. 24-26 edition:

Approximately 30 years ago, I was contracted by the City of Richmond to plant the tree in question at West Broad and North Adams streets.

A live oak, with its distinctive evergreen leaves as opposed to typical oaks that lose their leaves, represents sustained life, prosperity, strength and character.

It was this symbolism that the city wanted to evoke at this location at the gateway to Jackson Ward from Broad Street.

Frankly speaking, it's appalling and insulting that this symbolism is now being twisted into a legacy of lynching.

We are a city and a community that is honored to be the home of such iconic figures as Maggie L. Walker, and it is our duty to honor her properly. A majestic statue and monument to Mrs. Walker can work with nature and green space, rather than conflict, as critics say.

The legacy of Mrs. Walker's leadership, entrepreneurship and citizenship will work hand in hand with the symbolism the live oak evokes. What some people see as an issue of confined space should be considered an opportunity for us to express both our love for our history and our love of greenery that is inviting.

A Maggie Walker statue can work well at this location, and the tree in question can add and enhance the landscape around the memorial rather than detract from it.

DWIGHT SNEAD

Glen Allen

The writer is president of Dwight Snead Construction.



## **Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** Jennie Dotts [jennie@oldhouseauthority.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2016 11:05 AM  
**To:** Markham, Lory P. - PDR; bgreen@comarchs.com; eddieslipek@gmail.com; jeremy@richmondfreepress.com; Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member; Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Jones, Dwight C. - Mayor; howyoufixit@gmail.com; sarahdriggs@gmail.com  
**Subject:** A precedent for monuments next to trees

Planning Commission, CAR, UDC, and Public Arts Commission Members:

Here's a Church Hill monument to Delegate James Christian that is situated next to a large tree. Why can't Mrs. Walker's monument do the same?

<https://cagednation.wordpress.com/category/uncategorized/>

Jennie Dotts, REALTOR  
Virginia Properties, a Long & Foster Co.  
*Top Producer, Long & Foster Gold Team*  
412 Libbie Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23226  
(804)370-6565

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Olinger, Mark A. - PDR  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:39 AM  
**To:** 'Andrew Bleckley'; Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Cc:** Neely, Grant O. - Mayor's Office; Kronenthal, Mark J. - CAO/Mayor's Office  
**Subject:** RE: Maggie Walker Plaza

Andrew

I truly appreciate your thoughtful comments.

I am digesting it (not every day I get a Sixtus V reference!) and we'll share with design team as we go over the latest round of comments from the meeting a couple of Saturdays ago.

We appreciate your interest—and commitment to the city—and will be in touch.

Regards,

m.

Mark A. Olinger, Director  
Dept. of Planning & Development Review  
City of Richmond  
900 E. Broad Street, Room 511  
Richmond, VA 23219  
804.646.6305 (p) 804.317.0442 (c)  
[mark.olinger@richmondgov.com](mailto:mark.olinger@richmondgov.com)  
[www.richmondgov.com](http://www.richmondgov.com)

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**From:** Andrew Bleckley [mailto:[ableckley@cite-design.com](mailto:ableckley@cite-design.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:57 AM  
**To:** Olinger, Mark A. - PDR; Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Cc:** Neely, Grant O. - Mayor's Office; Kronenthal, Mark J. - CAO/Mayor's Office  
**Subject:** Maggie Walker Plaza

Hi Mark and Ellyn,

Although I was unable to attend the Maggie Walker Plaza Workshop, I thought it may be valuable to share my thoughts, as an adjacent property owner, designer, and citizen of Richmond. To be clear, I support this project and the process. Tree, no tree, this space is not about a tree — it is about creating a rich public space for people to enjoy. With my background and experience as an urban designer and landscape architect, my thoughts and comments derive from the theory of place-making and the practice of organizing outdoor areas to attract people to a safe, active, and beautiful space. I believe **this project can be a “both/and” experience – both honoring the rich legacy of Maggie Walker and driving more people to experience the uniqueness of Richmond’s downtown.** These comments are intended to be constructive to the design process, and build on your hard work. I only want this space (and this neighborhood) be the best it can be.

First, we need to consider the driving purpose, and ultimately, end users of the space — people! The space should be organized around people and include the statue/memorial as a design component, as opposed to the space being organized around the statue/memorial (under-prioritizing the people who will use the space). In no way should this diminish the meaning, importance, or

prominence of the Maggie Walker statue/memorial. It is only to point out that we have a large collection of statues/memorials in this city that look good from a distance, but do nothing to activate a space and engage people. (Maury, J.E.B. Stuart, the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors, and Bojangles are examples of drive-by memorials).

I realize there is a popular opinion that would oppose this notion — thinking that the statue/memorial should be the sole occupant of the space. To that I would caution, this is a short-sighted viewpoint that not only does not adhere to accepted urban planning principles, but flies in the face of what Maggie Walker stood for. I believe Maggie Walker would feel most honored by seeing all types of people – professionals, students, young, old, and even those at the margins – congregate and connect in a safe, welcoming urban setting in the neighborhood she loved (and, clearly, the neighborhood still loves her). Likewise, the addition of the statue/memorial alone would do very little to help the revitalization of businesses in the area. If the sole purpose of the statue/memorial is to occupy the space and nothing more, then I would suggest this is the wrong space for the memorial.

Urban spaces such as this one that are surrounded by businesses and residences should be flexible for multiple uses. I know you are well aware of the work that PPS (Project for Public Spaces) is doing in and around our city; 17th Street and VMFA are just a couple projects they have had their hands on lately. Not to mention, the work they are doing with us at Libbie Mill - Midtown on Staples Mill Road (though not in the city.) One of their core principles is “The Power of Ten,” which calls for 10 attractions or activities to make a public space successful. Despite the small size of Maggie Walker Plaza, similar small spaces have been shown to benefit from this principle via the multiplier effect if you zoom out and look at them in the context of the larger region. The “Power of Ten” exercise is one that has been greatly beneficial to not only our design process, but to urban designers and planners around the world. I believe there is value in applying this principle to the Maggie Walker Plaza as well. I would be happy to create an overlay on the plan that speaks to this in greater detail. I would also invite you and your design team to participate in this exercise with us if you feel this would be productive.

We have an unique opportunity to shape this space in a way that allows far more than ‘statue gazing’. We saw some of the space’s potential during the bike race — people gathered around tables with friends, enjoying the fresh air and the spectacle that our city has to offer. Let’s not miss the opportunity to create a space that supports multiple uses instead of a single use, which the current design shows. With a few adjustments, I believe the design can attain the goal of prioritizing people while paying homage to Maggie Walker. The comments mentioned above are ‘big picture’ and speak to the space as a unique element in the neighborhood. If the City shares the vision of making a flexible space with multiple uses instead of single uses, there are specifics that should be addressed. For instance:

- **Parking along the perimeter is space that could be dedicated to people rather than cars**
- **Traffic calming elements would create a safer pedestrian experience**
- **Excessive landscaping could be reduced to allow for gathering space for people or a flexible activity space**
- **From a practical standpoint, who will maintain the landscape and planting beds?**

In closing, when modern Rome was organized by Pope Sixtus V, he strategically placed monuments in public spaces throughout the city. It paid tribute to key figures and reinvigorated spaces and the entire city. He used axes to organize circulation and movement through spaces for an experiential sequence that made for organic meeting and gathering. I hope we can take a cue from his precedent to critically think about how we want Maggie Walker Plaza to be experienced. This processes is proving that now is the right time to create a proper outdoor public space in Jackson Ward. It is encouraging to see the progress thus far, so ‘thank you’ again to your team for leading this process. With a few slight adjustments and a critical look at prioritizing people and how they will use the space,

I believe we can accomplish a “both/and” experience – honoring the rich legacy of Maggie Walker and attracting more people to experience the uniqueness of Richmond’s downtown.

Feel free to forward my comments to the artist if you deem that appropriate.

Best,

Andrew

—

Andrew Bleckley

Cite Design

Town Planning | Urban Design | Landscape Architecture

310 N. Adams Street

Richmond VA 23220

804.340.2848 [office]

843.860.6268 [mobile]

[cite-design.com](http://cite-design.com) [web]

**Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** Sam Forrest [samforrest10@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:43 AM  
**To:** bgreen@comarchs.com; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; sreed@comarchs.com; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR  
**Subject:** Maggie in the triangle park

Gentlepersons:

Following is a Letter to the Editor of Style Weekly that was not published. I ask that it be included in your musings:

Sam Forrest

Your article (1/20/16) about the tree in the triangle at Brook and Broad omits much.

Already approved by City Council is \$300K. of local tax dollars for a statue of Maggie Walker to be placed on the triangle. Also, Brook Rd. is to be closed off and paved between Broad and Adams. All this has been approved without plan or budget. Governed by Martians.

There are sub-texts to this story which should be aired. Max's Restaurant stands to gain considerable should Brook Rd. be closed. Max's owner, Ted Santarella, could put many outside tables in the proposed triangle, cover them with a tent in the winter. Estimates put one table worth \$10K. of income in a year. He had maybe 10 tables out for the bike race. It looked almost Parisian. It could be a tough call: does private profit supersede public property?

Mayor Jones, who recently couldn't account for a billion dollars, dines at Santarella's restaurants, Terrant's and Max's. Let your imagination play with that relationship. Mark Olinger, City Director of Planning and

Development, Jones' point man and flack catcher, has pushed this plan at the several public hearings held thus far.

I equate sub-text to Freud's sub-conscious: the engine of which one is not aware, that drives behavior. This next premise needs tender tendering. At the several public hearings about placing Walker's statue in the triangle, there was an almost vehement support from the Black community. Echoing in the back of my head at the hearings was "Black Lives Matter". My analysis is that the urgency to place the statue wells from the same frustration and anger. One is sympathetic. But is this the best motive to place a permanent edifice? Motives come and go.

Random thoughts about the project include: If the statue is placed in the triangle, the tree must go. If Max's restaurant closes, the park will become just another place for the homeless to relieve themselves. There is no place to park for school buses or lingering tourists. Abner Park has space that can be modified to accommodate the statue, parking and other possibilities. It is in close proximity to the Slave Museum.

City government has a long history of seldom getting anything right. Let's let Maggie, the tree and the triangle rest a while. Mayor Jones will be out of office, let the air settle and clarify, take a fresh look at what we will live with for long time.

## **Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** Louise Friday [eezlou@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2016 8:29 PM  
**To:** bgreen@comarchs.com; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; rpooleadop@aol.com;  
sreed@comarchs.com; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Bieber,  
Craig K. - City Council Liaison; Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR  
**Subject:** Richmond Live Oak Tree

**To the Members of the Richmond Planning Commission, the members of the Commission of Architectural Review and the members of the Public Arts Commission:**

Please vote to save the rare, healthy and beautiful live oak tree on Broad Street in the design of the Maggie Walker Park in Richmond. It makes no sense to cut down such a gorgeous specimen that creates such a pleasing aesthetic and shade for all the people, thank you, Louise Friday

## **Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** Bzeugner [bzeugner@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2016 9:28 PM  
**To:** bgreen@comarchs.com; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; rpooleadop@aol.com; sreed@comarchs.com; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR  
**Subject:** Maggie Walker Statue

Please know there are many citizens of Richmond who would love to see a proper statue to acknowledge the accomplishments of the wonderful example of women's abilities in Maggie Walker. But please let's work a little harder to figure out a way to keep the live oak tree. Ed Slipek makes a lot of good points in his Style article and only needs to mention the benefits of a mature tree in the plaza. Richmond has a hot sunny summer and Plazas with tree shade are preferable to open ones. The current design has newly planted trees around the edges that will only get in the way of the edges of the plaza. Why not keep the tree and have shady seating underneath. Where people could contemplate the accomplishments of Maggie Walker is a historical setting. At the point where Brook Road comes into Broad. Please don't let us lose sight of the past. I don't think we have explored the possibilities to satisfy all objectives.

Thank you,  
Mary Zeugner  
6408 Roselawn Rd.

Sent from my iPhone



**Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** Dorothy Friday [dorothy.friday@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2016 9:48 PM  
**To:** bgreen@comarchs.com; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; rpooleadop@aol.com; sreed@comarchs.com; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR  
**Subject:** Save the Live Oak Tree in the First Block of West Broad Street in Downtown Richmond

*To the members of the Richmond Planning Commission, the members of the Public Arts Commission and to the members of the Commission of Architectural Review:*

Please save the live oak tree in the first block of West Broad Street in downtown Richmond (near Max's on Broad). The proposed statue of Maggie Walker should NOT require the removal of the live oak tree. The statue can exist without removing the tree.

"The economic benefits of a healthy urban and community forest are often discounted or ignored in development decisions. Ecosystem services [improvements in air quality, reduction of impervious surface, habitat for small wildlife + birds, reduction in the urban heat island effect, and a wide array of shading/cooling, health, and aesthetic functions that benefit people and real estate] are extremely valuable and need to be considered in your evaluations...Quality landscaping brings value to a community" (<https://www.planning.org/research/forestry/pdf/555.pdf>), and especially in the American Southeast where the climate is ideal for beautiful, old, and rare tree species.

Please consider that quality of life in Richmond is improved by its trees, and especially in the city hardscapes. Appreciate your green infrastructure for its great, sometimes unmeasured value. The old trees of Richmond are some of the city's best assets.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Friday

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** carrington brown [carringtonpbrown@me.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2016 7:50 AM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Subject:** To the members of the Richmond Planning Commission, the members of the Public Arts Commission and to the members of the Commission of Architectural Review

Save the tree

Sent from my iPhone

## **Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** Anne Gray [anne.gordon10@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2016 9:07 AM  
**To:** bgreen@comarchs.com; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; rpooleadop@aol.com; sreed@comarchs.com; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR  
**Subject:** Beautiful, old, live oak tree! To the members of the Richmond Planning Commission, the members of the Public Arts Commission, & the members of the Architectural Review

Dear People:

It has come to my attention that there will be a statue built to honor Maggie Walker downtown on Broad Street. That is lovely after all this time especially. However, I don't see any reason to commit murder on a special tree just because of the statue. It takes a long time for a tree to grow and the very idea of taking down a healthy one just makes me very unhappy. I hope that your committees will work hard to save that special live oak tree. It is really important to preserve our past. We cannot destroy such a tree.

Thanks for your attention to this crucial matter. I will look forward to hearing about your decision in the newspaper. I understand that the designer of the statue has said that he can work with or without the tree. So that makes it easy. You have no excuse to tear down the live oak in order to build the Maggie Walker statue.

Anne Rennolds Gray

P.S. I come from a long line of preservationists who have lived in Richmond and wanted to save the wonderful buildings and trees here. We are always watching and thinking about all the new projects here. We are dedicated to continuing to create beauty and a safe environment for all of our citizens and for the future, for our children, grandchildren and beyond.

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Ned Rennolds [nedrick4th@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2016 5:20 PM  
**To:** bgreen@comarchs.com; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; rpooleadop@aol.com; sreed@comarchs.com; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR  
**Subject:** To the members of the Richmond Planning Commission, the members of the Public Arts Commission and to the members of the Commission of Architectural Review

Save the tree.  
Save the tree.  
Save the tree.

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

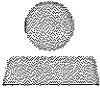
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**From:** Jennie Dotts [jennie@oldhouseauthority.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:01 PM  
**To:** Markham, Lory P. - PDR; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; howyoufixit@gmail.com; rpooleadop@aol.com; dcole@cite-design.com  
**Subject:** Maggie Walker statue comments, Style Weekly, pls circulate to PC, PAC

With the simple addition of 10ft to the triangle on two sides, the Brook Rd parking can be retained, helping the adjacent businesses, and increasing space in the triangle for the statue, particularly if it is of a more human scale. The tree can be easily saved, and the urban fabric will remain. The overstatement of this project and its environment diminishes the value of the person represented.

[report](#) 2 likes, 1 dislike  [like](#)  [dislike](#)

Posted by Ralph Higgins on 03/08/2016 at 4:27 PM



It may be vexing until you realize that a donkey is a horse designed by a committee. That unfortunately is what we have here. The statue idea is great. Maggie Walker is great. The statue is not great The location is not great. The random destruction including the tree is not great. The impact to everyone except "one" that comes to mind is not great. There is a perfect place for the statue a couple of block away in an already existing park. There appears to be only one beneficiary in a crowded field of aghast deniers. Suspect the normal "payola" to the planning department, the mayor (already tainted). Wonder why the states attorney is not yet involved. With only one beneficiary to this location the trail to conviction is easy.

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Caryl Burtner [carylburtnr@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2016 11:46 AM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Subject:** Save the Live Oak

Dear Ellyn,

I enjoyed chatting with you the other day. Thank you for calling me back.

As I mentioned on the phone, I adamantly oppose killing the live oak at Brook Road @ Broad Street. The tree provides beauty, shade and oxygen to that historic urban triangle. To me, the concocted connection between the tree and lynching is absurd. Ms. Walker herself used trees as symbols of strength and perseverance. I believe that the Maggie Walker monument would be better situated in Abner Clay Park, where the vista would not be obstructed by a bus stop.

Thank you for offering to share my concerns with Richmond's Urban Design and Public Art committees. I trust that the Commission for Architectural Review will also have an opportunity to weigh in on this important matter.

Please read about "Missing Richmond," my ongoing art piece about our lovely city here:  
<http://www.styleweekly.com/richmond/missing-moments/Content?oid=2119149>

Welcome to Richmond (Hah)! I hope that our paths will cross soon.

Best,  
Caryl Burtner

## **Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** Beth Glasser [scottishdeerhound@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2016 8:45 AM  
**To:** bgreen@comarchs.com; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; rpooleadop@aol.com; sreed@comarchs.com; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR  
**Subject:** Please send to all members

To the members of: The Richmond Planning Commission, Public Arts Commission, City Council, and Architectural Committee

The Southern Live Oak you are about to kill to accommodate a statue of Maggie Walker is not 30 years old, but closer to 45. It was planted in that spot as a symbol of sustained life, prosperity, strength and character. Similar traits to Maggie Walker. Ask Dwight Snead the man who planted it. Let Maggie and the tree stand together complement one another and represent the unity we strive for in Richmond.

At the City Council meeting last December, PAC member Sarah Driggs made the unsubstantiated comment that the tree might be sick and not live 50 years. An arborist can advise you as to the health of this tree, which undisturbed, could live hundreds of years. It is a triumph that the tree has survived this long, in spite of the city's neglect of it. The suburban mall landscaping proposed by the Boston firm will require a higher level of maintenance. Factor that and its related budget into your decision making.

The taxpayers—not unelected commission members—will pay the tab for this project and we have had little opportunity for input that hasn't been limited by a staff person or a commission member with an agenda. Examples abound: At the first public meeting in January, agitators were allowed to incite the crowd with racist rhetoric while a proponent of the tree had the microphone taken from her. At a February meeting, a Historic Jackson Ward Association member, who read a comment from the only homeowner affected by the project, was asked to leave. Whenever the public asked when there'd be time to discuss the site, we were told that would be later, but the site selection committee meetings have never been publicly advertised.

Many crucial matters were decided in unannounced meetings with unelected—unaccountable—individuals. When asked why a plaza design *that included the Southern live Oak was not presented, as promised*, we were told that the Walker descendants and the site selection committee made that decision. Who granted them that power? Who invested so much environmental, aesthetic and budgetary power in the hands of these people? Explain this process to me. How are they chosen and what are their qualifications?

For many decades, the Live Oak has quietly provided shade, absorbed traffic pollution, cooking odors and noise, cleaned the air and provided oxygen. You might not think of those things unless you are, like me, a Jackson Ward resident. We appreciate on a daily basis how this remarkable tree—which provides sanctuary for birds, squirrels and other creatures—creates a better environment than the mockingly suburban landscape you propose to replace it with.

The gargantuan statue of Maggie Walker reinforces the de-humanized look of this plaza without the softening look of the magnificent Live Oak. Is the artist trying to outdo the tree by making it so big that it will best be viewed overhead or by a vehicular drive by?

Who will want to pause and reflect on Mrs. Walker in this congested intersection without the shade of the Live Oak to mitigate the effects of the sun and humidity? This tree has character and presence, which only develop with age. The mall-like plaza proposed is inter-changeable anywhere in America while this tree and this unusual triangular space are unique to this one spot in Richmond.

It is clear that the statue and plaza do not support one another and that much more public input is required before this project is ready for final approval. The commissions and committees, artist and design teams are not on the same page—and certainly not on the same page as the public that will foot the bill, once Mr. Olinger figures out what that is.

Put the brakes on this project. Go back to the drawing board and consider this: Maggie Walker used the Live Oak and its acorns as symbols for her bank and what she believed in. Let the tree serve as a symbol of strength and unity, like Maggie Walker herself. For once, let's use what we've got, The point being Maggie Walker revered Southern Live Oaks, after all this is about Maggie Walker.



## **Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** Beth Glasser [scottishdeerhound@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 6:08 PM  
**To:** bgreen@comarchs.com; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; rpooleadop@aol.com; sreed@comarchs.com; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR  
**Subject:** From the Richmond Free Press

Please send this to all members of the Planning Commission, Public Arts Commission, and City Council.

3/4/2016

The people have spoken. The city Public Art Commission has spoken. The city has decreed that the live oak tree at Broad and Adams streets cannot co-exist with the Maggie Walker statue. But one voice has been surprisingly absent from the discussion: Maggie Walker's.

The art commission cited reasonable logistical and aesthetic concerns about the tree's proximity to the proposed statue. But they also gave credibility to the suggestion that the tree conjures an image of lynching, thus dishonoring Mrs. Walker's legacy.

If our view of the oak tree is to be allegorical, then shouldn't it be Maggie Walker who shapes that symbolism? A tree only represents lynching if we require it to.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Walker ardently campaigned against lynching, yet she never viewed trees as her adversaries. On the contrary, Mrs. Walker saw trees as symbols of growth, symbols of life. She evoked tree imagery in the slogan of her youth group, the St. Luke Cadets, when she espoused, "As the twig is bent, the tree is inclined."

In 1906 while summoning support for her two latest businesses, Mrs. Walker insisted, "The Emporium and the Bank to us is the sprouting acorn — but to your boys and girls, it will be the tall spreading, giant oak, affording shelter and protection for a thousand."

Wouldn't the best way to honor Mrs. Walker's legacy be to value her own history? After all, Mrs. Walker, herself, was once reverently referred to as a tree. After her passing in 1934, the Richmond Planet eulogized, "Surely a tree has fallen, but in vases made of human hearts its leaves will be sacredly kept and cherished in saintly memory of God's own gift to a struggling race."

ETHAN BULLARD

Richmond

Sent from my iPad

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** Jennie Dotts [jennie@oldhouseauthority.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 11:55 AM  
**To:** Sawyer, Michael B. - DPW  
**Cc:** Buturla, John - Deputy Chief; Adediran, Emmanuel O. - DPW; Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member; Olinger, Mark A. - PDR; Khara, M S. - DPW; Lancaster, Lynne S. - DPW; 'RP'; scottishdeerhound1@gmail.com; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member; Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR; Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; jeremy@richmondfreepress.com; leah.small@styleweekly.com; noliver@timesdispatch.com; dcole@cite-design.com; dave@johannasdesign.com; sarahdriggs@gmail.com; howyoufixit@gmail.com  
**Subject:** No traffic engineering study for the Maggie Walker plaza overhaul

Members of the Planning Commission, Public Arts Commission, and Commission of Architectural Review,

**As you consider the design proposal for the Maggie Walker plaza, keep in mind that there has been no independent engineering study of the impact of closing Brook Road. It is shockingly irresponsible to base any decision on the responses below from Michael Sawyer and Mark Olinger regarding traffic and safety issues.** Their comments are replete with the same whimsical, nonspecific comments that have riddled this project from the beginning. To date, Mr. Olinger can produce no budget, no revenue source and no specifics on how residents, neighbors, visitors, and the public will cope with the removal of traffic from Broad St (thanks to the BRT) and the removal of 4 parking spaces on Brook Rd. The only trustworthy statement from him to date is that everything is subject to change.

**The insubstantial responses from Mr. Sawyer, Burtula and Mr. Olinger do not address the removal of parking from Broad street or the ability emergency vehicles to access the buildings landlocked by the current design.** They do not address the perils of parallel parking at the tight corner of Adams and Broad with cars flowing into the intersection. They do not address how many parking spaces will be allotted to whom. While their concern for valet parking for two here-today-gone-tomorrow restaurants is touching, one looks for the same regard for the property owners and residents whose daily life will be nightmarishly complicated by new traffic and parking arrangements.

At the Public Arts Commission meeting on Tuesday, it was clear that the commission members have not been involved in the design evolution of the plaza and statue. Neither the statue nor the plaza appear to have been designed with much regard for the other. Traffic and pedestrian access have been left to someone else. Sadly, we are reliant not on hard data or a serious traffic study, but wishful thinking.

Mrs. Newbille and Mr. Samuels, can City Council request a thorough and independent traffic study to accompany this project?

Thank you,  
Jennie Dotts

Mr. Olinger

**From:** Sawyer, Michael B. - DPW [mailto:Michael.Sawyer@richmondgov.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:24 AM  
**To:** Jennie Dotts <jennie@oldhouseauthority.com>  
**Cc:** Buturla, John - Deputy Chief <John.Buturla@Richmondgov.com>; Adediran, Emmanuel O. - DPW <Emmanuel.Adediran@richmondgov.com>; Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member <Cynthia.Newbille@Richmondgov.com>; Olinger, Mark A. - PDR <Mark.Olinger@Richmondgov.com>; Khara, M S. - DPW <M.Khara@richmondgov.com>; Lancaster, Lynne S. - DPW <Lynne.Lancaster@Richmondgov.com>; RP

<peacock911@aol.com>; scottishdeerhound1@gmail.com

**Subject:** RE: Brook Road Closure

Per your request.

Here to serve.

Mike S.

Michael B. Sawyer, PE  
City Transportation Engineer

w. 646.3435

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**From:** Jennie Dotts [<mailto:jennie@oldhouseauthority.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:21 AM

**To:** Sawyer, Michael B. - DPW

**Cc:** Buturla, John - Deputy Chief; Adediran, Emmanuel O. - DPW; Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member; Olinger, Mark A. - PDR; Khara, M S. - DPW; Lancaster, Lynne S. - DPW; RP; [scottishdeerhound1@gmail.com](mailto:scottishdeerhound1@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Re: Brook Road Closure

I do not see an attachment. Please resend.

Thank you,  
Jennie

Jennie Dotts, Realtor  
Virginia Properties, a Long & Foster Co.  
Top Producer, Long & Foster Gold Team

On Mar 10, 2016 10:17 AM, "Sawyer, Michael B. - DPW" <[Michael.Sawyer@richmondgov.com](mailto:Michael.Sawyer@richmondgov.com)> wrote:

CW Newbille et al: I trust all is well.

Please see attached email from December 9, 2015 regarding the transportation engineering evaluation from Deputy CAO Buturla.

Following the Complete Streets resolution adopted by council in 2014, I am comfortable with designing for the single unit box truck commonly found on our city's streets using a combination of geometric design techniques and traffic control devices in a manner that is consistent with the current practices found on many streets in our downtown grid and other "pre-automobile" thoroughfares.

Complete Streets is a balanced approach to urban street design and follows the direction the nation is headed with regards to good, context sensitive, urban street design for all users.

If there are any additional questions, do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Here to serve.  
Mike S.

Michael B. Sawyer, PE  
City Transportation Engineer

w. 646.3435

---

**From:** Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 8:03 PM  
**To:** Olinger, Mark A. - PDR  
**Cc:** Sawyer, Michael B. - DPW; [jennie@oldhouseauthority.com](mailto:jennie@oldhouseauthority.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Maggie Walker Plaza traffic engineering?

Mark  
Many thanks.  
Cynthia Newbille

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 9, 2016, at 4:36 PM, Olinger, Mark A. - PDR <[Mark.Olinger@Richmondgov.com](mailto:Mark.Olinger@Richmondgov.com)> wrote:

Councilwoman

I am forwarding this to DPW, Transportation Engineering who have been involved in this project from Day 1.

I will have Mr. Sawyer respond to all on this message.

Please note that the number of spaces that were identified—as 4—were based on very preliminary sketches of the space. As engineering proceeds, that number may change a bit.

We are cognizant of the issues surrounding the provision of parking/loading in the area and are very sensitive to that. That's been a constant.

Thanks.

m.

Mark A. Olinger, Director

Dept. of Planning & Development Review

City of Richmond

900 E. Broad Street, Room 511

Richmond, VA 23219

[804.646.6305](tel:804.646.6305) (p) [804.317.0442](tel:804.317.0442) (c)

[mark.olinger@richmondgov.com](mailto:mark.olinger@richmondgov.com)

[www.richmondgov.com](http://www.richmondgov.com)

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**From:** Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 7:34 PM  
**To:** Olinger, Mark A. - PDR  
**Cc:** [jennie@oldhouseauthority.com](mailto:jennie@oldhouseauthority.com)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Maggie Walker Plaza traffic engineering?

Mark

Please review and advise re: Ms Dott's email inquiry below.

Many thanks.

Cynthia Newbille

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Jennie Dotts" <[jennie@oldhouseauthority.com](mailto:jennie@oldhouseauthority.com)>  
**Date:** March 9, 2016 at 4:27:31 PM PST  
**To:** <[Cynthia.Newbille@Richmondgov.com](mailto:Cynthia.Newbille@Richmondgov.com)>, <[Sam.Patterson@richmondgov.com](mailto:Sam.Patterson@richmondgov.com)>  
**Cc:** <[charles.samuels@richmondgov.com](mailto:charles.samuels@richmondgov.com)>, "Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison" <[Craig.Bieber@richmondgov.com](mailto:Craig.Bieber@richmondgov.com)>, <[Mark.Olinger@Richmondgov.com](mailto:Mark.Olinger@Richmondgov.com)>, <[jeremy@richmondfreepress.com](mailto:jeremy@richmondfreepress.com)>, <[fgreen@timesdispatch.com](mailto:fgreen@timesdispatch.com)>, <[leah.small@styleweekly.com](mailto:leah.small@styleweekly.com)>, <[dcole@cite-design.com](mailto:dcole@cite-design.com)>, <[dave@johannasdesign.com](mailto:dave@johannasdesign.com)>, <[sreed@comarchs.com](mailto:sreed@comarchs.com)>, <[rpoleadop@aol.com](mailto:rpoleadop@aol.com)>, <[Ellen.Robertson@richmondgov.com](mailto:Ellen.Robertson@richmondgov.com)>  
**Subject:** Maggie Walker Plaza traffic engineering?

Cynthia,

Can you tell me if a traffic engineering study has been done for the proposed closure of Brook Road? It is unclear to me how traffic—including large trucks and emergency vehicles—will flush through Adams St off of Broad, once Broad St becomes a bus highway and parking is created on the east side of the street to replace that which will be lost on Brook? If there are to be four parking spaces (as Mr. Olinger claims), how many will be assigned to Max's restaurant, as they are now? How many for a loading zone? How many for the general public that will lose parking on Broad for the BRT?

It will be perilous for cars/trucks/school buses/emergency vehicles to parallel park on this block of Adams with the large amount traffic sluicing onto it when Brook is closed.

I would like assurance that an independent traffic engineering study has been/will be done and we are not reliant on the word of an official unable to produce a budget or revenue source for this project.

Thank you,

Jennie

Jennie Dotts, REALTOR

Virginia Properties, a Long & Foster Co.

*Top Producer, Long & Foster Gold Team*

412 Libbie Avenue

Richmond, Virginia 23226

(804)370-6565

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Buturla, John - Deputy Chief" <[John.Buturla@richmondgov.com](mailto:John.Buturla@richmondgov.com)>

To: "Mosby, Michelle R. - Council Member" <[Michelle.Mosby@richmondgov.com](mailto:Michelle.Mosby@richmondgov.com)>, "Baliles, Jonathan T. - Council Member" <[Jonathan.Baliles@richmondgov.com](mailto:Jonathan.Baliles@richmondgov.com)>, "Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member" <[Charles.Samuels@richmondgov.com](mailto:Charles.Samuels@richmondgov.com)>, "Hilbert, Chris A. - Council Member" <[Chris.Hilbert@richmondgov.com](mailto:Chris.Hilbert@richmondgov.com)>, "Graziano, Kathy C. - Council Member" <[Kathy.Graziano@richmondgov.com](mailto:Kathy.Graziano@richmondgov.com)>, "Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member" <[Parker.Agelasto@richmondgov.com](mailto:Parker.Agelasto@richmondgov.com)>, "Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member" <[Ellen.Robertson@richmondgov.com](mailto:Ellen.Robertson@richmondgov.com)>, "Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member" <[Cynthia.Newbille@richmondgov.com](mailto:Cynthia.Newbille@richmondgov.com)>, "Trammell, Reva M. - Council Member" <[Reva.Trammell@richmondgov.com](mailto:Reva.Trammell@richmondgov.com)>

Cc: "Jones, Dwight C. - Mayor" <[Dwight.Jones@richmondgov.com](mailto:Dwight.Jones@richmondgov.com)>, "Cuffee-Glenn, Selena - CAO" <[Selena.Cuffee-Glenn@richmondgov.com](mailto:Selena.Cuffee-Glenn@richmondgov.com)>, "Neely, Grant O. - Mayor's Office" <[Grant.Neely@richmondgov.com](mailto:Grant.Neely@richmondgov.com)>, "Hawley, Tammy D. - OPS" <[Tammy.Hawley@richmondgov.com](mailto:Tammy.Hawley@richmondgov.com)>, "Adediran, Emmanuel O. - DPW" <[Emmanuel.Adediran@richmondgov.com](mailto:Emmanuel.Adediran@richmondgov.com)>, "Khara, M S. - DPW" <[M.Khara@richmondgov.com](mailto:M.Khara@richmondgov.com)>, "Sawyer, Michael B. - DPW" <[Michael.Sawyer@richmondgov.com](mailto:Michael.Sawyer@richmondgov.com)>, "Downey, Peter L. - ECD" <[Lee.Downey@richmondgov.com](mailto:Lee.Downey@richmondgov.com)>, "Olinger, Mark A. - PDR" <[Mark.Olinger@richmondgov.com](mailto:Mark.Olinger@richmondgov.com)>, "Harris, Uzziah A. - City Council Office" <[Uzziah.Harris@richmondgov.com](mailto:Uzziah.Harris@richmondgov.com)>, "Townes, Lisa F. - City Council Liaison" <[Lisa.Townes@richmondgov.com](mailto:Lisa.Townes@richmondgov.com)>, "Wong, Yueh (Eli) H. - City Council Liaison" <[Eli.Wong@richmondgov.com](mailto:Eli.Wong@richmondgov.com)>, "Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Liaison" <[Craig.Bieber@richmondgov.com](mailto:Craig.Bieber@richmondgov.com)>, "Grimes, Timothy E. - City Council Liaison" <[Timothy.Grimes@richmondgov.com](mailto:Timothy.Grimes@richmondgov.com)>, "Jones, Ida I. - City Council Liaison" <[Ida.I.Jones@richmondgov.com](mailto:Ida.I.Jones@richmondgov.com)>, "Stokes, Kiya A. - City Council Liaison" <[Kiya.Stokes@richmondgov.com](mailto:Kiya.Stokes@richmondgov.com)>, "Patterson, Samuel - City Council Liaison" <[Sam.Patterson@richmondgov.com](mailto:Sam.Patterson@richmondgov.com)>, "Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Liaison" <[Richard.Bishop@richmondgov.com](mailto:Richard.Bishop@richmondgov.com)>, "Durham, Alfred - Chief Of Police" <[Alfred.Durham@richmondgov.com](mailto:Alfred.Durham@richmondgov.com)>, "Pearson, Victoria N. - Police" <[Victoria.Pearson@richmondgov.com](mailto:Victoria.Pearson@richmondgov.com)>

Date: Wed, 9 Dec 2015 17:50:59 -0500

Subject: ORD. 2015-251 Closure of Brook Rd to vehicular traffic

President Mosby and members of Council,

We have been asked for some information and direct traffic related questions regarding the closure of Brook Rd to vehicular traffic. The purpose of the closure is to create the plaza for the public art project for the permanent recognition of Maggie Walker. We felt it important to share this information with you and all members of Council.

1. At this time, the City does not anticipate any issues with accommodating all users at the intersection with the proposed closure of Brook Road to vehicle traffic that could not be adequately addressed in the plaza design phase.
2. Traffic Count - The current traffic volumes using Brook Road between Broad Street and Adams Street was 1,199 vehicles as counted on Thursday December 3, 2015.
3. Accident data - Using VDOT's Crash Analysis tool, there were 14 crashes between 2012 and 2015 entered into the system in the immediate area, seven were angle crashes, three, were sideswipe same direction, and then a single pedestrian crash, a single bicycle crash, a single rear end crash, and a single crash classified as 'other'. Most of these crashes appear to be related to the major intersection of Broad Street and Adams Street and not Brook Road; however, the mid-block pedestrian injury crash is likely to be considered directly related to the Brook Road built environment.
4. The proposed closure of Brook Road follows healthy streets / complete streets principles adopted by council in October 2014, including good access management principles by removing vehicle-pedestrian conflicts, and reduces the pedestrian exposure to traffic by a total length of 80 to 90 feet along Broad Street and Adams Street.
5. Focusing on the intersection of Brook Road and Adams Street, the proposed closure reduces the number of vehicle to vehicle conflicts in half (from 18 conflicts to 9 conflicts), thereby decreasing the potential for accidents.
6. Addressing Adams and Broad Street, these intersection becomes more inline with traditional intersections found in the City and driver expectancy would improve.
7. There is a loading zone at Marshall and Adams that we will move to the north side of the alley which can be used by both Saiason and Max's. There will be the net loss of 1 general parking spaces with the plaza construction. The existing valet use on Brook will be relocated. We are confident that we can accommodate the valet parking needs for the area restaurants.

8. Address changes - Since Brook Rd. is only closed to vehicular traffic, it is anticipated that the adjacent properties would retain their current addresses.

John

John J. Buturla

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Operations

City of Richmond

730 Broad St., 6<sup>th</sup> floor

Richmond, VA. 23219

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## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

---

**From:** Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016 11:49 AM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Subject:** FW: Maggie L. Walker Memorial Design  
**Attachments:** Letter re Maggie Walker Memorial 3-14-16.pdf

Marianne Pitts  
Planning and Preservation Division  
Department of Planning and Development Review  
City Hall, Room 510  
900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219-1907  
Ph. (804)646-7550  
[marianne.pitts@richmondgov.com](mailto:marianne.pitts@richmondgov.com)

---

**From:** Cyane Crump [mailto:[ccrump@HistoricRichmond.com](mailto:ccrump@HistoricRichmond.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2016 7:11 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Allen L. - City Attorney  
**Cc:** Andrew Clark; Mosby, Michelle R. - Council Member; Hilbert, Chris A. - Council Member; Baliles, Jonathan T. - Council Member; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Graziano, Kathy C. - Council Member; Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member; Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member; Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member; Trammell, Reva M. - Council Member; Bryan Green; Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR; Onufer, Kathleen M. - PDR; Andrew Clark  
**Subject:** Maggie L. Walker Memorial Design

City Attorney Jackson –

I am writing to thank you for the City's efforts to construct a memorial to Maggie L. Walker, which we strongly support and encourage. Historic Richmond strongly believes that a CAR review of the Maggie L. Walker Memorial not only will positively contribute to the ongoing design process without creating undue delay, but also is required by the City Code. In addition, Historic Richmond believes that the design of the Memorial could better reflect the historic street grid and the portion of Brook Road to be closed, all as described in more detail in the recommendations in the attached letter to you, copying this group.

Thank you for your consideration of these important matters. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Cyane



Cyane Crump  
Executive Director

**Historic Richmond**  
Building on history  
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March 14, 2016

**Via Email**

City Attorney Allen L. Jackson  
Office of the City Attorney, City of Richmond  
900 E. Broad Street, Suite 300  
Richmond, VA 23219

**Re: Maggie L. Walker Memorial Design**

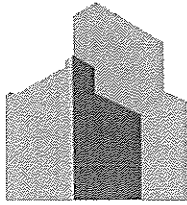
Dear City Attorney Jackson:

I am writing to thank you for the City's efforts to construct a memorial to Maggie L. Walker. This is an effort which we strongly support and encourage. A sensitive design process is important to Historic Richmond, to our supporters, and to the many residents of the Broad Street Old and Historic District as well as the residents of the many other Old and Historic Districts, who as homeowners and taxpayers believe it is important that their investment be protected. Accordingly, we are writing to note our concern with the possibility that the design process may not involve review by the City's Commission of Architectural Review ("CAR").

**CAR Authority to Review**

Historic Richmond strongly believes that a CAR review of the Maggie L. Walker Memorial not only will positively contribute to the ongoing design process, but also is required by the City Code. The Maggie L. Walker Memorial will be located within the boundaries of the "Broad Street Old and Historic District." See City Code Section 30-930.5(5). Under Section 30-930.6(a) of the City Code, CAR approval is required for the construction of any building, structure, sign or paving in a City Old and Historic District. (Note that highlighting is added for emphasis.)

*Approval required.* No building or structure or any exterior portion thereof, sign or paving shall be constructed, altered, reconstructed, repaired, restored or demolished within any old and historic district unless the building or structure or any exterior portion thereof, sign or paving is approved by the Commission of Architectural Review or, on appeal, by the City Council, as being architecturally compatible with the buildings, structures, sites and general character of the old and historic district. All such approvals shall be evidenced by a certificate of appropriateness. No permit to construct, alter, reconstruct, repair, restore or demolish any building, structure or site shall be issued by the Commissioner of Buildings unless the applicant has first obtained approval of a certificate of appropriateness for such work. Section 30-930.6(a)



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The Maggie L. Walker Memorial site design contemplates structures, signs and pavings as reflected in the design presented at the February 20, 2016 public meeting. Moreover, Section 30-930.1 defines "certificate of appropriateness" to include construction of "sites" which is defined to include parks.

*Certificate of appropriateness* means the approval statement issued by the Commission of Architectural Review and signed by its Secretary which certifies the appropriateness of a particular request for the construction, alteration, reconstruction, repair, restoration, or demolition of all or a part of any building, structure or site within an old and historic district and which is subject to all other permits required by law. Section 30-930.1

*Site* means any parcel of unimproved property, a parking lot or a park within an old and historic district. Section 30-930.1

The application for a certificate of appropriateness is covered by Section 30-930.6(b), which provides that applications must include plans for "site improvements."

The application for such certificate of appropriateness shall be accompanied by plans and specifications which shall show the proposed exterior architectural features of such building or structure, which shall include but shall not be limited to the design, arrangement, texture, materials and color proposed to be used in the construction, alteration, reconstruction, repair, restoration, or demolition of the building or structure and the type of windows, exterior doors, lights, signs, site improvements, and other exterior fixtures and appurtenances. Section 30-930.6(b)

"Site improvements" are defined to include "major plantings."

*Site improvements* means structural changes to the grounds of a property, including the installation or alteration of walls, fences, or structures; paving; regrading; and the installation or removal of major plantings. Section 30-930.1

*Major plantings* means any substantial existing or proposed plant material, including but not limited to trees or shrubs with trunks greater than three inches in diameter or eight feet in height and hedgerows exceeding ten feet in length. Section 30-930.1

Since the City's own Code provisions regulating CAR specifically require CAR's approval for a certificate of appropriateness for such work, the Maggie L. Walker Memorial design should be reviewed by CAR. This review will be important for a number of reasons:

- The public strongly endorses an appropriate monument to Maggie Walker and, consequently, it is important to provide a transparent public process for the design of such an important historic and cultural icon.



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- The site selected for the monument is located within a City Old and Historic District, an area which the City Council, property owners and the public determined to recognize and to protect as an area with historic, architectural, cultural and artistic significance to our heritage.
- CAR has a history of reviewing park designs within the boundaries of City Old and Historic Districts, including, most recently, the designs for Abner Clay Park in the Jackson Ward Old and Historic District.
- Undercutting CAR's jurisdiction in this case will encourage others to ignore CAR's jurisdiction.
- Circumventing the protections of the Old and Historic Districts provisions of the City Code would even raise the question of the City's own regard for the rule of law. If the City's disregard for its own laws is accommodated, the City will have difficulty enforcing its laws on its citizens.

**Comments to Design**

Historic Richmond strongly believes that a CAR review of the Maggie L. Walker Memorial will positively contribute to the ongoing design process without creating undue delay. In addition, Historic Richmond strongly supports the addition of a Maggie Walker monument to be placed at the Brook Road intersection.

For many years, Historic Richmond has had an interest in Broad Street. In 1986, we published the "Broad Street Old and Historic District" in collaboration with Richmond Renaissance, the Commission of Architectural Review, the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks, and the Urban Design/Historic Preservation Section of the City of Richmond's Department of Planning and Community Development. This publication discussed the unique history of Broad Street as a commercial center and its wealth of significant architecture with the aim to bring out the best in the existing architecture of Broad Street and discourage the introduction of inappropriate designs and materials

Based on our review of the current design, Historic Richmond believes that the design could better reflect the historic street grid and the portion of Brook Road to be closed (the "Historic Roadbed") in connection with the construction of the site. Understanding and preserving our historical and architectural character includes respecting the original street grid. The intersection of Brook Road and Broad Street is one of the oldest intersections in Richmond and it should continue to "read" as a road. We believe that it is possible to close the Historic Roadbed to traffic for use by the Memorial while at the same time honoring its historic significance by having it continue to read as a road. But we believe this can be accomplished in a better manner than currently proposed. Specifically, we recommend that the design be revised to:



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- Reflect the Historic Roadbed by using an alternate material or color over the Historic Roadbed such that the alternate material or color will identify where the road once lay;
- Reflect the Historic Roadbed by lessening or varying the height of the curb where Brook Road currently intersects with Broad and Adam Streets;
- Better align vegetation and sidewalks with the current road edges and avoid "major plantings" such as trees in the Historic Roadbed;
- Reduce the number of plantings and vegetation for easier maintenance, to better address the above points and to allow more space for site amenities and public enjoyment; and
- Redirect the park benches to face towards monument rather than towards restaurant tables.

We believe that all of these comments can be addressed within the limitations of the site, without adversely impacting the artistic freedom of the artist and his current design of the statue, and without undue delay. Moreover, we believe that the input derived from CAR's review, together with that of the Public Art Commission and the Urban Design Committee, will positively contribute to a better design for the Memorial.

Thank you for your consideration of these important matters. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Cyane B. Crump  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Michelle R. Mosby, City Council President  
The Honorable Chris A. Hilbert, City Council Vice President  
The Honorable Jonathan T. Baliles  
The Honorable Charles R. Samuels  
The Honorable Kathy C. Graziano  
The Honorable Parker C. Agelasto  
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The Honorable Reva M. Trammell  
Bryan Green, Commission of Architectural Review  
Marianne Pitts, Secretary of Commission of Architectural Review  
Andrea Almond, Urban Design Committee  
Kathleen Onufer, Acting Secretary of Urban Design Committee  
Andrew Clark, President Historic Richmond Board of Trustees

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

---

**From:** Jennie Dotts [jennie@oldhouseauthority.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016 2:15 PM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR; howyoufixit@gmail.com; sarahdriggs@gmail.com; sreed@comarchs.com; bgreen@comarchs.com; dcole@cite-design.com; peacock911@aol.com; scottishdeerhound1@gmail.com; 'Sam Forrest'; pearsalllaw@comcast.net; Robertson, Ellen F. - Council Member; rpooleadop@aol.com; Olinger, Mark A. - PDR; macmarion@aol.com; Jones, Dwight C. - Mayor; ccrump@historicrichmond.com; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; dave@johannasdesign.com; 'Dixon Kerr'; walter@oldhouseauthority.com; 'Kevin Korda'; 'Mary Hunton'; jeremy@richmondfreepress.com; noliver@timesdispatch.com; fgreen@timesdispatch.com  
**Subject:** TD commentary on Maggie Walker plaza & Live Oak tree

A must read commentary in today's Richmond Times Dispatch discredits the Live Oak as a racist symbol.

# Maggie Walker would have let the Live Oak stay

[http://www.richmond.com/opinion/their-opinion/guest-columnists/article\\_9ccab249-5f1d-5d79-9566-1bac6e9ffb46.html](http://www.richmond.com/opinion/their-opinion/guest-columnists/article_9ccab249-5f1d-5d79-9566-1bac6e9ffb46.html)

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**SOUTHERN LIVE OAK**

# Patterson: Maggie Walker would have let the Live Oak stay

Story Comments

Print Font Size:

Posted: Monday, March 14, 2016 10:30 pm

By Graham and Carol Patterson

*I am not asking you to menace the life of any living thing...*

— Maggie Lena Walker (1864-1934)

By Graham and Carol Patterson



DEAN HOFFMEYER/TIMES-DISPATCH

The Live Oak tree at the corner of Adams and Broad streets is the subject of bitter debate: Should it be removed for placement of the Maggie L. Walker statue?

Richmond's Public Art Commission has flip-flopped on the design of the Maggie Walker Memorial Plaza.

In December it voted with conservationists to preserve the Southern Live Oak that stands on the site at Broad Street and Brook Road. But in January, the commission took an abrupt about-face when a local activist

denounced the Live Oak as a symbol of lynching.

Far from settled, the plan will undergo vetting twice more: first at the Planning Commission, and again at the Commission on Architectural Review. But it proceeds on shaky ground. Interjected at the 11th hour, the rabble-rousing allegations against the Live Oak have no basis in the historical record on the life and times of Maggie Walker.

As the facts bear out, Walker and the Southern Live Oak, the *Quercus Virginiana*, remain inextricably linked — not only to each other but also to the story of emancipation. At her death in 1934, the Richmond Planet eulogized, "Surely a tree has fallen, but in vases made of human hearts its leaves will be sacredly kept and cherished in saintly memory of God's own gift to a struggling race."

Walker had not yet opened her bank in 1902 when Virginia revised its Constitution. Overturning rights upheld since 1869, Jim Crow laws rescinded black suffrage, segregated streetcars and parks, and defended lawful lynchings.



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#### "Donald Silverman Paintings"

Wed, Apr 06, 5:30 pm EDT  
Rick's Custom Frame + Gallery Richmond

#### Moscow Festival Ballet

Wed, Apr 06, 7:00 pm EDT  
Ferguson Center for the Arts, Newport News

"{D}Light"



Risking retaliation from whites, Walker publicly decried mob violence, as did her friend John Mitchell Jr., publisher of the Richmond Planet (1884-1928). Decade after decade, Mitchell ran anti-lynching editorials illustrated with grisly images of corpses dangling from gnarled, leafless, desiccated trees.

As a countervailing image, Walker introduced the Live Oak in a 1906 address as the symbol of the transformative power of her bank: "... the Emporium and the Bank to us is the sprouting acorn — but to your boys and girls, it will be the tall, spreading giant oak affording shelter and protection for a thousand."

In this address, Walker asserted her core beliefs rooted in the First Psalm: "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth fruit in his season. His leaf also shall not wither and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

A spectacular evergreen, the Southern Live Oak is native to the hot, humid coastal climates of the old Confederacy. Enslaved Africans, in desperate need of shade, retreated under its majestic canopy to sleep, hide, pray and sing.

Distinct from the deciduous oak and delicate pine, the life span of the mighty *Quercus Virginiana* can extend over centuries.

Like the sun, moon and stars, Live Oaks embodied the eternal presence of the Divine, the great "I Am" of Exodus. During the 1960s, civil rights activists revived the primeval evergreen in Mavis Staples' "Just Like the Tree Standing by the Waters, We Shall Not Be Moved," a song of resolve.

During the Civil War, freed African-Americans gathered under a Southern Live Oak in Hampton, Va., eventually named the Emancipation Oak. In 1861 it stood behind Union lines providing an open-air classroom for freed blacks at Fort Monroe. (Virginia law forbade the education of enslaved blacks.) In 1863, blacks gathered under the Emancipation Oak to hear the declaration, "all persons held as slaves ... are and henceforward shall be free," in Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, prelude to the 13th Amendment, ratified in December 1865.

A 1907 photograph of the Emancipation Oak is viewable online at the State Library's exhibition "Remaking Virginia: Transformation Through Emancipation." Gloriously alive, and a landmark on the National Register of Historic Places, the Emancipation Oak stands at the entrance of Hampton University. No tree was its equal in Walker's time.

Her spirit lives on in the words of celebrated Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes, who reportedly visited the Walker House on Leigh Street. In 1943, Hughes published "Freedom Plow," an epic poem recounting the journey from slavery to freedom. In the culminating lines, he left lyrical echoes of Maggie Walker's "spreading giant oak."

*From that seed a tree grew, is growing, will ever grow.*

*That tree is for everybody,*

*For all America, for all the world.*

*May its branches spread and shelter grow*

*Until all races and all peoples know its shade.*

Thu, Apr 07, 7:00 pm EDT  
Ifrican Gallery at Diversity Thrift, Richmond

VCUarts M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition, Round One

Fri, Apr 08, 5:00 pm EDT  
VCUarts Anderson Gallery, Richmond

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The Rev. Graham M. Patterson is honorably retired from the Presbytery of the James, and works in retirement as a health care chaplain.

Carol McCall Patterson, a former art critic for The Virginian-Pilot, has served on the art history faculty at Old Dominion University and as special assistant for special projects to the chancellor of the Virginia Community College System during the Warner and Kaine administrations.

They may be contacted at [c.mc.patterson@gmail.com](mailto:c.mc.patterson@gmail.com).

Discuss

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Posted in THEIR OPINION, View-oped-nosig on Monday, March 14, 2016 10:30 pm.

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# Maggie Walker's Public Record

*She did not allow others to define her. She left a record.*

## Maggie Lena Walker

By: BlackEntrepreneurProfile.com

**Company:** St. Luke Penny Savings Bank/Consolidated Bank & Trust

**Position:** Founder

**Industry:** Financial Services

**Country:** United States

The first woman in the United States to found a bank. The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank which was founded in 1903 with \$9,430 in deposits gathered from members of the Independent Order of St. Luke, an African-American benevolent society. At the turn of the century, Walker became the societies executive secretary, its membership began to dwindle. Walker reinvigorated the institution, building its national membership to 100,000. The bank was founded because no white banks wanted to accept deposits from a black organization. The bank became the order's financial arm.



Walker said "Let us put our moneys together; let us put our money out at usury among ourselves, and reap the benefit ourselves, Let us have a bank that will take the nickels and turn them into dollars."

By 1913, assets had grown to over \$300,000. The bank made loans to black businesses, students and for people to buy houses. While many of the largest black-owned banks went under during the Great Depression, St. Luke Penny Savings Bank survived, in part by merging with two smaller, black-owned banks in 1930, when it was renamed Consolidated Bank & Trust which still exist today with assets of \$116 million and the majority of its share holders are still Black Americans.

Walker also started a weekly newspaper, the St. Luke Herald, which she edited. Their was also a department store that ultimately failed after the white community boycotted it and its suppliers.

In addition to the proposal advanced by PAC, we request an alternative design proposal, one that *animates Maggie Walker by using her own words*: the iconography Walker developed, and which is synonymous with Walker and her bank.

*“ ... the Emporium and the Bank to us is the sprouting acorn – but to your boys and girls, it will be the tall, spreading giant oak affording shelter and protection for a thousand.”*

- Maggie Walker (slightly larger than life scale) is seated under the Live Oak
- She holds a ledger on the arm of the chair with one hand
- She holds a handful of acorns and pennies in the other hand -- outstretched
- Her voluminous skirt cascades around her feet
- Acorns and pennies spill out of her hand, over her knees, and down to the ground
- The chair back is a tablet for an inscription
- She is low to ground to be near the children who visit
- She wears a cross

Constrained by public opinion, Mr. Mendez has executed a spiritless, monolithic and static work that appears marooned, disconnected, and situated in an un-shaded plain where visitors will inevitably suffer heat and glare. It is uninviting, betraying the very engaged personality Walker is said to have been.

**Carol McCall Patterson** is a former art critic for *The Virginian-Pilot* newspaper (under Carol Rand); chief juror, Gosport Arts Festival, Portsmouth; Tidewater Artists' Juried Exhibition; Tidewater Artists' Juried Miniature Show; Mid-Atlantic Arts Juried Show, Norfolk; Student Gallery Juried Exhibition, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk; art history faculty at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, and faculty-administrator in the Dean's Office of the School of the Arts at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA. She has also served as senior executive writer and Special Assistant for Special Projects to the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System during the Warner and Kaine administrations.



**Graham Maxwell Patterson**, at left, hosted Jesse Jackson twice at Summit Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, in 1984 and 1986. He is a Civil Rights activist, graduate of Harvard College, Class of 1967, and Princeton Theological Seminary, M.Div., 1973; Th.M., 1974. He is a past president of the Petersburg Area Clergy Association, and a former pastor in Ann Arbor, MI; Philadelphia, PA; Durham, NC, and Richmond, VA. He is honorably retired from the Presbytery of the James, and works in retirement as a health care chaplain

## THE ICONOGRAPHY of MAGGIE WALKER

*Maggie Walker defined her fledgling business ventures in 1906 with these symbols:*

- *Southern Live Oak*
- *Pennies & Acorns*
- *Cross*

*" ... the Emporium and the Bank to us is the sprouting acorn – but to your boys and girls, it will be the tall, spreading giant oak affording shelter and protection for a thousand."*

She advanced a "theology of the living oak" to inspire community action in 1906 when her new bank (1903) and Emporium (1905) were threatened by a revised Virginia constitution (1902) that rolled back civil rights.

This acorn-to-oak metaphor instantly connected with her church-going audience. It is the source and catalyst of the initial success of the St. Luke's Penney Savings Bank.

African American organizations in Jackson Ward would later borrow Walker's acorn-to-giant metaphor as a testament to flourishing growth.

At her death in 1934, the *Richmond Planet* eulogized, "Surely a tree has fallen, but in vases made of human hearts its leaves will be sacredly kept and cherished in saintly memory of God's own gift to a struggling race." She is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

*The Emancipation Oak*, Hampton, VA, 1907, the *Southern Live Oak* under which freed slaves at Fort Monroe, heard the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 – the year before Maggie Walker's birth.



## INFLUENCE OF WALKER'S LIVE OAK

In 1943, Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes published *Freedom Plow*, an epic poem recounting the journey from slavery to freedom. In the culminating lines, he left lyrical echoes of Maggie Walker's "spreading giant oak."


*From that seed a tree grew, is growing, will ever grow.  
That tree is for everybody,  
For all America, for all the world.  
May its branches spread and shelter grow  
Until all races and all peoples know its shade.*

The Southern Live Oak, an evergreen, symbolized victory death on a desiccated tree, over racism. It proclaimed, "We will not be trapped by Jim Crow. We have already and will continue to transcend the grip of racism." It is not surprising that African American organizations in Jackson Ward would later borrow Walker's acorn-to-giant metaphor as a testament to flourishing growth.

Walker's "tall, spreading giant oak" offered a countervailing image—the polar opposite of the gnarled, leafless, desiccated, shade-less tree used in illustrations of lynchings, as in the example below, which ran beside one of John Mitchell, Jr's anti-lynching editorials in the *Richmond Planet*.

Notice that the corpse is left to rot in the sun. In the Psalms, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah, as Walker knew, the shade of the Living Oak was a holy place, a place for altars, and a place of hospitality -- not death.

*Is This a Sample of States' Rights?*



[*Richmond Planet*, 4/24/1937]

"Under the direction of the courageous Mitchell, the *Planet* grew in influence and prestige. The political rights of the American Negro were fearlessly and unflinchingly championed. Lynching was fought and lynchings were defied....Neither threat of violence nor punishment, neither lure of reward nor favor, deterred nor turned this matchless defender of his race from his chosen course." [*Richmond Planet*, 5/28/1938]

Any lynching that occurred, whether in Virginia or any other state, was exposed in the paper. Tallies of the known dead, together with their alleged crimes, were noted; images, however graphic, were reprinted. Nothing that might convey the horror of lynching was spared the *Planet's* readers.

Mitchell himself was threatened with hanging at the hands of a Charlotte County mob angered by his reporting of the lynching, there, of Richard Walker in May 1886. Mitchell was sent a rope with a note attached warning him that he would be lynched himself if he ever set foot in the county. In reply, and borrowing a line from Shakespeare, Mitchell had this to say: "There are no terrors, Cassius, in your threats, for I am so strong in honesty that they pass by me like the idle wind, which I respect not." Then, armed with two Smith and

## ICONOGRAPHY FOR JACKSON WARD

### **The Southern Aid and Insurance Company** **'From Acorn in 1893 to Giant Oak of 1927**

From Wikipedia

The **Southern Aid and Insurance Company** is an insurance company that was founded in 1893, just 28 years after the end of the Civil War, by a group of black men (American men of African ancestry) in Richmond, Virginia. The purpose was to furnish adequate and affordable insurance protection to African-Americans.<sup>[1]</sup> The company was the first chartered insurance company organized by blacks in the United States and had the distinction of being the oldest black owned and operated insurance company in the nation. It was also the largest African-American insurance company in the United States at one time. The company's name was later changed to the Southern Aid Society of Virginia, which was the forerunner of the Southern Aid Life Insurance Company.

The Company's first President was Z.D. Lewis (1859–1926).<sup>[2]</sup>

The company wrote insurance for industrial life, accident and sick benefits insurance. They were licensed in New Jersey, Virginia and District of Columbia, and had offices in Alexandria, Bristol, Charlottesville, Danville, Farmville, Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, Roanoke, Saluda, Suffolk, Winchester, Virginia; and Washington, D.C.<sup>[2]</sup> In the late 1980s the company's building at 212 E. Clay Street

Richmond Times-Dispatch article on December 31, 1926, entitled "Southern Aid's Work Impressive" (p. 46). The article was basically celebrating the success of Southern Aid and included an overview of its history. After citing several notable statistics as evidence of SA's growth over the years, the article states: "That is why this company selected the slogan, 'From Acorn in 1893 to Giant Oak of 1927,' as the best expression of its growth, and service to the colored people, and in a larger sense, to the State; for this company pays to the State of Virginia, each year, in taxes and fees of various kinds, over \$10,000, to say nothing about taxes paid on real estate and etc., to various cities and taxes to Federal Government."

### **Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in 1932**

*...".watched it grow from a 'small acorn' to a 'great oak' "*

Janie Porter Barrett's work with the Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in 1932:

A Norfolk Journal and Guide article - "3 Officers End 25th Year With Women's Clubs," July 2, 1932, p. 9 - covered the convention of the Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs which was held in Richmond that year. Here's the relevant quote, referring to the Wednesday evening's session: "At this session, the president, Mrs. Janie Porter Barrett, who has stood at the helm of the organization for the past 25 years and who has watched it grow from a 'small acorn' to a 'great oak' made her annual address,

refreshing the memory of those within the sound of her voice with some of the manifold achievements that have been made by and through the organization." This is an example of African Americans summoning the imagery as a symbol for success.

Selected "OAK" references in the Bible

### The Oak is a Holy symbol of the Holy God in the Old Testament

Genesis 12: 1-3, 6

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and **by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.**" (1:1-3) When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passes through the land to the place at Shechem, to *the OAK of Moreh...* Then the LORD *appeared* to Abram, and said "To your descendants I will give this land. So he built there AN ALTAR TO THE LORD, who had appeared to him. (1:5-7) (theophany demands an altar to the LORD )

Genesis 13:17

(Again) The LORD said to Abram, "Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." So Abram moved his tent, and came and dwelt by the OAKS of Mamre, which are at Hebron; and there he built an altar to the LORD."



Again Abram is addressed directly by the LORD, and builds an altar "by the oaks" in response.

Genesis 14:13

Then one who had escaped came, and told Abram the Hebrew, who was LIVING BY THE OAKS of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner (these were allies of Abram).

Genesis 18:1

And the LORD APPEARED to him BY THE OAKS OF MAMRE, as he sat at the door of his tent *in the heat of the day*. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold three men [who turn out to be the LORD's MESSENGERS] stood in front of him. When he saw them he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the earth, and said,



"MY LORD, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet and REST YOURSELVES UNDER THE TREE, while I fetch a morsel of bread, that you may **refresh yourselves**, and after that may pass on – since you have come to your servant. [ Abraham and Sarah and their servant then hustle to prepare a great meal] and set it before them; and stood by them UNDER THE TREE WHILE THEY ATE.

They said to Abraham, "Where is Sarah your wife? And he said, "She is in the tent". [with no warning, the "men" above = (They) have suddenly become "The LORD"] The LORD said, "I will surely return to you in the spring, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself saying, "after I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" and the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old'. Is *anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, in the spring, and Sarah shall have a son.*" But Sarah denied it saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. But He [The LORD] said "NO, you did laugh."

Genesis 35: 1, 4-6-9

God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there; and **make there an altar to the God who appeared to you** when you fled from your brother Esau." So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with them, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your garments [your identity]; then let us arise and go up to Bethel, that I may MAKE THERE AN ALTAR to the God who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me since. "So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under THE OAK which was near Shechem.

And Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people, and there HE BUILT AN ALTAR, and called the place El-bethel, (God of Bethel), because there God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother. And Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was BURIED UNDER AN OAK BELOW BETHEL; so the name of it was called Allonbacuth (OAK OF WEEPING).

Joshua 24 (Entire chapter: The renewal of the Covenant with THE LORD)

v.24: The people said to Joshua, The LORD our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day at Shechem. And Joshua wrote these words in the; book of the law of God; and he took a great stone, as set it up there UNDER THE OAK IN THE SANCTUARY OF THE LORD.

Judges 6:1-11, 19ff

Now the angel of the LORD came and SAT UNDER THE OAK at Ophrah... as his son Gideon was beating out wheat at the wine press. V11

So Gideon went into his house and prepared a kid, and s... and brought them to the angel of the Lord UNDEER THE OAK AND PRESENTED THEM TO THE ANGEL OF THE LORD. V 19

Judges 9;6

And all the citizens of Shechem came together, and they made Abimelech king, BY THE OAK OF THE; PILLAR AT SCHECHEM

#### Sources

Walker, Maggie. "Benaiah's Valour: Address for Men Only," March 1, 1906, Maggie Lena Walker Family Papers Archives Collection. Courtesy of the National Park Service, Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site

<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/exhibits/mitchell/lynch1.htm>

<http://www.virginiamemory.com/online-exhibitions/exhibits/show/remaking-virginia/item/420>

## Parker, Ellyn - PDR

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**From:** festflags@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 2:49 PM  
**To:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR  
**Subject:** Value of a Tree...

As a member of the Richmond community fortunate to be living near and with a particular Live Oak tree for the last 12 years, I'd like to share my feelings with you in regard to the planning that has been done regarding the addition of a statue at the site of this special tree. The statue by the way would be of Maggie Walker, for whom the symbolism of the live oak was extremely powerful.

The symbolism of a tree is extremely valuable, but there is even more to the value of a tree than just its symbolism. It also includes its value as a part of nature and what it brings to the world and to other living things including people. Trees breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. They provide shade and help control rain runoff. They provide a habitat for insects and birds. These biological aspects also are meaningful and therefore support the symbolism of the tree.

As humans, though, we want to control all things and we do that in large part through language. The very making of symbols allows us the power to assign value but also to devalue. Trees are silent, but we have a relationship with them nevertheless, and need to be the responsible partner as we now need to be with the whole earth itself, as the effects of climate change are growing more disastrous day by day.

We need to recognize the value of trees especially as they help to remove carbon from the atmosphere. We humans cannot survive alone, apart from nature. We only survive as long as we are in harmony with the rest of life. The greatest call to humanity is to live in harmony with itself and to live in harmony with the world. It's simple, but is the most profound realization we can have.

Let us show that we hear this call, by protecting the trees we have, ones that have special meaning to us and which have both a symbolic value and an inherent value which can not be replaced.

-Dave Edwards  
309 N Monroe St.  
Richmond, VA 23220

## **Parker, Ellyn - PDR**

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**From:** Maritza Mercado Pechin [mempechin@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2016 3:38 PM  
**To:** Onufer, Kathleen M. - PDR  
**Cc:** Parker, Ellyn - PDR; Sarah Driggs; Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member  
**Subject:** I support the Maggie Walker art project as planned

Dear Urban Design Committee and Public Art Commission,

### **I support the Maggie Walker Memorial as planned for the following reasons:**

1. **Maggie Walker earned a spot on Broad Street.** While other locations have been considered for a commemoration honoring Maggie Walker, the location at Lone Pine Park is ideal because it is blocks away from the location of Walker's emporium. Furthermore, this corner is a prominent corner that has a lot of activity and will bring more attention to Walker's commemoration.
2. **Brook Road should be closed.** The stretch of Brook between Broad and Adams should be closed. This short segment of diagonal road creates a dangerous pedestrian crossing in an otherwise highly walkable environment. Cars zip along Brook to avoid making a hard left onto Adams from Broad. This unsafe vehicular activity should be stopped. A similar portion of an unsafe diagonal segment was closed at the intersection of Hermitage/Meadow/Broad.
3. **The space bounded by Broad and Adams should be a public plaza.** Kevin Lynch, a renowned urban planning academic, pioneered the concepts of edges and nodes in cities. Edges are linear boundaries between districts and nodes are places where people gather. Broad street is an edge between Jackson Ward and Monroe Ward. There are no breaks in this strong edge between these two historically divided neighborhoods. A public plaza at Broad and Adams presents an amazing opportunity to create a node in the middle of that strong edge. As Richmond continues to develop Broad into a cosmopolitan, pedestrian-oriented, transit-rich corridor, this new plaza at Broad and Adams will be a welcome relief in the hard edge of Broad Street.
4. **The oak tree is not an appropriate species for a small urban plaza.** Even with the closure of Brook Road, the Broad/Adams plaza is too small to provide adequate space for a Maggie Walker Memorial AND the oak tree. Walker takes precedence. The oak tree should go because A) it takes up too much space, B) is not as important as Walker, and C) it is an inappropriate species for an urban environment.

**The proposed design brings Maggie Walker's achievements to a broad audience and creates a strong node on Broad.** While I support the design as proposed, it would be nice to see something else beside generic bollards on the Broad Street side.

**Please approve this design (and consider something better than generic bollards on Broad Street).**

Best,  
Maritza

Maritza Mercado Pechin, AICP, LEED AP  
3618 E. Broad Street #207  
Richmond, VA 23223

**The Society of the War of 1812**  
**Virginia**

4804 Cary Street Road  
Richmond, VA 23226

April 5, 2016

Dr. Carol Patterson  
2505 E. Grace Street  
Richmond, VA 23223

Re: Historical Importance of Brook  
Road Intersection with Broad Street

Dear Dr. Patterson:

The Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia strongly supports your efforts to preserve the integrity of Brook Road's historic intersection with Broad Street in the City of Richmond, and opposes any efforts to needlessly destroy that historic street grid.

Brook Road is the oldest northern gateway road into the City of Richmond. Any traveler in the 1700's approaching Richmond from the north would have entered Richmond along Brook Road. The Marquis de Lafayette's troops entered Richmond in April 1781 along Brook Road, to defend the City against British attack in one of the opening maneuvers of the Virginia 1781 campaign that eventually lead to a British surrender at Yorktown later in the year.

Richard Young's 1810 map of the City of Richmond shows Brook Road (starting at its intersection with H Street, now Broad Street) as the only road leading out of the City to the north.

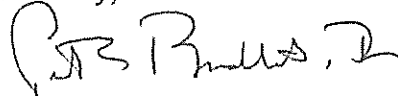
During the War of 1812, Richmond was a critical junction point for troop movements in Virginia. County militia throughout the state were called up to help defend Norfolk, and were also stationed at the defensive camps set up east of Richmond (to guard against an expected British attack to seize Richmond through moving up the James or York Rivers). All of the militia from northern Virginia who came through Richmond during the war, en route to Norfolk or to the defensive camps east of Richmond, would have marched down Brook Road to its intersection with Broad Street.

From the colonial period through at least the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, Brook Broad was a critical communications and transportation corridor. The chartering of the

Brook Turnpike Company in 1812, to improve Brook Road into northern Henrico County, shows the economic importance of this corridor.

While the Society of the War of 1812 is focused on preservation and commemoration of history related to the War of 1812 and its era, we also appreciate the need for historical preservation and commemoration related to other eras. We applaud the City's concept of a statute of Maggie Walker, and hope that the City will continue to erect other statutes of important figures in Richmond's history (including a long-overdue statue of President James Monroe in Monroe Park). However, it is inappropriate to try to honor Maggie Walker by needlessly destroying a historic street plan. It should be relatively easy for the City to revise its plan for the intersection and plaza to properly accommodate both an appropriate statute of Maggie Walker and also preserve the integrity of historic Brook Road.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter E. Broadbent, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Peter E. Broadbent, Jr.  
Historian, Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia

cc: Mr. Dennis Fritts  
Mr. Stuart Butler  
Lt. Col. Myron E. Lyman, Sr.

#1937364

