

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
January 24, 2016, Meeting**

18. **CAR No. 17-016** (H. Smith)

**1600 West Laburnum Avenue
Hermitage Road Old and Historic District**

Project Description:

Install a 20' by 20' sun shade

Staff Contact:

M. Pitts

The applicant requests approval to install 20' by 20' sun shade adjacent to a playground at Lynwood Holton Elementary School in the Hermitage Road Old and Historic District. The proposed large umbrella like structure will be a total of 13'-5" in height and the proposed metal post will be fixed into the ground with concrete. The proposed High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) fabric will be yellow, and the metal poles will be painted purple. The proposed paint scheme was chosen to match the adjacent playground equipment. There previously stood a large tree which was blown over during a storm at the location of the proposed sun shade.

Staff recommends approval of the project with a condition. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* offer very little guidance about freestanding structures such as a sun shade of this scale. The *Guidelines* do note that site improvements should support and reinforce, rather than detract from, the overall historic character of the district (pg. 72). As the proposed sun shade is at the center of the lot, staff does not believe it detracts from the historic district. Additionally, the *Guidelines* for awnings which are similar to this structure note that the choice of colors should be coordinated as part of an overall color scheme (pg. 68 #6). As the proposed color choices coordinate with the existing playground equipment, staff recommends approval.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is consistent, with the above condition, with the Standards for Site Improvements outlined in Section 30-930.7(e) of the City Code, as well as with the *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*, specifically the page cited above, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.