



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Ord. No. 2014-248: To transfer \$100,000 from the Streets, Sidewalks, and Alley Improvements project and \$100,000 from the 2015 Road World Cycling Championship Infrastructure Improvements project, both in the Transportation category of the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget, and to appropriate such funds in the total amount of \$200,000 to a new line item in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 General Fund Budget, Non-Departmental agency, for the purpose of making a grant pursuant to Va. Code § 15.2-953(B) to the Three Chopt Garden Club, an organization furnishing services to beautify and maintain communities or to prevent neighborhood deterioration, in recognition of its efforts as part of Capital Trees to improve an area identified as the Low Line Park along Dock Street.

To: City Planning Commission
From: Land Use Administration
Date: December 8, 2014

PETITIONER

City of Richmond

LOCATION

Low Line Park along Dock Street

PURPOSE

To amend the FY2015-2019 Capital Improvements Program ("CIP") by transferring \$100,000 from the "Street, Sidewalk and Alley Improvement" project and \$100,000 from the "2015 Road World Cycling Championship Infrastructure Improvement" project, and appropriating a total of \$200,000 to a new project to be known as "*The Low Line Park: Capital Trees*" in the Non-Departmental budget.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

A partnership of the City, Capital Trees, and CSX have been working for over the past year to make significant maintenance and public improvements along Dock St. from the floodwall down to Great Shiplock Park. Planting of bulbs along Dock Street was completed last fall. The public response was very enthusiastic. Total project cost for Phase 1 of *The Low Line Park* is \$1,200,000. This funding (\$200,000) is the City's portion of an approx. \$1,200,000 Phase 1 complete landscape renovation and improvement of the area between the Kanawha Canal and Dock Street, 21st St. to Great Shiplock Park. The balance (\$1,000,000) of the Phase 1 funding will be raised by Capital Trees, which is also raising funds for a maintenance endowment for the improvements. The project will improve the character of the area by replacing the turf with a landscape design that will increase the long-term attractiveness of the area, reduce overall maintenance costs to the City, and provide a backdrop for visitors to the 2015 UCI races (as Dock Street is a part of the Road Race competition).

These funds (\$200,000) are needed to donate to the Capital Trees Foundation to begin Phase I of *Low Line Park*. This work will include clearing invasive species and installing plantings to

create a linear park in time to be enjoyed by spectators and participants of the UCI Bike Races in September 2015. Capital Trees, a 501 (c)(3) organization based in Richmond, Virginia, has worked over the past several years with other non-profit organizations and City of Richmond officials and staff from DPW, DPU and Parks and Recreation, and Planning & Development Review to design and implement projects along 10th Street, 14th Street and Great Shiplock Park.

The adopted FY14 Capital Improvement Program Budget appropriated \$100,000 in “Street, Sidewalk, Alley Improvement” project, Award #500290, for an anticipated grant to Capital Trees for “14th Street Greening” project. This funding source is not needed as the project has been completed by Capital Trees. Therefore, \$100,000 is available to transfer to Capital Trees for *The Low Line* project.

The adopted FY13 Capital Improvement Program Budget appropriated \$1,000,000 in “2015 Road World Cycling Championship Infrastructure Improvement” (UCI 2015) project, Award #500490, for preparing road surface, gateways and streetscape improvements. \$100,000 set aside for gateway improvements is to be transferred to a new line item in the Non-Departmental budget entitled, “*The Low Line Park: Capital Trees.*” *The Low Line* project will enhance the Race Route.

The Richmond City Administration recommends approval of this ordinance.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Site Description

The planned improvements are for the area between the Kanawha Canal and Dock Street and 21st St. to Great Shiplock Park.

Proposed Use of the Property

The City shall donate the funds to Capital Trees in the amount of \$200,000, which will be used by Capital Trees to make a series of capital improvements to the above-described area (more detail of Phase 1 is included in the attached document “The Low Line, Richmond, Virginia dated November 12, 2014). Capital Trees shall use the funds distributed by the City to make the above-described improvements to the Project. Implementation of the Project shall be managed by Capital Trees and the plantings shall be maintained by Capital Trees.

Master Plan

The Master Plan designates this area as Public and Open Space.

Zoning & Ordinance Conditions

The property is zoned M-2 Heavy Industrial.

Surrounding Area

The surrounding properties are zoned M-2 Heavy Industrial and are occupied by Kanawha Canal and James River to the south and predominately parking areas to the north.

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