



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Urban Design Committee

Thursday, August 10, 2017

10:00 AM

5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall

Call to Order

Ms. Levine called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

Roll Call

Present -- 5 - * Vice Chair Andrea Levine, * Bryan Green, * Giles Harnsberger, * Committee Member Dawn Hicks and * Robert Smith

Excused -- 4 - * Chair Andrea Almond, * Chris Arias, * Andrew P. Gould and * Jill Nolt

Absent -- 1 - * Committee Member David Johannas

Approval of Minutes

A motion was not made due to not having a quorum.

1. [UDC MIN 2017-06](#) Minutes of the June 8, 2017 Meeting of the UDC to be Approved

Attachments: [UDC MIN 2017-06 draft](#)

A motion was not made due to not having a quorum.

2. [UDC MIN 2017-07](#) Minutes of the July 6, 2017 Meeting of the UDC to be Approved

Attachments: [UDC MIN 2017-07 Draft](#)

A motion was not made due to not having a quorum.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Son stated that Jill Nolt will be the representative for the West Broad Street Design Guidelines moving forward, DPW is currently going through the process to retain a consultant. Mr. Son stated that this project West Broad Streetscape addresses key design components that the BRT project could not address due to limited funding from Laurel Street to Hamilton Street. The BRT project is a regional collaboration between Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC), the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), the City of Richmond, Henrico County and the U.S. Department of Transportation. In June 2016 this project was selected as an HB-2 project (now called smart scale) and awarded \$6,020,287 in federal allocations in VDOT's Six-Year plan. The FY17 capital budget was amended on December 12, 2016 to receive \$1,085,372 of the smart scale federal grant for this project. Mr. Son stated that the remaining allocations are yet to be allocated.

Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda

None

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Committee Member Smith, seconded by Hicks, that the consent agenda items be approved. The motion carried unanimously, members in attendance were Levine, Green, Harnsberger, Hicks, and Smith, however it should be noted a quorum consists of six members of the committee. Procedural guidelines state that the meeting may be held and the recommendation forwarded to the Planning Commission as long as the Planning Commission is advised of the (Urban Design) Committee's attendance.

Aye -- 5 - Vice Chair Andrea Levine, Bryan Green, Giles Harnsberger, Committee Member Dawn Hicks and Robert Smith

Excused -- 4 - Chair Andrea Almond, Chris Arias, Andrew P. Gould and Jill Nolt

3. [UDC 2017-29](#) Final Location, Character, and Extent review of Boushall Middle School Signage, 3400 Hopkins Rd.

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

A motion was made by Committee Member Smith, seconded by Hicks, that the consent agenda items be approved. The motion carried unanimously, members in attendance were Levine, Green, Harnsberger, Hicks, and Smith, however it should be noted a quorum consists of six members of the committee. Procedural guidelines state that the meeting may be held and the recommendation forwarded to the Planning Commission as long as the Planning Commission is advised of the (Urban Design) Committee's attendance.

4. [UDC 2017-30](#) Final Location, Character, and Extent review of Broad Rock Elementary School Signage, 4615 Ferguson Ln.

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

Ms. Levine inquired about the location of the sign and it's potential to impede traffic visibility to the road.

Alan Tweed, the representative for the applicant, noted there would be no visual blind spot as the sign will be adjacent to the entrance, the exit will not be impacted. Mr. Tweed went to further explain that both the exit and entrance are one-way and there is no parking on the streets leading to the entrance.

A motion was made by Committee Member Smith, seconded by Hicks, that the consent agenda items be approved. The motion carried unanimously, members in attendance were Levine, Green, Harnsberger, Hicks, and Smith, however it should be noted a quorum consists of six members of the committee. Procedural guidelines state that the meeting may be held and the recommendation forwarded to the Planning Commission as long

as the Planning Commission is advised of the (Urban Design) Committee's attendance.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. [UDC 2017-27](#) Final Location, Character, and Extent review of Bill Robinson Park Improvements, 700 N. 37th St.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Harnsberger that this item be recommended for approval to the Planning Commission with staff recommendations and further recommendations that bike racks be included in the plan.

Staff recommendations are:

- Plant shade trees to further enhance passive and active recreation when possible
- Resurface the blacktop with a comparable material that is rigid, yet more permeable, if possible

Mr. Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Members in attendance were Levine, Green, Harnsberger, Hicks, and Smith, however it should be noted a quorum consists of six members of the committee. Procedural guidelines state that the meeting may be held and the recommendation forwarded to the Planning Commission as long as the Planning Commission is advised of the (Urban Design) Committee's attendance.

Aye -- 5 - Vice Chair Andrea Levine, Bryan Green, Giles Harnsberger, Committee Member Dawn Hicks and Robert Smith

Excused -- 4 - Chair Andrea Almond, Chris Arias, Andrew P. Gould and Jill Nolt

6. [UDC 2017-28](#) Conceptual Location, Character, and Extent review of the Allen Avenue Common Park Project, 400 block of N. Allen Ave.

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

Mr. Olinger, inquired if there was any lighting mid-block, internal to to the median.

Janet Heltzel, the representative for the applicant, responded that current lighting come from the cobra heads located on the otherside of the street.

Mr. Smith recommended internal lights.

A motion was made by Mr. Green that this item be recommended for approval to the Planning Commission with staff considerations and further conditions that:

- Staff coordinate a discussion representing both interests of UDC and CAR
- To encourage and study alternate locations of ramps
- To encourage and study alternate locations of lights
- To follow procedures for light temperature and distribution
- To ensure that axial views are protected

Staff considerations are:

- Plant shade trees to further enhance passive and active recreation when possible
- Resurface the blacktop with a comparable material that is rigid, yet more permeable, if possible

Ms. Harnsberger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Members in attendance were Levine, Green, Harnsberger, Hicks, and Smith, however it should be noted a quorum consists of six members of the committee. Procedural guidelines state that the meeting may be held and the recommendation forwarded to the Planning Commission as long as the Planning Commission is advised of the (Urban Design) Committee's attendance.

Aye -- 5 - Vice Chair Andrea Levine, Bryan Green, Giles Harnsberger, Committee Member Dawn Hicks and Robert Smith

Excused -- 4 - Chair Andrea Almond, Chris Arias, Andrew P. Gould and Jill Nolt

7. [UDC 2017-31](#) Conceptual Location, Character, and Extent review of I-95 ramps at Maury St. at E. 4th St. and Maury St.

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

Mr. Jason Zhang, Project Manager from VDOT Richmond District came up and gave a brief presentation about the project.

Mr. Green inquired that once this area is developed can this traffic circle become two lanes and Mr. Zhang stated yes that it has the potential of becoming two lanes.

Mr. Zhang showed the Commission members some photos of the current traffic and pedestrian patterns and stated that the project is the very early stages.

Mr. Olinger stated that his biggest concern is the right lane and stated that if he is driving a big truck how he would get to the left side to turn on Maury Street. Mr. Olinger stated that is where he wants the trucks to go and stated that he didn't want them going down 2nd Street or 3rd Street where they are trying to reestablish a more pedestrian grid as the area becomes more mixed use. Mr. Olinger stated that he wants the trucks to go down Maury and get on Commerce Road and not work through these little 24ft streets. Mr. Olinger stated that the scheme looks like it's throwing everybody that is coming off the interstate into the right hand lane and stated that he can't make a left into the roundabout. Mr. Zhang stated that you can make a left turn coming off the interstate into the roundabout and stated that today there is a two lane approach today when you're coming off the highway one turning right and one turning left. Mr. Zhang stated that they are just keeping the right turning in a separate lane and the left lane traffic turning into the roundabout to go southwest. Mr. Olinger inquired why they even need the right lane and stated that if it was a merge condition why can't everybody get into the left lane and enter the roundabout and if they need to go right they will go right otherwise they will go left around the roundabout. Mr. Zhang stated that if they keep all the traffic in the roundabout study shows that they will need a two lane roundabout and that a two lane roundabout means that they will need to increase the number of lanes approaching the roundabout because they can't just drop one lane into a two lane roundabout because it would be a safety issue. Mr. Zhang stated to avoid that they are looking at separating it like it is today in two separate lanes and the right lane will have its own ramp.

The Committee briefly discussed the landscaping in and around the roundabout.

Ms. Levine commented that when is down there and she needs to make a right turn there is almost nobody making right turns and that everybody is going left.

Ms. Hicks stated that she lives at 4th at New Manchester Lofts and stated that she is having a hard time visualizing this area with no traffic lights. Ms. Hicks stated that there is nothing there to address pedestrians on this end and stated that currently a lot of people walk from new Manchester Flats. Mr. Zhang stated that there are about 3 vacant lots before they get to the apartment complex and stated that they feel that is the opportunity for the future developers to develop those sidewalks and future pedestrian accommodations. Mr. Zhang showed the Committee members photos of where they are proposing sidewalks and stated that they are trying to avoid from putting crosswalks across the ramps from the interstate.

Mr. Smith inquired about the recommendation for future pedestrian cross walks and Mr. Son stated that they them to make sure that there is a tie end for the ability for future development to tie into the sidewalks.

Mr. Green stated that he doesn't see the purpose for the right hand turning lane and stated that they are not getting trucks off and that it one more decision that a driver has to make. Mr. Zhang stated that the traffic numbers for the right land are about 300 vehicles during the peak hours.

The Committee and applicant briefly continued their discussion on the right lane ramp.

Ms. Harnsberger commented that they might need to have a traffic engineer on the Committee in the future.

Mr. Olinger stated that in general he likes the idea because it is a disaster down there now and stated that he thinks having a Bellemeade off ramp will fix a lot of this traffic. Mr. Olinger stated that he likes the way roundabout handles traffic and stated that it is a big circle with an opportunity for public art. Mr. Olinger inquired if there was a problem with storm water and storage and Mr. Zhang stated that one of the problems with the project is where to put the basin and stated that there will be a basin out there.

Ms. Levine stated that this is Southside gateway into the city and as Manchester grows it shouldn't just look like a typical off ramp from 95 and stated that it should have some sense of character in place for the neighborhood and Mr. Zhang replied through landscaping and lighting.

Mr. Olinger stated that next month at UDC they are going to come back to the Committee for the Manchester street lighting project. Mr. Olinger stated that the question he has for the applicant is what opportunities are there to move the Manchester street lighting fixture lighting for this part of the development. Mr. Olinger stated that he wants the opportunity to get the fixtures installed in places not only for street illumination but for pedestrian sidewalk illumination and stated that this would be a great place to partner with our friends from VDOT to help make this happen. Mr. Zhang stated that the project is going to be owned and maintained by the City and so there can be some coordination and stated that they will be providing lighting.

Ms. Levine stated that there needs to be some consideration of scale to be more of a pedestrian friendly area rather than being a big trucking circle and Mr. Zhang stated that

they will work with the City. Ms. Levine stated that when someone is on a bike they are going to going against traffic on 4th Street and also on Maury Street and inquired about them inquiring something for cyclist. Mr. Zhang stated that there is really no room for cyclist to ride because there are limited sidewalks. Ms. Levine inquired how pedestrians cross the roundabout without light signals would. Mr. Zhang stated that the roundabout is much safer and stated that when a pedestrian cross they only have to look one way to get to a refuge island and there will be ADA access. Mr. Zhang stated that their goal and design is to slow traffic and merge from a high speed to a city network and the speed limit is 20 miles per hour.

Mr. Smith inquired about the width of the travel lane and Mr. Zhang stated about 16ft but varies. Mr. Son stated that they need to include the dimensions in the final design.

A motion was made by Harnsberger, seconded by Smith, that this Location, Character and Extent Item be approved with staff recommendations and included a consideration that they include lighting and consider how the Manchester lighting plan may be incorporated. The motion carried by the following vote:

Staff recommendations are:

- That the final plans include a landscaping plan and schedule showing plant species, quantity, location and size at the time of installation
- That the landscaping plan seeks to utilize native, non-invasive species where possible
- That the landscaping plan seeks to beautify the roundabout as well as enhance the pedestrian amenities around it
- That the final plans include a pedestrian plan that includes, but is not limited, to both existing and proposed new sidewalks, ADA ramps, crosswalks, and bike lanes that are within the scope of this project, including dimensions
- That the applicant further consider ways that this project may positively impact, and tie into, future pedestrian infrastructure in the surrounding community

Members in attendance were Levine, Green, Harnsberger, Hicks, and Smith, however it should be noted a quorum consists of six members of the committee. Procedural guidelines state that the meeting may be held and the recommendation forwarded to the Planning Commission as long as the Planning Commission is advised of the (Urban Design) Committee's attendance.

Aye -- 5 - Vice Chair Andrea Levine, Bryan Green, Giles Harnsberger, Committee Member Dawn Hicks and Robert Smith

Excused -- 4 - Chair Andrea Almond, Chris Arias, Andrew P. Gould and Jill Nolt

8. [UDC 2017-32](#) Final Location, Character, and Extent review of modifications to Phase II of the Canal Walk Improvements, Canal Walk (north side) between 10th and 12th Streets

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

Ms. Katie Harrigan, with 3North came up to answer questions and gave a brief presentation.

Mr. Olinger stated that he is concerned is more than the raw budget number and stated that the circular stair is one of his favorite parts of the extension and stated that there

isn't any granite that exist anywhere else and stated that there is a lot of concrete in the area.

Ms. Harrigan stated that the concrete patenas stains over time.

Ms. Harnsberger stated that it would look better in a smoother finish poured in place.

Mr. Green stated that the design of the expansion joints because it is going to have a huge impact on how it looks. Ms. Harrigan stated that they haven't gotten there yet but states that they are going to use the existing pattern and have it consistent.

Mr. Green inquired why they are capping it and Mr. Olinger stated that they don't need it if it's not necessary. Mr. Olinger inquired if they were seating walls there and Ms. Harrigan stated that there are two seating walls where the triangle and circle.

Mr. Green stated that if they are going to go with concrete capping it with a smooth granite is calling for attention that they don't want and stated that if they are going to cap it they can use a rough granite more like the canal stone granite they can use that as seating areas.

Mr. Olinger stated that they do have a plan coming in for a POD for the building along 10th Street and sated that the idea is that they have to get to 10th Street at one point and stated that they are trying to coordinate if they can and trying to figure out how to get all of this stuff done.

A motion was made by Green, seconded by Vice Chair Levine, that this Location, Character and Extent Item be approved with the condition that the applicant has the option of removing the smooth granite and replacing it with a poured-in place concrete with appropriate expansion joint details and the option to place rough granite caps on walls where there are seating areas, however the applicant sees fit. The motion carried by the following vote:

Members in attendance were Levine, Green, Harnsberger, Hicks, and Smith, however it should be noted a quorum consists of six members of the committee. Procedural guidelines state that the meeting may be held and the recommendation forwarded to the Planning Commission as long as the Planning Commission is advised of the (Urban Design) Committee's attendance.

Aye -- 5 - Vice Chair Andrea Levine, Bryan Green, Giles Harnsberger, Committee Member Dawn Hicks and Robert Smith

Excused -- 4 - Chair Andrea Almond, Chris Arias, Andrew P. Gould and Jill Nolt

OTHER BUSINESS

Adjournment

Ms. Levine adjourned the meeting at 11:49 am